

OVER THE FENCE!

By  
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An animated screenplay based on  
the nursery rhyme, "Miss Mary  
Mack"

EXT. FOURTH OF JULY CARNIVAL - AFTERNOON

Fade in:

There is loud chatter, a distant calliope, and other carnival sounds. A large arc that reads "SPRINGFIELD'S ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CARNIVAL '58" stands above the carnival entrance as people FLOOD through it.

In front of a line of two dozen people, a tween girl (MISS MARY MACK) holds her mother's hand (MRS. MACK) at a ticket booth.

MISS MARY MACK wears a black dress with silver buttons down her back, black mary jane flats, and a black headband on her blonde bobbed hair. MRS. MACK wears a light blue floral 50s style dress and white mary jane heels. MRS. MACK's blonde hair is tied back into a bun.

We see MISS MARY MACK's face. She does a lip trill and clearly exhibits boredom as she looks at her surroundings. SUDDENLY, something catches her eye. There is a soft sparkle in the corner of the camera.

We see an EXTREMELY WHITE and SHINY rabbit under a carnival tent that STARES back at her. People walk in front of the rabbit and it disappears. MISS MARY MACK's searches with her eyes for the rabbit, curiously.

MRS. MACK

(smiling)

Are you ready, sweetheart?

MISS MARY MACK

(looking up at her mom, smiling back)

Yes, mom.

MRS. MACK and MISS MARY MACK walk together into a crowd of people. They stop to buy balloons. MISS MARY MACK sees the rabbit again. The rabbit STARES back at MISS MARY MACK but then RUNS in the direction of a large striped WHITE and BRIGHT RED circus tent. MRS. MACK notices MISS MARY MACK is distracted and searches for what she is staring at.

MRS. MACK

(leaning towards MISS MARY MACK)  
Have you thought about where you want to go?

MISS MARY MACK  
(confident)

The circus. I want to see the elephants jump over the fence.

MRS. MACK raises an eyebrow at MISS MARY MACK.

MRS. MACK  
I thought you were afraid of the fire and animals

MISS MARY MACK  
I think I can handle it. May I have 50 cents?

MRS. MACK  
Sure thing. I'll go get food while you find us a seat.

MRS. MACK gives MISS MARY MACK 50 cents.

BALLOON SELLER  
(cheery)  
A pink balloon for Miss...

MISS MARY MACK  
(politely)  
... Mary Mack.

BALLOON SELLER  
Here ya go Miss Mary Mack! Have a nice afternoon ladies!

The balloon seller ties the balloon's string around MISS MARY MACK's wrist.

MISS MARY MACK  
Thank you!

MISS MARY MACK turns around energetically, kisses her mother on the cheek, spots the rabbit, and chases it towards the circus tent through the crowd. MISS MARY MACK reaches the entrance of the circus tent and stops to catch her breath. The rabbit stops just before it enters, looks back at MISS MARY MACK, and hops into the tent. MISS MARY MACK follows the rabbit inside.

INT. CIRCUS TENT - AFTERNOON

MISS MARY MACK walks slowly into the dark circus tent. She doesn't see the rabbit.

MISS MARY MACK

(shyly)

Hello?

A spotlight appears in the center of the round stage revealing a tipped over ringmaster hat with a red feather. After a moment, the rabbit hops into the spotlight and MISS MARY MACK approaches it. MISS MARY stops in front of the rabbit and tilts her head. The rabbit copies her and MISS MARY MACK LAUGHS.

The rabbit crawls into the hat. MISS MARY MACK picks up the hat and sees that it is empty. She flips it upside down and shakes it but only glitter comes out. The glitter has the same shine as the rabbit's coat.

THE RINGMASTER (OS)

I think you have my hat.

MISS MARY MACK turns around, clutching onto the hat, but does not see anyone at first.

MISS MARY MACK

(nervous and louder)

HELLO?

A young boy (THE RINGMASTER) steps into the spotlight with her. He has brown curly hair that shines like the rabbit's coat and wears bright red ringmaster attire. He has one white lock of hair.

MISS MARY MACK

(defensive)

Who are you?

THE RINGMASTER

(sophisticated tone with a smile)

Oh, my apologies. I am the ringmaster.

RINGMASTER bows as he greets MISS MARY MACK.

THE RINGMASTER

And you are?

MISS MARY MACK

(confidently)  
Miss Mary Mack.

MISS MARY MACK does a curtsy. THE RINGMASTER extends his hand towards MISS MARY MACK and she hands him his hat back.

THE RINGMASTER  
Thank you Miss Mary Mack. You didn't happen to see a white rabbit around here have you?

MISS MARY MACK  
(stalling)  
Well it depends. What kind of rabbit?

THE RINGMASTER holds his hat upside down and taps the top. Glitter comes out and he raises an eyebrow at MISS MARY MACK. THE RINGMASTER reaches into the hat and nearly puts his entire arm in it. MISS MARY MACK watches in shock. THE RINGMASTER pulls out the white rabbit from the hat by its ears. The rabbit's arms are crossed.

THE RINGMASTER  
(grinning at the rabbit)  
Silly rabbit! This is a circus, not a magic show.

THE RINGMASTER pauses and shifts his attention to MISS MARY MACK.

THE RINGMASTER  
But I guess every show needs a little bit of magic. In that case, I'll have to make an exception.

THE RINGMASTER places the rabbit back into the hat and extends it towards MISS MARY MACK. She peers down it.

THE RINGMASTER  
So. Are you here for the show?

MISS MARY MACK  
I am.

THE RINGMASTER  
You got 50 cents?

THE RINGMASTER waves the hat in front of MISS MARY MACK and she drops the 50 cents in the hat.

THE RINGMASTER

Since you are here early, I invite you to my private preshow.

MISS MARY MACK

Preshow?

THE RINGMASTER pulls out a magic wand from his hat and points past MISS MARY MACK and a spotlight appears a few feet away from them. It reveals a large chair with SHINY dust around it.

THE RINGMASTER

(signaling to the chair)

If you have a seat you might find out. I won't take much of your time.

MISS MARY MACK

(scoffing)

Fine.

She walks over to the chair and sits on it and puts her hands together.

THE RINGMASTER

Hold on!

Before MISS MARY MACK could say anything, with a flick of THE RINGMASTER's magic wand, a seat belt appears on the chair around her. She is pulled into the darkness backwards as the circus tent lights up with several colors. As different colors appear, SHINING and GLITTERING circus animals such as tigers, chimpanzees, horses, bears, dogs, and elephants appear in separate spot lights. The animals are still.

THE RINGMASTER flicks his magic wand again and a 6 ft platform rises underneath him as music begins playing.

THE RINGMASTER

(projecting his voice in a theatrical tone)

MISS MARY MACK! I PROUDLY present to you the GREATEST PRESHOW.  
you have EVER seen!

THE RINGMASTER points his magic wand straight up at the ceiling and then at the animals, one by one, which brings them to life.

MISS MARY MACK

(whispering)

Wooooow.

Two bears dance on a log that spins. Ten dogs pile on top of each other creating . A tiger jumps through hoops. Three chimpanzees swing on a trapeze. THE RINGMASTER jumps onto a horse that runs around the stage. He then pats the horse, stands on it, and extends his arms outwards. THE RINGMASTER takes off his hat and the rabbit pops out. MISS MARY MACK claps.

The rabbit disappears and THE RINGMASTER puts his hat back on. The horse brings him back to the platform and he swirls his magic wand. In response, the animals gather in one corner of the stage. THE RINGMASTER then points his magic wand at the ground and as he raises it, a 8 ft fence appears.

THE RINGMASTER

And now, for the GRAND FINALE! Drumroll, please!

The chimpanzees begin to drumroll. THE RINGMASTER makes intricate movements with his magic wand and three elephants appear from a cloud of SHINY dust. Guided by THE RINGMASTER's magic wand, the elephants run around the platform.

THE RINGMASTER

Miss Mary Mack! I present to you the flying elephants!

MISS MARY MACK

They are amazing... Did you say flying?

THE RINGMASTER

Indeed I did.

THE RINGMASTER jumps on an elephant from the platform and approaches MISS MARY MACK. He SWISHES his wand and MISS MARY MACK rises from the ground and floats onto the elephant. The chair disappears into a cloud of SHINY dust.

THE RINGMASTER

You might want to hold on.

The elephants jump over the fence one by one and MISS MARY MACK sees what is going to happen. MISS MARY MACK squeals and covers her eyes.

The elephants fly. MISS MARY MACK and THE RINGMASTER's elephant is last. MISS MARY MACK uncovers her eyes as the elephants fly around the tent. She then sees THE RINGMASTER on the ground

waving at her. MISS MARY MACK stares in front of her and sees that she is alone on the elephant.

THE RINGMASTER

Just believe!

MISS MARY MACK breathes in deeply and smiles. After a moment, THE RINGMASTER signals for the elephants to come down. MISS MARY MACK floats down from the elephant.

THE RINGMASTER

How was that?

MISS MARY MACK

AMAZING! Can I go again?

THE RINGMASTER

Sorry but the show is over.

MISS MARY MACK

Already?

THE RINGMASTER

I told you I wouldn't take up much of your time. Anyways, I have to clean this mess up before the show starts.

MISS MARY MACK

(shrugging)

Well, nothing a little magic can't fix.

THE RINGMASTER

CORRECT!

THE RINGMASTER points at the platform and fence, they descend. THE RINGMASTER and MISS MARY MACK walk to the center of the stage. THE RINGMASTER takes off his hat, places it on the ground, does an intricate movement with the wand and then points at the hat. One by one, the animals squeeze into the hat.

The elephants land on the stage and follow the rest of the animals into the hat as the circus music and the colorful lights fade. THE RINGMASTER picks up the hat and places it on his head. The circus tent is lit with normal lighting. Everything else is back to normal.

THE RINGMASTER bows to MISS MARY MACK and takes off his hat. The rabbit jumps out and he does not seem to notice. THE RINGMASTER walks away.



MISS MARY MACK  
OK, you have to teach me how to do that!

THE RINGMASTER pauses and turns around to face MISS MARY MACK.

THE RINGMASTER  
A magician never reveals their secrets.

MISS MARY MACK  
I thought you were a ringmaster.

THE RINGMASTER  
Well, I like to think of myself as a special ringmaster.

MISS MARY MACK  
(scoffs)  
I'd say. Here, I want you to have this.

MISS MARY MACK unties the balloon from her wrist and ties it on THE RINGMASTER's wrist.

THE RINGMASTER  
(sincerely)  
Thank you.

MISS MARY MACK curtsies. When her eyes come back from the ground, MISS MARY MACK sees a SHINY cloud of dust with a red feather underneath it. She picks it up and puts it on her headband.

People begin to walk into the circus tent. MRS. MACK walks into the tent with soda, cotton candy, and popcorn. MRS. MACK grins when she spots MISS MARY MACK putting on the red feather.

MISS MARY MACK  
Mom!

MISS MARY MACK runs to her mom and hugs her. MISS MARY MACK helps her carry the food inside.

MRS. MACK  
I like your feather.

MISS MARY MACK  
(shyly)  
Thanks.

MRS. MACK

Let's find seats, dear. The show is about to begin.

As MISS MARY MACK walks towards the stands, MRS. MACK turns her head and winks at the rabbit. The rabbit winks back and hops out of the tent.