

## Unexpected Adoption

By: Quinn M.

Frank Bruno: “Get ready for this act, Katherine,” I said. It was our biggest act of our career as acrobatics in the circus. “Are you sure the baby won’t make you worried, I asked? “It is ok,” Katherine said cautiously. My stylists were helping me get into my circus costume. All of a sudden, I heard the ring leader’s voice boom on the speaker. “Next up is Katherine and Frank Bruno.” As we passed Dirk, the lion tamer, he said, “There are quite a lot of people out there.” When we got into the main tent right then and there, we could obviously see he was right.

As we each got onto our separate trapeze, the crowd was cheering our names. When my hands gripped the trapeze they were sweating. I looked at Katherine, I was thinking of our new born baby, Mason. There were so many people. My head hurt, and I felt nauseous.

We flew through the air like birds in the sky. Later in his life Mason would watch our act over and over again. Katherine was 5 yards away from me now. This is it, this it the moment we’ve been waiting for. Her legs loosened and she dove into my arms. I felt her hands slip away from mine. I plunged to get her but lost my grip on the trapeze.

Ezra: The orphanage was going to come to take Mason in four hours. I took care of him ever since the accident with Frank and Katherine, even though I had help from all of the other performers. The reason why I couldn’t do it myself is because, well... I’m an elephant. No one trusts

me to care for him by myself, even though I've known him since he was born. Mason's trunk hasn't grown long enough to pick up food, so I have to feed it to him myself. In fact, it is unusual that his nose has barely grown at all. His nose should be growing over his mouth, but instead it is a stubby little bump, same as his mom and dad. I feel like their whole family has short trunks.

I knew that the orphanage would be here soon. Then an idea sparked in my mind. What if Mason and I ran away from the circus? That is the exact opposite of what kids usually say, "Let's run away and join the circus." How would we sneak on the train though? They would never let an elephant on a train. Maybe we could scare everyone away, but then the conductor wouldn't drive. So we would have to either get a taxi that can hold an elephant, or go on foot.

We tried the train anyway, but everyone called the animal control, so we fled. We chose to run away on foot. After about two days of searching for a home and no solutions, we eventually chose to take shelter on a farm. We hid and lived in a barn. We made friends with all of the other farm animals. A few days later the farmer came into the barn to get hay for the horses. He found me and Mason and his eyes got as big as watermelons. "What is an elephant doing on my farm?" he shouted. Of course I didn't understand him, but I assumed that is what he said from his watermelon eyes.

For the next six years Farmer Joseph took care of us on his farm. Mason made friends with a lot of animals and Joseph became like a father. For Mason's 6th birthday Joseph got us two tickets to the circus. I think he meant it

as a signal that it was time for us to go back to our original home. He was right.

Mason: It was time to say our good-byes to Mr. Farmer Joe. I can tell that Ezra is sad leaving Mr. Farmer Joe, but she never told me why we left in the first place or where we came from. I knew that she wasn't my real mommy. Mr. Farmer Joe bought us tickets to the circus. I don't why he isn't going with us, though. It was time to leave.

It took us two days to get to a big white and red tent. As we walked inside, Ezra's ears perked up. I saw a big guy and a big yellow cat with a beard. He hugged Ezra and so did other people in strange costumes. I was transfixed with a big bar attached to two long ropes. There were two of those on each side of the tent. They looked like they haven't been used in a long time. I climbed up the steps to swing on the big bar. I felt something familiar like I'm walking in the same footsteps again. I could feel my hands sweat as I grabbed onto the bar. My head hurt and I felt nauseous. I swung from the bar holding on for dear life. This is my kind of fun. All of a sudden I lost my grip on the bar.

Ezra: As the ringmaster and Dirk greeted me, I heard Mason scream, he fell from the trapeze. I ran to catch him. This couldn't be another Bruno accident, on the same trapeze. I didn't think I could make it in time, but then time seemed to slow down and from that, I could catch Mason in my trunk. Mason was gasping for air. "See, this is why you need a trunk!", I thought. Everyone came rushing over. After that, life seemed more precious. Dirk and the

ringmaster exchanged glances. I think that meant that they could trust me to raise Mason. Suddenly Mason got up and hugged me. He said, "This is and forever will be my home, and you might not be my real parent, but you are my mom."