

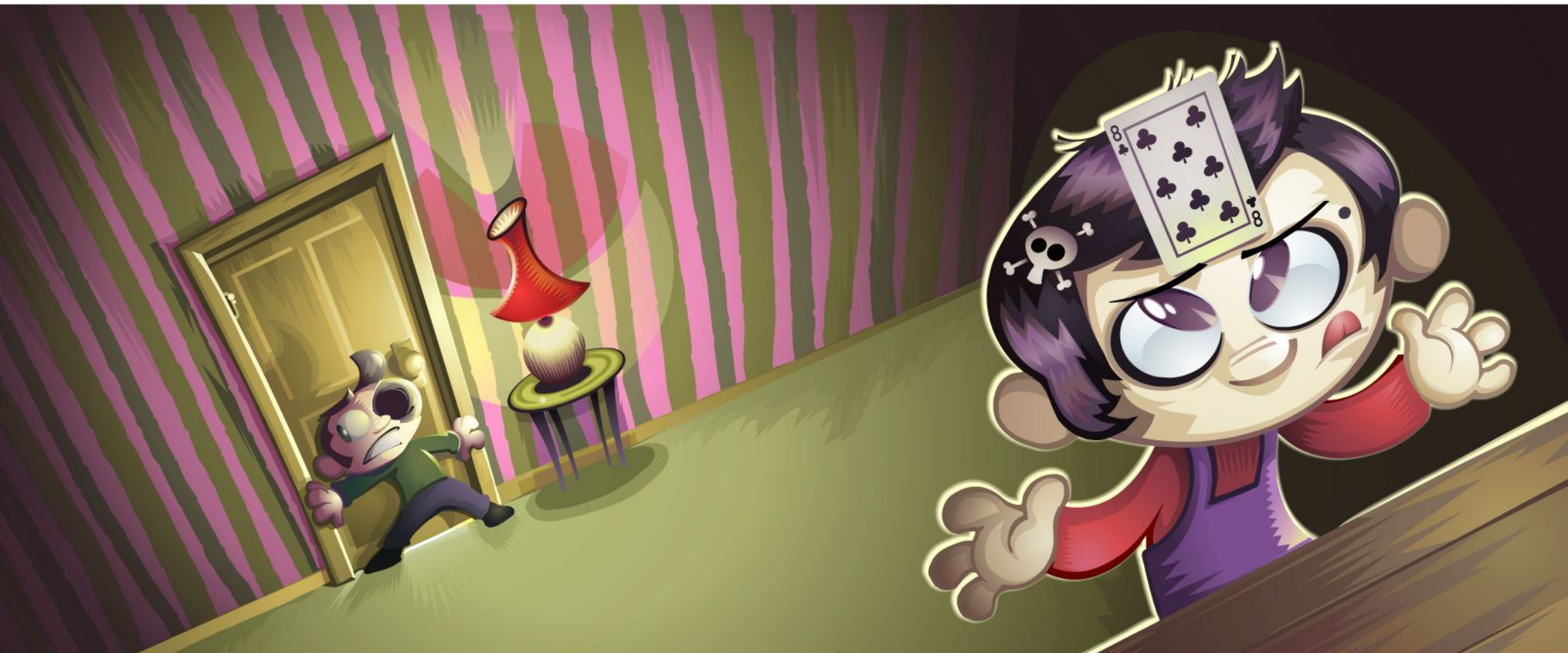
MR. MCFRAWLEY'S TRAVELING SHOW



THEY'RE NO LONGER
THE SIDESHOW, THEY'RE THE
MAIN ATTRACTION!

For four young circus freaks “The show must go on”, despite the obstacles in the towns they visit, competition with a rival circus, and most dangerous of all: the everyday challenges of growing up severely different.

They're no longer the sideshow, they're the MAIN ATTRACTION!





As Mr. McFrawley's circus travels the globe, four fantastical freaks find misadventure in every town they visit. Every week, BIX SPIDERBECK, whose face looks like a skeleton, and his friends ANNIE the Bearded Girl, DUNCAN the Crab Boy, and SYD the Lizard Boy, find themselves in a new town with new challenges, lessons, and adventures.



Having only known life in the circus, these friends are just naïve enough to get into trouble, and just street smart enough to get into MORE trouble. Whether they're spoiling the nefarious schemes of McCrum and Callow's Big Show or working together to help people in countless exotic locales, they save the day and find fans wherever they land.

While their eccentric appearances might make people stare, the uniqueness of their personalities makes them heroes!





PILOT:

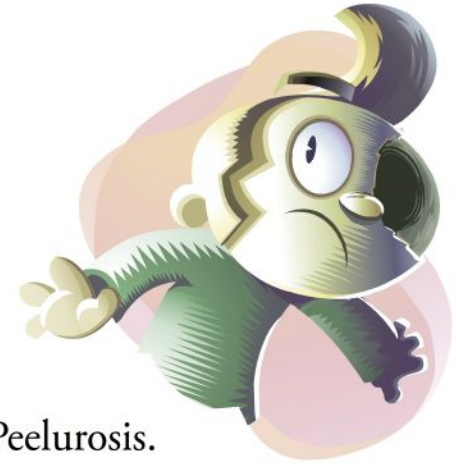
(based on the book)

When Mr. McFrawley's circus is pushed aside by McCrum and Callow's larger, more upscale operation, everyone's livelihood is in danger! Against Annie's wishes, Bix begins a journey to find more freaks like him to help The Show survive. Along the way, he finds angry crowds, surly clowns, haunted houses, Syd the Lizard Boy, pesky vultures, Duncan the Crab Boy, and even MORE angry crowds. Only through Bix's stubborn persistence and Annie's willingness to finally take up her destiny as The Bearded Girl are the Fortunate Freaks able to put a stop to McCrum and Callow's circus.



BIX SPIDERBECK

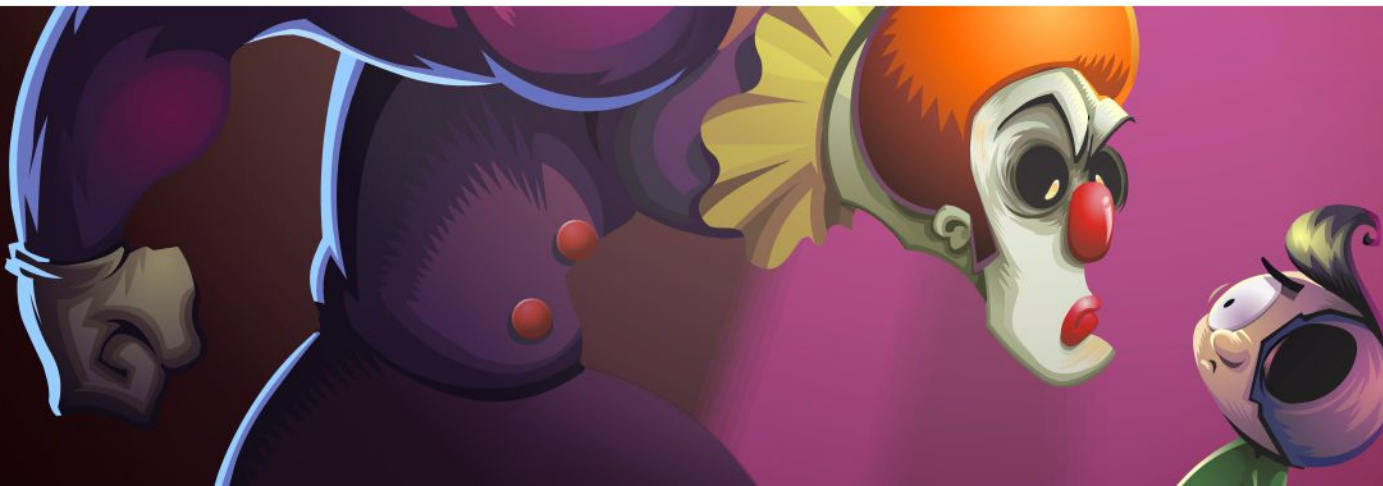
Bix Spiderbeck is the favorite adopted son of Mr. McFrawley's Traveling Show. Left outside the Big Top as a newborn, he was raised by the circus crew. He's been traveling with them since and is now 10 years old.



Physically, Bix has the unique trait of having half of his face appear normal, and half of his face look like an exposed skull. He was born with a condition called Dermacraniel Peelurosis. It doesn't bother him, but it attracts the attention of vultures, who think Bix is a walking corpse. While Bix has no problem with his appearance, he knows to sweep his hair down over his exposed socket when he needs to be incognito.

The Consummate Optimist, Bix is filled with ideas and passion like his mentor, Mr. McFrawley. He throws himself into adventure with little regard for the consequences (or even a plan on how to get himself OUT again). Sometimes he can get impatient, especially when his schemes don't come together soon enough, and double-especially when Annie is involved. She's like a little sister to him, with all the devotion (and annoyance) that that entails.

Bix has never been to traditional school, but he has learned a lot of street-smarts from the circus. As a result, he's great with people, but is naïve in the ways of the outside world. Still, for a young guy with one eye, Bix is quite perceptive!



ANNIE, THE BEARDED GIRL



Annie, who is 8 years old, is “The Bearded Girl” of the Traveling Show. A believer in fate, Annie knew she was going to grow up to be the bearded girl years before a trace of hair graced her cheeks. She thinks this knowledge comes from a latent psychic ability, but she has shown no aptitude for fortune-telling. Her great-grandmother, Madame Barfogsky, however, is a fortune teller for the ages. She travels with the circus, practicing her palmistry from a gypsy cart that rests on the outskirts of the circus proper. That's where Annie lives as well.

Annie's beard is more than just a beard. She can extend it in a heartbeat and retract it at will. Annie can also use it to swing from things and to grab herself sodas. Sometimes it seems like there's more to it than just your normal beard – like it's actually acting on its own – but no one has any proof of that.

Annie has spent a lot of time trying to perfect card tricks, sleight of hand, and guessing games. Before her beard came in (and out and back in again), Annie wanted to make sure she was useful to the circus, so she's tried to master dozens of extra circus skills. She's just good enough at most of them to make herself a little bit dangerous! She especially thinks she's capable of disguising people because of her years of making up clowns, but her disguise skills are remarkably inept.

Annie is plucky and brave. When a situation gets scary, she's the first one to hike up and her pants and dive into it. While Bix is the instigator, Annie is often the one who keeps the forward momentum rolling.





SYD, THE LIZARD BOY

Syd the Lizard Boy is a happy-go-lucky kid who wasn't always so happy. When Bix and Annie first met him, he was rigging up a fake haunted house. His goal was to scare off everyone else, so he could live in peace all alone. The world had been harsh to him, so he was choosing to escape.

Luckily, joining Mr. McFrawley's Traveling Show allowed Syd the chance to feel less judged and to be who he wants to be. The result is that Syd is now a happy kid. He loves an adventure, and while he's not the bravest individual, he's glad to be with his friends. He's a bit gullible, which can sometimes lead to shenanigans, but it's this trusting, optimistic nature that also makes him a great friend. It also makes him firmly believe that he's dashing handsome, when in reality, that might not be entirely true.

Syd's parents are also lizard people, so they understood his need to venture off on his own and find his place in the world. Oddly, they are well adjusted individuals. His mom is a tax accountant and his dad is an insurance claims adjuster.





DUNCAN, THE CRAB BOY

Duncan the Crab Boy is very crabby. An orangey-brown critter of an indeterminate age, Duncan is a full on crab person, with claw hands and little poky legs. He's more world-savvy (and resultantly world-weary) than his fellow adventurers. He's really quite a grouch, and is unwilling to admit how happy he is that he's finally found a home at Mr. McFrawley's show. He's prickly and he's touchy, but he's loyal, funny, and hardworking.



MOROSY

Morosy is Bix's two-tailed puppy. He's as energetic as the kids. Though Bix has trained him to carry tent stakes back to the truck when they strike the circus, he can sometimes be found sneaking a nap in a pile of canvas after a long day. He's also prone to eating anything he can get his paws on!

Even though Bix has found new friends to add to the circus, Morosy's still Bix's closest confidante.





OTHER CHARACTERS

Mr. McFrawley is a plump Scotsman with wild hair, a big laugh and a big heart. He's a storyteller with an oversized personality. He's passionate, so sometimes that leads to outbursts of his temper, but his temper usually only comes out when he's protecting his ragtag circus family. It's tough to be the boss! He's very excited to be able to travel to cities and liven things up with a show. The only problem is that he thinks he has just the solution for what ails every town, even if that means walking his lions and tigers down Main Street.

Madame Margali Szardina Barfogsky is Annie's great-grandmother and the circus' fortune teller. She has a thick accent (Romanian? It's hard to place!) and a long, sallow face. As with many fortune tellers, she seems to know a lot more about what's going on than she shares. Maybe this is to protect everyone, as she knows all the secrets.

Her tarot cards often seem to predict the outcome of the story before it's begun, or at least to presage where events might go!

Mister Hensch is the knife thrower who Bix sometimes assists. If it's got a blade on it, Mister Hensch can juggle it, throw it, and catch it with surprising accuracy and velocity.

Miss Billie is the high wire walker and trapeze artist. She's elegant and ladylike, and serves as an inspiration of what some people in the circus expect Annie to grow up to be. Annie likes Miss Billie fine, but she has other plans!



OTHER CHARACTERS (CONT.)

Burt, The Human Cannonball, is a swaggy daredevil. He's quite puffed up at his own importance, and while he's nice to the kids it's mainly because he loves a crowd, and they're clearly impressed with him.

Dot and Gail are the conjoined sisters who babysat Bix when he was little. They're the members of the circus most likely to over-mother Bix. Bix thinks of them as well-meaning aunts, but he doesn't often heed their advice. Dot is a fitness buff and a real go-getter. Gail is laid back, and she really enjoys her dessert. Their wildly different personalities lead to some frustrations with each other, but they generally find room to compromise, since they have good heads on their shoulders.

Coach Pfefferminz is the tallest man in the circus at 9' 10". With all that gawky length, he's got a mean pitching arm on him, so he acts as the baseball coach for the kids.

Maestro Slavislav is the shortest man in the circus, at only 3' 6". A brilliant musician, the Maestro can play any keyed instrument. He has a special miniature piano that he gives lessons on. It's great for teaching the kids, but has been a problem when he's tried to give the Coach lessons.

Venus Willendorf is the circus fat lady. She's Austrian and a firm believer in flaunting what she's got.



VILLAINS

The wicked **Esmerelda Callow and Candace McCrum** run McCrum and Callow's Circus, The Biggest Big Top in the World! It's big enough to bankrupt and homogenize the circus world. Wealthy, ostentatious and mean, they can usually be found dressed to the nines in gaudy jewelry, traveling the country gobbling up other circuses or at their home-base of Callowood, a fancy antebellum plantation that has been home to twenty generations of Callows. Nearly 100 Callows still live on the plantation, fanning themselves daintily and thinking up new stuff to buy.



Esmerelda Callow is a large southern lady whose appetite for business is only matched by her appetite for fried cheeses with various dipping sauces. She has a ruddy, Chris-Farley-in-drag face, and a deep, drawling voice.

Candace McCrum is the skinnier of the two, with dark skin and towering white hair. She is unfeeling and unflinchingly direct. She is capitalism personified.

These ladies run their businesses like hawks, but it's not just their financial acumen that keeps them afloat. They are willing to bend rules to get their own way. In fact, they use a cadre of ex-con clowns as their muscle when they need to keep their long opera gloves clean.

King Clown is a towering muscleman without a single funny bone in his body. He is always dressed in full clown garb, but he's more like a bouncer than he is an entertainer. He's not a nice man, and he has a whole squad of other not-so-nice men with him.



EPISODES:

Sideshow, USA

Some circuses "winter" in an area so long that an entire retired side show community springs up. When Mr. McFrawley's show happens upon an entire town of freaks, carnies and show people, they feel right at home. But the town isn't as idyllic as it first appears. A new development threatens to force this community to move somewhere "less visible." Luckily the good folks of Mr. McFrawley's Show don't allow themselves to be bullied by anyone!

Breakdown!

The crew's been on the road too long and everything is being held together with spit and baling wire. But then a traveling salesman shows up and seems to have exactly what everyone in the show always wanted! Is it too good to be true?

Apparently! That night, the new engine parts Mr. McFrawley bought blow out and the entire circus ends up stranded. It seems the Salesman's offer was a cover while he was busy stealing parts from the McFrawley's show to fulfill his own mysterious needs. Can Bix and his friends unearth this plot in time?

The Mysterious Past of Bix Spiderbeck

Mr. McFrawley's Traveling Show visits a town that sparks a memory of Bix's about his past. Bix goes undercover to learn more about who he is and where he came from. When he discovers that he was actually not callously abandoned by his parents, Bix becomes more interested than ever in learning about his past. But will his interest in his original family challenge his relationships in his circus family?



The College Dropouts

Tubby, one of the McFrawley show's clowns, is dismayed to find that he never completed clown college. Bix and his friends decide to show moral support by joining him for his last class. It's harder than they expected! They keep popping their balloon sculptures, injuring themselves doing pratfalls and taking pies WAY too hard to the face. Our heroes eventually discover that other people's skills can be really hard to master!



A House of Tarot Cards

Sid reluctantly agrees to let Annie read his fortune to practice her tarot card skills. When she pulls a card that foretells great doom for the circus, Madame Barfogsky is the only one amused. As the terrifying events depicted in the card start to come true, Sid panics and everyone goes on high alert. But when Annie discovers it's her own beard setting up the events, she must take matters into her own hands... er... hair. It's Madame Barfogsky who diffuses the ruckus and shows that sometimes even the darkest card can have a different meaning, and sometimes a wily beard just need to be trimmed.

CRABS!

When the circus lands in the seaside community of Ocean-On-Your-Own-Side, they quickly find themselves caught in the middle of a centuries old battle between the LandFolk and the BoatDwellers, who *never* step on land. Each group claims the circus for themselves, but there's not enough time for two performances. When Duncan (being a Crab Boy and all) sides with the BoatDwellers, this threatens to tear our group apart. It takes the charms and ingenuity of the rest of the Fantastical Freaks to show each side they have more in common than their differences.





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