

DAISY BELLE



Oh goodness, where to begin? You were born but a scant handful of years ago – a lady never reveals her true age. You are still in the blossom of youth, but you are old enough to know better. And you are old enough to be engaged. So you are.

Your father – a true Southern Gentleman if there ever were one – is the owner of a small plantation in Georgia. You are the apple of his eye and he would never allow you to come to harm. So he was naturally suspicious when the circus came to town a couple of years ago and you fell for a circus man.

Well, not just any man, Colonel Sebastian Rawhide owns the circus. And he is a fine Southern gentleman; he fought in the war. You took Sebastian home to meet father and he presented you with a gorgeous diamond ring and asked for your hand in marriage. Father was impressed with his charm and poise and you and Sebastian are engaged.

The Circus had to move on through Georgia, so you packed your bags and went “on the road” with them. Father is impatient for the two of you to marry, and so are you, but there are a few details to be worked out before you will allow yourself to wed Sebastian.

Oh you do love him, and he loves you. But you are a practical woman with down to earth ideals and goals. Sebastian runs the circus well and is respected by his... employees, but circus life isn't proper. He has all the skills needed to become an accountant and a good one. An accountant, now that's a respectable job, and your husband needs to have a respectable job.

And the people he associates with. Oh, some of them are the most lowbrow and some of them scare you. How he can call the freaks of nature he puts on display his friends you'll never understand. How can a young girl degrade herself by lifting weights for a living, or by covering herself with tattoos? Why he even has a woman act with a full beard! Dreadful.

And the men. Ugh. The Siamese twins are ill educated and rude. It gives you the shivers just to look at them. The lion tamer is a drunk. And while you enjoy the antics of the clowns, you have no intention of befriending anyone in such a low profession. You are a fine Southern lady and such things are beneath you. Yes, Sebastian must give up his vagabond circus life or he will never have your hand in marriage.

But that isn't the true sticking point. You would marry Sebastian even if he didn't become an accountant, except for one thing. He is lying to you, and he lied to your father. You work as his assistant in the circus,

doing what chores and duties he doesn't have time for. You have access to his safe and private paperwork. There is little that he can hide from you. And you know the truth.

Colonel Sebastian T. Rawhide's real name is Milton Fenwick. And he has never told you. You first suspected that Sebastian T. Rawhide wasn't his real name when you realized that he could never remember what the T. stood for. He would tell one person “Thomas,” and another “Ted.” But you have found documents containing his real name, so you know.

Now you understand the change in the public name. Milton Fenwick's Circus of the Spectacular doesn't have quite the right ring to it. But you cannot abide a liar, and you are upset that your love has never told you his real name. When you first found out – and this was nearly a year ago now – you wavered for days about whether to confront him. You finally decided to wait until he told you. And it has been a long wait. But you are patient and demure, and you have never let on that you know. Still, you cannot wait to see the look on his face when he tells you his real name and you say, “yes dear, I know.” That will be worth a year of waiting.

You have grown tired of waiting for the love of your life to give up the circus. It wouldn't be fair to say, “choose me or the circus,” but you are growing so tired of waiting. But there is a ray of hope. The Bungling Brothers have offered to buy the circus out. This would be the perfect time too. The circus is in a financial slump; Sebastian just needs a bit of suggestion to move on.

The circus wasn't always doing poorly. Why, this time last year the circus was doing quite well. Herman “Binky” Binkowicz is one of the most beloved clowns in the country, and his act was bringing people into the circus in droves. Sebastian was so happy.

But then the circus took a tour of Europe. The European nations were less welcoming, and though Sebastian picked up a number of new acts while you were there, the circus started losing money badly. The crowds were not impressed with the acts, even the new acts from Fandonia and Freedonia. Then, toward the last leg of the tour, things started going wrong.

When Preston the Prestidigitator's mystery box flipped open when he was sawing a woman in half, you were willing to say it was sloppiness. The box unhinged revealing that the woman he was supposed to sawing in half had been contorting and that she was unharmed. It ruined the trick. He was laughed and booed offstage. Poor Sebastian had to let him go; you had never seen your love look so unhappy.

But the real tragedy was what happened to your friend Uma. You haven't made many friends here at the circus, and you were happy to have found a relatively normal person there. Uma rode a tall unicycle and juggled. She wasn't one of the stars, but at least she wasn't covered with tattoos or carried a disgusting snake as a pet.

You made a close friend in Uma. She was someone you could go to when you were tired or scared or bored and Sebastian was busy running the circus. Uma was kind, considerate person, who had run away from abusive, horrible, parents and was taken in by the circus. Thank the Lord she was hired by Sebastian. He runs a clean circus. You've heard horror stories about what goes on behind the big top at other circuses.

At one of the last shows in France, Uma fell off her high unicycle and twisted her ankle badly. She nearly broke her leg. You took her to a nearby doctor who said that she would be fine, but was worried about her blood loss. You were puzzled since Uma wasn't bleeding, but the Doctor said that she was very pale and lightheaded, signs of blood loss.

Uma did seem to have her head in the clouds when you talked to her, but you thought it might be the pain, or later the morphine given to her by the Doctor. She said that her cycle slipped out from under her and she was too dizzy to land properly. She did say one strange thing, though, that she had a dream about a ghastly white figure right before she started feeling dizzy. She said that someone in the circus had done this and she couldn't say who. The Doctor said that she would be fine after a few weeks, but that she should stay off her feet. Uma decided to stay in France with the Doctor until she got well. You think it may be more than that, though. The Doctor was single... and handsome.

The circus still has Uma's unicycle, and you feel that it should be examined, just in case. But you haven't pressed the issue. But with the rumors of sabotage circulating around the circus, maybe you should have someone take a look at it.

Speaking of sabotage, you are worried. When you woke up this morning, your diamond engagement ring was missing. Now you don't want to be calling anyone a thief, but it is true that circuses do sometimes attract lowlifes. You need to find your ring, but you really don't know where to start.

And you don't dare tell Sebastian. Since the circus left Europe, poor Sebastian has been downright inconsolable. You have tried your best to cheer him up, and he puts on a brave face but you can tell that he is worried. The circus is wearing on him. You have a duty to save him from a life of misery, from being a vagabond wandering the earth looking for fame. Perhaps now is the right time to do it.

ROLEPLAYING HINT

You are a demure, sweet southern Belle. You love Sebastian, but do not like the circus performers. They are beneath you, and some of them are downright scary. Of course, you always act civilly and polite to them at all times. Papa brought you up right and you will not be rude to someone simply because that person, say, carries a snake or is covered in tattoos.

ITEMS

A diamond ring. Sebastian bought it for you last year and now it is missing. Someone took it while you slept last night.

THE OTHER CHARACTERS:

Colonel Sebastian T. Rawhide: You do love Sebastian and you know that he loves you too. But you know that he was meant for better things than running the circus. You will not marry him, however, until he comes clean and reveals his true name to you. And you have to find that ring he gave you. Whatever has become of it?

Jack Bungling: The elder of the Bungling Brothers. Perhaps Mr. Bungling would be willing to buy the circus from Sebastian. The Bunglings are rich. Their father, Senator Hiram Bungling, is a rich and powerful man in Washington DC.

The Flying Credenza Brothers: Alexander, Bartholomew, Clifford, and Douglas. They keep to themselves. You don't know much about them, but they are very good acrobats.

Binky The Clown: Herman Binkowicz. "Binky," is one of the most loved clowns in the world. You've tried to have a serious conversation with him, but he always makes you laugh.

Susan Wildes, The Strong Woman: She is still a young girl, perhaps eighteen. How can a she take up such an undignified occupation as lifting things for a living?

Franklin Winters, The Lion Tamer: His drinking is disgusting. You try to avoid him when he's in his cups.

Rupert and Rudolph Townshed: The Siamese twins. They scare you. They are rude, argumentative, and boorish. And how they can proudly display being a freak of nature, you'll never know.

Helena Ferez: Gracious! How horrible. Her beard is a sight! You cannot bear to be near her.

Peter Wainwright, the Fire Eater/Sword Swallower: He seems normal enough, but how can you relate to a man who eats fire or swallows swords for a living?

Bobo, the Dog Faced Boy: The poor lad. You do feel sorry for him. He cannot be more than nine and he already sports a full face of hair. He ran away from his home in Freedonia because of the shame.

Zelda the Clown: You also feel sorry for poor Zelda, if that is her real name. She joined the circus in Europe, and has never spoken a word. The poor mute girl is also probably a runaway. You do your best to make sure that she doesn't fall ill to some moral turpitude. She is quite illiterate and you have been teaching her to read and write. She is making some good progress.

Señora Mysterioso: What a horrid woman. She deals in witchcraft, telling fortunes and reading palms. And she always has that horrid snake! The only time you saw her without her snake was once in Freedonia. You had hoped that it ran away, but it came back the next day.

The Masked Rider: The Masked Rider also joined the circus in Europe. You don't know what the face behinds the mask looks like because this strange person never takes the mask off. How rude!

The Knife Thrower: The Knife Thrower also joined the circus in Europe. A quite solitary individual, you know almost nothing about this one.

Lydia the Tattooed Lady: Ugh! How could a polite woman ever allow herself to get one tattoo, much less cover her entire body? You just do not understand her one bit.

Zimmie the Clown: You have never met a more unpleasant, rude individual than this man. He can be violent at times, too. You give him a very wide berth.

The Great Zamboni: He came to Sebastian this morning looking for a job. Sebastian has given him a chance to perform today as some sort of audition. He seems polite enough.

WELL KNOWN CHARACTERS NOT IN GAME:

Senator Hiram Bungling: The adage states, "As Bungling goes, so goes the Nation." Senator Bungling is one of the most influential men in the country. His two sons, Jack and John, own a circus as well. Jack has been coming to visit and perhaps may be willing to buy the circus.

John Bungling: Jack Bungling's younger brother. You have never met him.

Uma the Unicyclist: She was one of your few friends at the circus. Uma fell off her cycle and severely twisted her ankle. You suspect it may not have been an accident.

Preston the Prestidigitator: You are glad that Sebastian fired him after his mishap in France. The cad made a pass at you once. You slapped his face so hard, you left a red mark.

ABILITIES

Combat: 8 cards.

Well I Never!: You may ignore the result of a special ability played directly on you. Ones that affect a group, still affect the rest of the group as normal, but ignore you. This doesn't work on combat abilities. You can do this once.

Birthmark: You have a distinctive birthmark. See the GM before the game for a temporary tattoo.

Binky the Clown: You find Binky so hilarious that after a few minutes of talking with him (or interacting with him in any way), you must burst into laughter, no matter what the topic of conversation is. You cannot stop laughing until he leaves, and afterwards, you cannot clearly recall what you were talking about (or doing), but –my – that Binky is funny.