

## Circus Spectacular.

### Drama 3: Nina The Nimble.

#### *Characters:*

Voice: off stage.

Stephano the Strong - the strongman.

Bernardo the Brave - the lion tamer.

Nina the Nimble - the tightrope walker.

Francisco the Funny - the clown.

Paula Polini - the clumsy ringmaster.

Joshua - the circus hand.

#### *Props:*

There is a thick rope laid across the stage.

Balance Bar.

(Enter Nina with a balance bar. She tries to walk along the rope but keeps slipping off with suitable sighs and grunts etc. She gets back on and takes 2 steps along. Enter Bernardo coming up behind Nina)

Bern: Boo!

Nina: (Falls off with a scream). You nasty,nasty man. It's hard enough trying to do this without you putting me off!

Bern: Oh come on Nina. I have to put my head in the mouth of a lion, Stephano has to bend great steel bars, and all you have to do is to tiptoe along a bit of rope up in the air. I mean, come on. It's not that hard is it?

Nina: Not hard, not hard. Well if that's what you think, you try.

(She hands Bernado the balance bar)

Nina: Go on.

(Bern steps onto the rope takes two steps and falls off with a spectacular crash and suitable groans)

Nina: See, what did I tell you? And imagine if the rope had been thirty feet in the air!

Bern: Ouch, ouch.

Nina: The trouble is Bernado, I can't do it either. You see my legs are all wobbly, my arms are like jelly, and my head is spinning round. I just can't stay on. Not even for 2 seconds.

Bern: What are you going to do then?

Nina: I don't know. Paula will be furious. You can't have a circus without a tightrope walker.

Bern: Umm... but you could have a tightrope walker without a rope.  
Nina: What do you mean Bernado?  
Bern: I mean, that if we hid all your ropes and say that someone stole them, then you won't have to do your act today.  
Nina: Bernado! Bernado, you're... you're.... you're a genius. Come on let's hide the rope.

(They roll up the rope and quickly leave the stage)

(Paula enters)

Paula: Nina! Nina! Where are you?

(Nina enters)

Nina: Oh Paula, Paula, something terrible has happened. Something really terrible.  
Paula: Something terrible?  
Nina: Really really really terrible.  
Paula: Well what could have happened? Has one of the lions escaped?  
Nina; (tearfully) No.  
Paula: Has Stephano's leotard shrunk in the wash?  
Nina: Oh no, nothing that bad.  
Paula: Has Francisco run out of jokes?  
Nina: Well yes, but more of that one tomorrow.  
Paula: Well what could have happened that is so bad then?  
Nina: I've been robbed.  
Paula: Robbed? Robbed of what?  
Nina: All my ropes have been stolen. I've got nothing to do my act on.  
Paula: You mean to tell me that someone has come into the circus and stolen all the tightropes! Did they steal anything else?  
Nina: Well... errr... I ...errr... don't know, I haven't looked. But this is terrible. It means I can't do my act tonight (starts to cry).

(Enter Josh)

Josh: Well well, what's the matter here then?  
Paula: It seems that we've been robbed.  
Josh: Robbed? Robbed of what?  
Paula: Well it seems that someone has stolen all of Nina's tight ropes, so she can't do her act tonight.  
Josh: Oh is that all?  
Nina: Is that all?! It's a disaster.  
Josh: No it's not, because I've got a spare one out the back.  
Nina: A spare one! How...  
Josh: Oh I've got a spare everything out the back just in case of something like this. You know I've even got a spare lion, just in case. I'll go and get it.  
Paula: What! The lion.  
Josh: No the rope.  
Nina: (bursts into tears).  
Josh: Well it's alright Nina. There's no need to be that grateful!

(Josh leaves)

Paula: Well what would we do without Joshua, eh Nina?

(Josh returns with rope, and Steph, Bern and Fran following)

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Welcome again to Pedro Polini's Circus Spectacular. Please take your seats for the greatest show on earth.

Paula: Quick get things ready. Nina you're on next.

Nina: But...

Paula: But what?

Nina: But ....But ... But I can't do it!

Paula: What? Again? First Stephano, then Bernado, and now you. Can anyone do anything in this circus?

Nina: That's not fair.

Steph: Not fair at all.

All: (Talk at the same time - it's not my fault; if you were a better ringmaster; it's not that easy you know; etc etc.

Josh: (shouting) Quiet!

All: Oooooo! Keep your hair on.

Josh: Shall we try another story?

Nina: Oh no I don't think so, not today, no it's not. ....

Paula: Of course we'll try another story. They've worked so far haven't they.

Nina: But....

Steph: Oh go on Nina. Give it a try.

Josh lays the rope out on the floor,)

Josh: I thought this might happen, so I looked up a story earlier. Now Stephano, you are King Xerxes.

Steph: Well that's better than yesterday.

Paula: It will be if you stop interrupting.

Josh: And you Nina are called Ester, you Francisco are Mordecai, and you Bernado are Hammond. Mordecai needs to go at this end of the rope, and you three at this end. (Points to opposite ends).

(They move to opposite ends of the rope)

Steph: (Pushing Bernado out of the way), I'm the King get out of my way.

Paula: Stephano, stop being such a dummy!

Josh: Ester was the most beautiful woman in the whole land.

Steph & Bern: Oh yes!

Nina: (angrily), and why not!

Steph & Bern: Errr ... Ummm, ....well.... errr... (etc)

Paula: Oh just get on with it.

Josh: So beautiful that King Xerxes had fallen in love with her and made her his queen.

Nina: Oh no not lovey dovey stuff again.

Steph: Well you are the most beautiful woman in the land!

Nina: (hitting Steph), don't you.....

Paula: Oh will you stop it and listen. Time is running out.  
Josh: Esther had an Uncle, Mordecai whom she loved very much.  
Nina: Oh good grief. I've got to love both of them now!  
Paula: Shhhhhh!  
Josh: But Xerxes had an advisor, Hammond, who hated Mordecai, and wanted to get rid of him.  
Bern: Too right, I've never liked old baggy pants over there.  
Nina: Oh that's really nasty. I don't like Hammond at all.  
Josh: Esther had to visit her uncle in secret. She had to tiptoe very carefully and very quietly so that no one would see her. If Hammond found out, then he might kill her and Mordecai.  
Bern: Oh yes, I like this story.

(Josh hands Ester her balance bar)

Nina: You mean....  
Josh: Yes, along the rope. To save the uncle you love.  
Nina: But...  
Josh: But it's the only way, otherwise it's... (Mimes slitting throat)... for Mordecai.  
Nina: But he's my Uncle, and I love him!  
Josh: and you are the only one who can save him.  
Fran: Oh Esther, I'm too young to die.  
Nina: Oh alright, I'll try, if it's the only way. But what happens if I.....  
Paula: Oh, just do it!!!

(Nina walks slowly along the rope to Mordecai)

Fran: Oh thank you, thank you.

(Fran reaches out to hug Nina, but she moves away)

Nina: Alright, alright, there's no need to get quite so carried away.  
Josh: And once she had seen her uncle she had to walk back again.  
Nina: What now?  
Josh: Yes, now.  
Nina: But I've only just done it.  
Paula: Well do it again.

(Nina turns and walks back again)

Josh: Now Mordecai saved the King when some men tried to kill him, but Hammond said that he had saved him. When Esther visited her Uncle.  
Nina: What again.  
Paula: Come on, it's nearly time.

(Nina walks to Fran)

Josh: and found out what had happened. She then went back again.

(Nina returns)

Josh: and told the King, who then sorted old Hammond out once and for all

Steph: Yes, take that you lying, cheating; nasty man (goes to hit Bern).

Paula: Alright, that's enough.

Josh: and King Xerxes invited Mordecai to come and live in the palace.

(Fran walks along the rope to Nina).

Nina: Ah, that's a really nice story because my uncle Mordecai came to live with me in the royal palace.

Voice: So Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, Please put your hands together for your ringmaster today... Paula Polini!

Paula: Quick, it's time. Everyone get ready.

(All exit)

(Music)

(Paula enters. Tries unsuccessfully to crack whip. Trips, drops whip, bends down and loses hat)

Paula: Oh dear, Oh dear. I still can't do it. Err... Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Please welcome the next act. Nina the Nimble on the high wire!

(Applause etc).

(Nina enters as music plays. She walks along the rope, and turns and walks again and then leaves the stage. (There is applause from other characters )

Voice: Come back tomorrow for more exciting acts at Pedro Polini's Circus Spectacular!