

MATILDA

Mum, would you like to hear a story?

MRS. WORMWOOD

Don't be disgusting! The sooner you're locked up in school the better.

(MRS. WORMWOOD exits.)

SCENE 3: THE LIBRARY

MRS. PHELPS

Matilda! What a pleasure to see you here in the library again.

MATILDA

Yes. I mean, my mum wanted me to stay at home with her. But I think it's good for grown-ups to have their own space.

MRS. PHELPS

Your parents must be proud to have a girl as clever as you. And do you tell them stories like you tell me? Oh, I love your stories, Matilda.

(beat)

That's a hint, by the way.

MATILDA

Once upon a time...

(#6 – ACROBAT STORY I (PART 1) begins.)

ACROBAT STORY I (PART 1)

(MATILDA:) ...the two greatest circus performers in the world— an Escapologist and an Acrobat fell in love and got married.

ACROBAT: They performed some of the most incredible feats together and people would come from miles around!

ESCAPOLOGIST: Kings, queens, celebrities, and astronauts.

And not just to see their skill but also to see their love for one another.

MATILDA: Which was so deep that it was said cats would purr as they passed them and dogs would weep with joy.

ACROBAT: They moved into a beautiful, old house—

Slow Fairground tempo

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