

Barnum's Pride

Music: Duane Elms, "Dawson's Christian"

Lyrics: Gary McGath, Copyright 1998

Em G
P. T. Barnum was a showman in the nineteenth century,
D Em D
And he ran the greatest spectacle you'd ever hope to see.
Em G
All the folks who bought their tickets for his circus could attest
D Em
That the show of P. T. Barnum was the best.

On a quiet summer evening, back in eighteen ninety-one,
There appeared a flying saucer, glowing brightly as the sun.
As he stood out in the open and looked up with great alarm,
P. T. Barnum thought he'd finally bought the farm.

No one human saw what happened, though the neighbors saw the light.
When they came out of their houses they beheld a startling sight.
In the yard there was a circle filled with burned-out, smoking ground,
But no sign of P. T. Barnum could be found.

G Em G Em
There are stories of the Christian, of the Dutchman and Celeste;
D Em D
There are stories of the horseman and the lady and the rest.
G Em G Em
But the strangest tale in show biz, it can never be denied,
D Em
Is the tale of P. T. Barnum and his Pride,
D Em
Yes, the tale of P. T. Barnum and his Pride.

We were on a tour of duty on the station Downbelow,
And we faced another evening without anywhere to go.
There was just a third-rate circus, a most uneventful sight,
But we went out to it anyway that night.

Now to me there was no question, it was just an awful bore.
The performers were incompetent; the benches made me sore.
So we stood up to go back and read, or sleep, or anything,
When another act strode out into the ring.

First we thought it was some actors wearing suits to look like cats,
But their bearing proud and haughty said that they were more than that.
When a man in old Earth garb came forth, we felt an unknown thrill,
For this new troupe started in with expert skill.

Now the cat-like grace the strangers had is shown by very few,
For we'd never seen a trapeze do the things they made it do.
Never fearing death or falling, leaping nimbly through the air,
Those acrobats did stunts beyond compare.

They did tricks upon a cycle far more tricky than I'd seen,
They had clowns that were so funny that I nearly burst my spleen.
With one act upon another, going on without a pause,
The audience broke out in wild applause.
The audience broke out in wild applause.

One short hour after starting, the performance was all done;
Now the cheap show had departed and the stranger's show had won;
The ringmaster held his hand up, and we all sat still to hear,
And this is what he told us loud and clear:

“Well, I hope you liked our circus, for today I've come to say
That I'm glad to see some humans after centuries away.
It's the greatest show in Hani space, it cannot be denied.
This is Phineas Tully Barnum and the Pride.
Yes, I'm Phineas Tully Barnum with the Pride.”

There are stories of the Christian, of the Dutchman and Celeste;
There are stories of the horseman and the lady and the rest.
But the finest entertainment, it can never be denied,
Is the show of P. T. Barnum and his Pride.
Yes, the show of P. T. Barnum and his Pride.