

Mila's Marvelous Circus Surprise

Mila had always thought her life was pretty ordinary. She was 11 years old, wore mismatched socks on purpose, and could eat three slices of pizza in under a minute (her personal record). But nothing in her wildest imagination had prepared her for what would happen the day her class visited the Giggles & Wonders Circus.

The circus was HUGE. The tent looked like a rainbow had exploded across the sky. There were clowns bouncing on pogo sticks, jugglers tossing flaming clubs, and somewhere, very high up, an acrobat was swinging from a trapeze while wearing a chicken costume. Mila's jaw dropped.

"Wow," she whispered. "This is way better than the museum."

Her class was led inside by a tall man with a curly mustache who introduced himself as Mr. Mustachio, the circus ringmaster. "Welcome, future circus stars! Today, you'll get a peek behind the scenes!"

They met a young acrobat named Felix who could do a triple somersault and land on a stack of pancakes (he demonstrated, syrup and all). There were also the Giggle Twins, who could balance a teacup on

their noses while riding unicycles, and a magician whose rabbit was always trying to escape.

But when Mila tripped over a suspiciously large rubber chicken and somersaulted straight into a pile of juggling balls, everyone gasped. She popped up, arms wide, balls flying everywhere—and the crowd cheered! Felix slid down a silk rope and grinned, "That was amazing! You've got circus in your bones."

Mr. Mustachio beamed. "Mila, would you like to help us prepare for the Grand Show tonight?"

Mila could hardly believe it. She, the girl who once got her head stuck in her backpack, was being asked to help in a real circus!

Now, she had to decide how to help. Should she...