

# 16. Acrobat Story III

Matilda: Do you want  
to hear the next part of  
the story? [BASS DRUM]

Music & Lyrics: Tim Minchin  
Orch. & Add'l Music: Christopher Nightingale

Mrs Phelps: Story?  
Did you say story?  
Did you say...?  
Matilda, What are we waiting for? [ON]

1 2 3

[Drs.] [W.W. 1&2/K.1/Gtr]

*mf* *mf* *sim.*

Church Organ  
Mapped Piatti (C3 and C4) *mf*  
[w/Tbn./Vc./Bs.]

4 5 6 7

[K.1] [Tpt. 2]

*f*

8 9 10 **rall.**

[WW./Br./Imp.] (K.1)

*fp* *f* *fp*

Matilda: Slowly, very slowly, the acrobat wound her shiny white scarf around her husband's neck.

### Slow Fairground Tempo

Matilda & Acrobat: For luck, my love Matilda: she said, kissing him with the gentlest of kisses.

11 [Tpt. 1 solo] 12 13 14

*mp solo cantabile*  
Celeste sounding 8vb  
*mp*  
[K.1]

Matilda & Acrobat: Smile - we have done this a thousand times.

15 16 17 18

*mp*

Matilda: But suddenly she hugged him with the biggest hug in the world, so hard that he felt that she would hug all of the air out of him.

And so they prepared themselves for the most dangerous feat that had ever been performed.

19 [W.W. 1] 20 21 22 23 24 poss. rit. [W.W. 2/Vc.]

*mp*  
[W.W. 1]  
[W.W. 2/Vc.]  
*mp*  
12/8

Celli sounding 8va

The great escapologist had to escape from the cage, lean out, catch his wife with one hand, grab a fire extinguisher with the other,  
and put out the flames on her specially designed dress within twelve seconds,  
before they reached the dynamite and blew his wife's head off.

[+W.W. 1]

25 **A** **A tempo, poss. accel.**

26 [+Tpt. 2] *mp*

27 *mp*

*mp* [+Bs.]

(Mrs Phelps screams)  
Mrs Phelps: Sorry. Go on. [ON]

**non rit.**

28 29 30 31

*mp* [Drums.]

*poss. pause*

V.S.

**Matilda:** The trick started well... The moment the specially designed dress was set alight, the acrobat swung into the air. The crowd held their breath as she hurred over the sharks and spiky objects -

32 **B** 33

*mf*  
[w/K. 1/Tbn./Bs.]

Fairground Organ *f*

one second, two seconds -

they watched as the flames  
crept up the dress -  
three seconds, four seconds -

34 35 [+W.W. 2]

*mp*

she began to reach out her arms towards the cage

- five seconds, six seconds - suddenly the padlocks pinged open

36 37 [Tpt. 1]

*mf* *f solo*

Em 87

[w/Bs.]

and the huge chains fell away -

- seven seconds, eight seconds - the door flung open

38 *mp* 39

Em 87

This block contains the musical notation for measures 38 and 39. It features a vocal line in treble clef with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef, with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Measure 38 has a chord of E minor (Em), and measure 39 has a chord of G7. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

and the escapologist reached out one huge, muscled arm to catch his wife and the child - nine seconds, ten seconds...

40 [W.W./Brs.] 41 *mf*

Am Em C

This block contains the musical notation for measures 40 and 41. The vocal line in treble clef includes a performance instruction "[W.W./Brs.]" and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment in bass clef features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Measure 40 has a chord of A minor (Am), measure 41 has a chord of E minor (Em), and the following measure has a chord of C major (C). The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Mrs Phelps: Oh, I can't look!

42 43 (G.P.)

Em C

This block contains the musical notation for measures 42 and 43. The vocal line in treble clef has a fermata over measure 42 and a grand piano (*G.P.*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment in bass clef has a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Measure 42 has a chord of E minor (Em), and measure 43 has a chord of C major (C). The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Matilda: eleven seconds - and he grabs her hand and,

44 [W.W.] 45

and, and suddenly the flames are covered in foam before they can both be blown to pieces!

Mrs Phelps: Hooray!  
So the story does have a  
happy ending, after all!  
Matilda: No.  
Mrs Phelps: No?

46 47 48 49

Matilda: No. [START] Maybe it was the thought of their child. Maybe it was nerves. But the escapologist  
used just a touch too much foam and suddenly their hands became slippery... and she fell.

Mrs Phelps: No! [BASS DRUM]

Was... was she okay?  
Did... Did she survive? [ON]  
55

50 51 52 53 54 55

Matilda: She broke every bone in her body except the ones at the ends of her little fingers.

She did manage to live long enough to have their child. But the effort was too great.

56 **D** [W.W. 1] 57 58 59 [W.W. 2]

mp mp

PLAY

Strings

'Love our little girl', she said. 'Love our daughter with all your heart. She is all we ever wanted.'

60 61 62 63

p

[+Vc.]

(K.1)

And then... things got wors  
Mrs Phelps: What? Worse?  
Oh, no, Matilda, not worse,  
they can't get worse!

And then she died.

Matilda: I'm [BASS DRUM]  
afraid they did.

64 Acrobat (recorded) 65 66 67 68 (to 70)

Love our girl \_\_\_\_\_ with ev-'ry- thing, she is ev-'ry- thing...

[Drs.]

Because the escapologist was so kind that he never for one second blamed the evil sister for what happened.

In fact he asked her to move in and help look after his daughter. She was nothing but cruel to the little girl,

70 **E Perilously (steady 4)** 71 72 [+W.W/ Cello] 73

making her wash and iron and cook and clean, and beating her if she did a thing wrong.

But always in secret, so that the escapologist never suspected a thing.

74 **possible accel.** 75 76 77

And so the poor little girl grew up with the meanest, cruellest, horriblest aunt

you could possibly imagine!

78 79 **Dictated**