

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! FOR A GRAND CIRCUS SHOW . . .



BILLY BUNTER'S CIRCUS



1. Wednesday afternoon is a half holiday at Greyfriars, so you can guess how excited the boys were when they discovered that Tomsonio's Circus had come to Courtfield on Wednesday morning. The circus procession passed the gates of Greyfriars and the juniors came running out to watch it go by. They learned then that the first show was to be that very afternoon. The whole school made up its mind to be there.

2. As luck would have it, poor old Bunter chose that very morning to upset old Quelch, his Form-master. Whilst Quelch was out of the Form room Bunter pranced up to the blackboard and scribbled "Broot" in big letters. Unfortunately for Bunter, all the rest of the boys in the Form spelled "Broot" b-r-u-t-e, so when Quelchy saw the bad spelling, he instantly twigged who had done it, and Bunter was kept in.



3. But Billy Bunter was determined to see the circus even if it meant trouble afterwards. He saw all the fellows going off to enjoy the show, and in no time at all he had made up his mind that he would get there, too—even though Harry Wharton and his chums told him he would catch it hot. It was just like Bunter that he never stopped to think what might happen later.

4. So off sneaked Bunter to see the circus, and the first person he bumped into was Quelch, his Form-master. He really did bump into him. As Bunter rounded a corner at full pelt—zonk!—he hit Quelchy so hard that he knocked him down. "I command you to stop, Bunter!" roared Quelch. But there was no stopping Billy. On he pranced like a baby elephant out for exercise.



5. "I'll have to disguise myself," thought Bunter as he pounded on. And he was lucky. It so happened that as he passed the river that flowed through Courtfield Common he came upon a heap of clothes. There was even a wig and false whiskers that belonged to a man who was having a swim. Bunter rubbed his eyes to make sure it was true. It was! "He, he, he!" chortled Bunter. "This is my lucky day!"

6. Bunter bagged the disguise and toddled off. Surely nobody would recognise him now? thought he, and he was right. A few minutes later he met up with Quelch again. "Excuse me," said Quelch, "but have you seen a fat and clumsy schoolboy lurking in this wood?" "Certainly not!" cried Bunter. But he was glad to get away for he felt that his fat sides would burst with the laughter he was holding back.

(If You Like Billy Bunter, You'll Find Him In "The MAGNET" Every Week.)



7. So away went Billy Bunter to the circus. He was wondering how he was going to get in, seeing that he had no money, but to his amazement he was saluted by the man at the gate. What Bunter didn't realise was that the disguise he had pinched belonged to Mr. Tomsonio, the owner of the circus. It looked like being Bunter's lucky day, all right!



9. Then Billy Bunter spotted a bunch of Greysriars boys quite close to him, and he was just wondering whether they would twig his disguise when the ringmaster told him there was trouble outside. Billy was glad to escape. He fairly leapt at the chance of getting away even though it meant missing a free show. Hurriedly he followed the ringmaster out of the big circus tent.



8. To Billy Bunter's astonishment he was shown into the best seat in the place, and no sooner had he seated himself than the ringmaster came up and asked him if the show could start. So great was his surprise that the fat boy very nearly gave himself away, but by now it was beginning to dawn on him what had happened.



10. Once outside he was met by the manager of the circus. "The men are going on strike for double wages, guv'nor," explained the manager. Billy didn't care a jot. "Give 'em what they want!" he said. "You see, it wasn't his money he was spending, anyway, so why should he worry? The ringmaster hurried away, leaving the fat boy holding his sides as he roared with laughter.



11. Billy Bunter's next move was to make himself comfy in the circus-owner's caravan. Thought he, if they take me for the owner I can do just what I like. What a chance for a free feed! "Listen, fellow!" cried he to the manager. "Bring me two dozen cream puffs, a bag of doughnuts, six bottles of ginger-pop, and anything else you can scrounge."



12. Of course, the circus hands were delighted. They had had their wages doubled. And Billy Bunter was delighted, too—he had a giant free feed all to himself. He didn't stop to think what was likely to happen next. He quite failed to realise that Quelch was still on his trail. But he will find out all about that next week, you bet.