

MY FAITHFUL ASSISTANT  
A Humorous Duet

Peg Ratliff

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NOTE: One person spreads his arms wide, like someone who works in a circus or is presenting something and takes a bow. The other person is sitting in a chair watching. He breaks into applause.

ALFRED: Thank you! Thank you! You are too kind. (Bowing again) Thank you! And may I present my Bengal tiger, Simone, (Spreads arm out wide as if presenting the animal to the audience.) Simone, take a bow. (Other person applauds even louder; Alfred breaks into “baby talk.”) Are you daddy’s little kitty? There’s a big girl. Yes, she is so pretty. (Pretends to nuzzle the tiger) Now, I will need someone from the audience to help with the rest of the show. (Points to the other person) How about you?

NED: (Points to himself and then comes up, a little stage shy.)

AL: I always need help with the other wild animals and the snakes.

NED: Snakes? Wild animals?

AL: I am the Amazing Alfred and this is my traveling show.

NED: My Faithful Assistant.

AL: (Begins broadly, then drops to a normal voice) BY (ahem) Peg Ratliff.  
Now, what is your name, brave one?

NED: Ned.

AL: Are you ready to meet the other stars of the show?

NED: I guess so.

AL: First, let us bring out Tiny, the elephant. (Spreads his arm) Tiny the elephant, ladies and gentlemen.

NED: (Is watching and jumps when he “sees” the animal.) Tiny must weigh four tons!

AL: Four and a half. Now, in order to get to know Tiny and get on her good side, give Tiny a treat. (Places what could be a piece of fruit in Ned’s hand and motions to the elephant.) Ned has a treat for you, Tiny.

NED: Holds out the treat and then draws his hand back with a look of distaste. He shakes his hand a little and wipes it on his pants.)

AL: Very good. I’m sure you and Tiny will be great friends. Now, if you will just come over here (Leads Ned by the arm.) and sit in Tiny’s trunk.

NED: (Stops and pulls arm away.) Sit where?

AL: Just sit in Tiny’s trunk. (Out) Tiny loves to give people a lift! (Sits Ned on the edge of a chair.)

NED: (Ned draws his legs up like he is sitting in the elephant’s trunk; he is very nervous.) Nice Tiny. Good Tiny. Easy girl. (Eyes widen and Ned grabs the edge of the chair.) Whoa, Tiny! (Gives the indication that Tiny has brought him back down.)

AL: Ned, ladies and gentlemen, and Tiny!