



The Prodigal Clown

Come One, Come All . . . Come Home!

Created by Cyndi Nine • Rob Howard • David Guthrie

(music begins to “When the Circus Comes to Town”)

(A girl in work clothes, pushing a broom and pulling a trashcan on wheels, comes across the stage.)

SWEEPER: Oh, hello ... just doin’ a little cleanup here. I usually show up when there’s some kinda mess to take care of, and it looks like somebody has left quite a mess on this street! *(picks up a crumpled piece of paper)* Now, what’s this? “Come one, come all, and see The Amazing Parabalini Family Circus.” Oh, I know all about them. This is no ordinary circus. They definitely have their share of spectacular performers, but they have also had their share of heartaches along the way. You might benefit from their story ... *if*, you have ears to hear. And speaking of ears to hear, do you hear that? Sounds like a parade. If I’m not mistaken, I’d say the circus is coming to town ... a very special circus indeed!

(She smiles and sweeps off stage, picking up a few more pieces of trash as she goes.)

SONG: “WHEN THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN”

When the Circus Comes to Town

verse 1

Once a year we’ll visit your town
Set all our colorful tents around
Every night there’s a show or two
A must-see spectacle just for you

chorus

Come on everyone you won’t believe
The thrilling stunts you’re about to see
There’s nothing like it, it’s the biggest show around
When the circus comes to town
Be amazed at the flying trapeze
The lion tamer in the center ring
Get up and dance with the craziest troupe of clowns
When the circus comes to town





bridge

Kids of all ages
Come take your places
See things that amaze us
The big show awaits us

chorus

Come on everyone you won't believe
The thrilling stunts you're about to see
There's nothing like it, it's the biggest show around
When the circus comes to town
Be amazed at the flying trapeze
The lion tamer in the center ring
Get up and dance with the craziest troupe of clowns
When the circus comes to town
Get ready cause we're here today
It won't be long til we move it away
There's nothing like it's the biggest show, come on let's go, to the biggest show around
When the circus comes to town

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Scene 1

ANTONIO: **Alright everyone, are we ready for tonight's show?**

(Everyone is lined up to report on their areas.)

MARIA: **Your trapeze artists, Maria ...** *(each saying her name in rapid succession, with some choreographed movement)*

SOPHIA: **Sophia ...**

TIA: **And Tia ...**

ALL THREE: **Are ready to fly!**

ANTONIO: **My wonderful nieces. And where's Bruno, our lion tamer?**

(Bruno hurries in, looking frantic.)





BRUNO: **Did you say *lion*?**

ANTONIO: *(suspiciously)* **Yes ... why?**

BRUNO: **No reason!**

ANTONIO: **Not again. Where's your lion?!**

SFX 1: "Lion Growl"

(screaming is heard off stage)

BRUNO: *(pointing to where the scream came from)* **Maybe the ticket booth?** *(he runs out)*

SHEP: **I've been counting sheep all night, sir ... all one hundred are accounted for and ready to dance!**

ANTONIO: **Thank you, Shep.**

MAX: *(Knife thrower comes in with thick glasses, bumping into things. She is obviously blind as a bat. She faces someone else as she reports in.)* **Your knife thrower, Max, reporting for duty, Mr. Parabalini.**

ANTONIO: **Uh, over here, Max!**

MAX: *(She turns and starts to aim at Antonio.)* **So you are! Now a couple of practice throws to warm up!**

ANTONIO: *(waving her off)* **No! Throw them at your assistant! *(pause)* I mean, not at your assistant, you know what I mean!**

MAX: *(looking out from under the glasses)* **Oh, sorry!**

ANNABELLE: **The greatest clowns on earth, reporting for duty, sir!** *(they give exaggerated salutes, bows, etc.)*

ANTONIO: **Wonderful, Annabelle! And with my hard working firstborn son, A.J. managing the circus, *(slaps him on the back)* and my youngest son Giorgio making everybody laugh ... *(looking around)* Now, where is my youngest!**

A.J.: *(critically)* **I saw him trying to climb into the cannon again. Never satisfied to just be a clown ... always looking for more excitement.**





GIORGIO: *(zips out on a tricycle, happily)* **Hey, don't get your nose out of joint!**
(“honks” his clown nose) **I'm right here – ready for action!**

(music begins to “Under the Big Top”)

ANTONIO: *(satisfied that everything is ready to go)* **Alright everyone, the audience is in place! Let's give them the greatest show they've ever seen. This is where we shine ... under the big top!**

(A.J. leaves to check on things. Everyone gets in their places.)

SONG: “UNDER THE BIG TOP”

Under the Big Top

intro

Woah, under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, the thrills are non-stop
It's big fun under the big top

Ringmaster: “Ladies and gentlemen, kids of all ages, welcome to the greatest show under the big top!”

chorus

It's big fun under the big top
Where the biggest show won't ever stop
It's a once in a lifetime kinda shot
To see the big show under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, the thrills are non-stop
It's big fun under the big top

Ringmaster: “Ladies and gentlemen, turn your attention high above the center ring. The flying Parabalini family swings through the stars with the greatest of ease on the breathtakingly thrilling flying trapeze!”

chorus

It's big fun under the big top
Where the biggest show won't ever stop
It's a once in a lifetime kinda shot
To see the big show under the big top
Woah, under the big top





Woah, under the big top
Woah, the thrills are non-stop
It's big fun under the big top

Ringmaster: "Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce to you the most death-defying daredevil you've ever seen. Exploding into the air before our very eyes, the human cannonball!"

chorus

It's big fun under the big top
Where the biggest show won't ever stop
It's a once in a lifetime kinda shot
To see the big show under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, the thrills are non-stop
It's big fun under the big top

Ringmaster: "Ladies and gentlemen, last but not least, the laughs abound for children of all ages, the stars of our circus—it's time to send in the clowns!"

bridge

It's amazing, astounding, surprising
Thrilling and daring, I can't stop staring
Never have I seen anything so scary
Yet wonderful and marvelous, stop
It's the greatest show under the big top

chorus

It's big fun under the big top
Where the biggest show won't ever stop
It's a once in a lifetime kinda shot
To see the big show under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, under the big top
Woah, the thrills are non-stop
It's big fun under the big top

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Scene 2

ANTONIO: **A spectacular show tonight, everyone! A nearly perfect performance! (to Max) Now Max, about your knife**





throwing ...

- MAX: *(to someone other than Antonio)* **Yes! What a night! I didn't miss once!**
- A.J.: *(disapprovingly)* **That's the problem, Max. The trick *is* to miss!** *(Max makes a confused "oh" face.)*
- ANTONIO: **Well, even with a few slip-ups, we had a packed house and a smile on every face.**
- GIORGIO: *(clearly agitated)* **Only because mine was painted on.**
- ZOE: **You didn't seem to have your heart in it tonight, Giorgio. Is everything okay?**
- GIORGIO: **Not really, Zoe.**
- ZOE: **Are you sick? Do you feel funny?**
- GIORGIO: **No! I don't feel funny—that's the problem!**
- A.J.: *(to Antonio)* **Father, the house was packed, but it seemed like every other person had a complimentary ticket ... courtesy of our generous ringmaster!**
- ANTONIO: **Ah, yes. The factory closing has hit this town hard. I just couldn't turn people away.**
- ANNABELLE: **And the children *loved* the free candy you gave us to toss to the crowd!**
- A.J.: **Free candy? Who approved that expense?!**
- ANTONIO: **Relax, son, I bought it myself.** *(he puts his arm around A.J.'s shoulder and gives fatherly advice)* **A.J., you want know how to make a small fortune owning a circus?**
- A.J.: **How?**
- ANTONIO: **Start with a large fortune!** *(walks away smiling)*
- A.J.: *(calling after his father)* **We're not running a charity! This is a circus ... it's not all fun and games, you know!** *(turning his attention to Giorgio)* **And Giorgio, you were out of control again. Have you forgotten the job description of a clown?**





- GIORGIO: Uh ... *(counting on his fingers)* ride tiny tricycle, walk funny in big shoes, fall down a lot?
- A.J.: You know what I mean! You have one job ... to make people laugh. Why can't you get serious about that?
- ZOE: That's a little confusing.
- A.J.: Every time I turned around, you were doing some non-clown ... thing. Climbing up on to the high-wire, jumping onto the trapeze ... I even saw you trying to sneak into the lion's cage behind Bruno, but your shoes wouldn't fit through the cage door. You were making a fool of yourself. Did you hear the audience laughing at you? That has to stop!
- ZOE: *(looking back and forth, confused, between A. J. and Giorgio)* So ... see ... that's where I'm confused ...
- ANNABELLE: What A.J. means, is that they were all laughing for the wrong reasons.
- GIORGIO: Well big brother, it might be enough for you to just keep doing the same boring thing until you inherit this circus from dad, but I'm tired of all this. I need some excitement, and I'm ready to go find it!
- ANNABELLE: Oh Giorgio, you don't mean that. This isn't just your job. This is your *home*.
- GIORGIO: Home? This place is a circus. I think I'm ready to leave here for good!
- A.J.: *(scoffing)* *Riiiiight*. And do what? Ride off into the sunset on your tricycle? What a clown. *(A.J. walks off with a superior attitude.)*
- ZOE: Giorgio, you can't *really* be thinking of leaving?
- ANNABELLE: How could I run the clown troupe without you?
- GIORGIO: This is my Dad's circus. My big brother gets to manage it. They won't let *me* do what *I* want to do. It's time to start living my own life.
- ZOE: What will you do, Giorgio?
- GIORGIO: I'm going to my Dad, demand my part of the inheritance, and then I'm outta here!
- ZOE: *(sadly)* Well, if you're determined to leave then take my clown nose to





remember me. Look at it and think of us sometime.

GIORGIO: **Thanks, Zoe.**

ANNABELLE: **Giorgio, sometimes we think we know what will make us happy. You think you can have it all, but be careful. You just might lose everything.**

GIORGIO: **You sound just like my dad, Annabelle, trying to hold me back.**

ANNABELLE: **Giorgio, maybe your Dad doesn't want to hold you back. Maybe he just wants what's best for you. *(music begins to "God's Ways")* You might be surprised, your father may know better than you think!**

(He high fives Zoe. She has a sad look as he leaves. Annabelle puts an arm around Zoe in a motherly way.)

(During the song Giorgio gets money from Antonio and heads to the bus stop. The bus comes and goes, and we see a pair of clown shoes left on/under the bench.)

SONG: "GOD'S WAYS"

God's Ways

chorus

Oh, God's ways are higher than mine
Oh, His plans are perfectly designed
Oh, His purpose leads me to life
Oh, God's ways, oh, God's ways
Oh, God's ways are higher than mine

verse

Sometimes I don't understand
It's hard to follow His plan
It's easy to get discouraged, to feel all alone
But never once has He failed
His wisdom always prevails
He's got everything under control

chorus

Oh, God's ways are higher than mine
Oh, His plans are perfectly designed
Oh, His purpose leads me to life
Oh, God's ways, oh, God's ways





Oh, God's ways are higher than mine

verse

Sometimes I go my own way
Think my decision's okay
It's easy to be distracted, confused or deceived
But I'm not left on my own
My God is calling me home
Where grace and mercy are waiting for me

chorus

Oh, God's ways are higher than mine
Oh, His plans are perfectly designed
Oh, His purpose leads me to life
Oh, God's ways, oh, God's ways
Oh, God's ways are higher than mine
Oh, God's ways, oh, God's ways
Oh, God's ways are higher than mine
Oh, God's ways, oh, God's ways
Oh, God's ways are higher than mine

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Scene 3

(Giorgio passes a sign that says, "Welcome to Lost Vegas." We see a skyline in the distance. A slick looking guy and girl are watching Giorgio and see his confusion.)

GIORGIO: **Alright! Let the fun begin.** *(He fumbles with the map, turning it in several directions.)* **If I could just figure out where to go.**

(The couple approaches and offers assistance.)

BERNIE: **You visitin' family?**

GIORGIO: **Nope, ain't got no family. It's my first time in the big city.**

BERNIE: **You don't say.** *(he smiles to the audience)* **It looks like you could use some help.**

GIORGIO: **Oh thanks, but I don't want to bother you.**





- CLAUDE: **It's no bother! This is kind of ... our job.** *(she winks at Bernie)*
- BERNIE: **That's right. When we see a wealthy traveler, our job is to take advantage of him ... I mean ... take advantage of the opportunity to help him!**
- CLAUDE: **We'd be glad to show you to a hotel.**
- BERNIE: **Where are your bags?**
- GIORGIO: **Just have this one. I don't have much. But, I've got a lot of money. I'll be buying all new stuff!**
- CLAUDE: **Wonderful! We can show you exactly where to do that.**
- GIORGIO: **You two are so helpful. I can't believe my good luck running into you. And Annabelle thought I needed to be careful.**
- BERNIE: **Nonsense. It'll be our pleasure to take you for all you're worth. I mean, with all that money on you you're worth a lot, and it may not be safe to go on your own, so we'll take you.**
- CLAUDE: **But first, you really should stop for a little refreshment at one of our fine establishments.**
- GIORGIO: **Wow, they look impressive. What do they offer?**
- BERNIE: **For somebody like you, they offer anything and everything.**
- CLAUDE: **All the happiness your money can buy!**
- GIORGIO: **That sounds like the circus where I grew up. We were all about putting smiles on people's faces. You won't believe this, but I'm actually a clown.**
- CLAUDE: **Oh, I believe it.**
- BERNIE: **Well here we are, my young circus friend. Just hand me that wallet of yours and I'll pay the proper admission. You should feel right at home here, it's called Circus, Circus, Circus, Circus.** *(to the doorman)* **Ah, my friend Diablo, I have another sucker ... I mean ...**
- GIORGIO: *(helpfully interrupting)* **Clown.**
- BERNIE: **Yes, yes ... a clown, fresh from the *real* circus. I think you have just what he's looking for.**





(As Bernie is talking Claude takes money out of his wallet.)

(music begins to "Life's a Circus")

CLAUDE: **Here's your wallet.** *(Claude starts walking away. The doorman/bouncer hands Bernie some money as well.)* **Come on Bernie, let's get outta here.**

BERNIE: **I'm coming, Claude. Have a good time!**

SONG: "LIFE'S A CIRCUS"

Life's a Circus

verse 1

Hey, high-flyer, you lookin' for fun?
We can offer you anything under the sun
Take a leap from the high-wire, don't think about the fall
Come and fly to the stars, you can have it all

chorus

Life's a circus with its highs and lows
Flyin' through the lights you're the star of the show
We all know things can change in a minute
Life's unfair but we're all gonna live it
Life's a circus with its ups and downs
It's not too far from a smile to a frown
You might as well listen, embrace it and believe us
No matter how you live it, life's a circus
No matter how you live it, life's a circus

verse 2

Looks like you got yourself caught in a cage
There's a lion approaching and he's in quite a rage
You think you can tame him with that flimsy old chair?
I hope you can get yourself outta there

chorus

Life's a circus with its highs and lows
Flyin' through the lights you're the star of the show
We all know things can change in a minute
Life's unfair but we're all gonna live it
Life's a circus with its ups and downs
It's not too far from a smile to a frown





You might as well listen, embrace it and believe us
No matter how you live it, life's a circus
No matter how you live it, life's a circus

verse 3

So another high-flyer has made the big fall
Don't tell me, you thought that you could have it all?
Just one more sad clown who thought he'd make it big
Now it looks like you'll be livin' down there with the pigs

chorus

Life's a circus with its highs and lows
Flyin' through the lights you're the star of the show
We all know things can change in a minute
Life's unfair but we're all gonna live it
Life's a circus with its ups and downs
It's not too far from a smile to a frown
You might as well listen, embrace it and believe us
No matter how you live it, life's a circus
Life is for the living, go on, get with it
No matter how you live it, life's a circus

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Scene 4

(Giorgio tumbles out of the establishment with his clothes tattered, his pockets turned out and empty, lost and forlorn looking at the clown nose from Zoe. Bernie and Claude walk by.)

BERNIE: *(looking at her watch)* **Oh my, it's you again! I'm afraid we're late for an appointment.** *(starts scurrying off)*

GIORGIO: **Wait! I need some help. I've run out of money and I need a place to stay.**

CLAUDE: *(laughing)* **No hotel in this town is going to let you in with no money. You might try the stock yards at the end of the strip. That's where the pigs live ... and maybe a few sad clowns like yourself.**

GIORGIO: *(as they leave)* **Wait, how will I find that? I lost my map too.**

BERNIE: **With the smell of those pigs, just follow your nose!**

(Grabs clown nose and puts it on Giorgio, then walks off.)





CLAUDE: **Sorry, kid. You know what they say, “Life’s a circus!”**

(The couple hustles off in one direction, and Giorgio drags off in the opposite direction. The Street Sweeper comes sweeping back onto stage, taking in the scene, and looking out at the audience.)

SWEEPER: **Well, I told you I show up when there’s a mess to be taken care of, and it looks like Giorgio has made quite a mess of his own! He’s left his family, thrown away his entire inheritance, and he’s on his way to live with the pigs. You’re probably thinking, what a foolish young man! But maybe he’s not much different than most of us, or *all* of us for that matter. The Bible says we’re all sinners ... rebellious and running away from God. We think we know what’s best for our lives, but in the end we make a mess of things just like Giorgio. *(pause)* What’s that? Is there any hope? Oh, yes. Don’t forget that there’s a father who cares about nothing more than seeing his lost son come home. In fact, that’s exactly why God sent His Son Jesus into our world ... *(music begins to “You Can Be Clean”)* to seek and save sinful people like you and me, who have no hope without a Savior. No matter what kind of mess we make of our lives, Jesus will sweep away our sin ... and make us *clean!***

SONG: “YOU CAN BE CLEAN”

You Can Be Clean

intro

I’ve seen the lost before, wandering through the world
Misunderstanding happiness, their life is just a mess
I’m really not much different, in fact we’re all the same
But thanks be to God, through Christ He made a way

verse 1

Jesus took our sin upon Himself
Gave His life as a sacrifice
Died upon the cross, then He rose again
Offering us the gift of life

chorus

You can be, you can be clean
The stain of sin removed forever
You can be, you can be clean
Through the sacrifice of Christ our Savior
You can be, you can be clean

verse 2





In each of us there's sin and nothing we can do
To cleanse the stain within
But Jesus offers His pure and perfect life
Won't you put your trust in Him?

chorus

You can be, you can be clean
The stain of sin removed forever
You can be, you can be clean
Through the sacrifice of Christ our Savior
You can be, you can be clean

bridge

God made Christ who had no sin
To be sin for us
So that in Him we might become
The righteousness of God

chorus

You can be, you can be clean
The stain of sin removed forever
You can be, you can be clean
Through the sacrifice of Christ our Savior
You can be, you can be clean

chorus

You can be, you can be clean
The stain of sin removed forever
You can be, you can be clean
Through the sacrifice of Christ our Savior
You can be, washed, cleansed, stain-free
You can be, you can be clean.

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Scene 5

(Back at the circus, people are rushing around unpacking and setting up. A.J. is overseeing the activity.)





- ANTONIO: **Alright everyone, as one of our circus family used to say, “Every day is a chance to make someone smile!”**
- MARIA: **Who said that?**
- ANTONIO: **Our first lion tamer. He invented the technique of training lions by pulling their tails and spraying water in their faces!** *(Everybody pulls their hats off and puts them over their heart, looking down in reverence.)* **And we miss him dearly ...**
- A.J.: *(interrupting)* **Sorry Dad, but we’re way behind schedule. I’m pretty sure I just saw the delivery boy from the dry cleaners. You’d better go get in your ringmaster costume.**
- (Antonio leaves. Shep races full-speed into the scene. He stops just long enough to say something to Annabelle, then dashes off, almost knocking A.J. over.)*
- Woah! Shep, what’s the matter?**
- SHEP: **Sorry, Mr. Parabalini, I’m trying ... I, uh ...** *(he doesn’t finish his sentence as he disappears off stage)*
- ANNABELLE: **Shep said he can’t find one of his dancing sheep.**
- A.J.: **One of his *one hundred* sheep? Who will notice?**
- MARIA: **We should help him look! I’ll go this way.** *(with a “ta-da” type flourish, point one direction)*
- SOPHIA: **I’ll go this way.** *(same thing, different direction)*
- TIA: **And I’ll go this way.** *(lunges down on one knee toward the audience)*
- (The clowns look at each other and applaud. The girls rush off.)*
- A.J.: **Annabelle, the chef needs some help in the cookhouse. She wanted to know if you could spare some of your troupe to lend a hand?**
- ANNABELLE: *(with a big grin)* **You mean, you want me to ...**
- A.J.: *(disgusted)* **Yes, yes ... I want you to “send in the clowns.”**
- ANNABELLE: **Okay, who wants to help?**
- CLOWNS: *(ad lib.)* **I do! Let me!**
- ANNABELLE: **Well, I can’t spare all of you. Here, let’s flip for it. Who has a coin?**





(The clowns make a big production of reaching into their pockets, nobody has a coin.)

ZOE: **Well, I have my coin.** *(holding out her palm carefully)*

ANNABELLE: **Oh, thank you, Zoe. But that's the special coin you use in your juggling act ... you know, with the balloon, the watermelon and the chain saw!**

ZOE: **It's okay, just be careful.**

(Annabelle is ready to flip the coin as Shep dashes back through and bumps into a few clowns who fall backward, knocking into Annabelle, and the coin goes flying.)

SFX 2: "Coin Drop"

EVERYONE: *(ad lib.)* **Oh no! Look out!**

A.J.: **Shep, please!**

ZOE: **Oh no, where'd my coin go? Everyone, start looking!**

A.J.: **Forget it! We're way behind schedule. It's just a lousy coin. It isn't worth the time and effort.**

ANTONIO: *(returning with his coat on)* **What's all the commotion?**

A.J.: **I'm trying to get things under control here! It seems Shep lost one of his *one hundred* dancing sheep.**

SHEP: **Petunia.**

A.J.: **And Annabelle lost Zoe's special coin for her act.**

ANNABELLE: **Don't worry Zoe, we'll find it.** *(consoling Zoe)*

A.J.: **I'm trying to explain to everybody that it's just one sheep, nobody will know the difference; and it's just a worthless coin that can be easily replaced. Of course, we will deduct the replacement cost from Zoe's salary.**

ZOE: **A.J., my father gave me that coin and it's very special. I've got to find it!**

ANNABELLE: **I'll help you, Zoe!**

MARIA: **Come on, Shep, let's go this way. I thought I heard something near the cookhouse.**





SHEP: **Let's hurry. The chef might mistake her for dinner!** *(runs off stage with Maria, Tia and Sophia)*

(A.J. throws up his hands in surrender as they all begin searching.)

A.J.: *(to Antonio)* **Father, these people don't know about the value of time and resources!**

ANTONIO: **A.J., I think *you* don't know about the value of finding what has been lost. I know a bit about losing something ... *someone* ... very special to me. I can tell you, there is no greater joy than finding what was lost!**

(Maria, Sophia, and Tia enter with a choreographed "ta-da.")

MARIA: **Ladies and gentlemen, may we present ...** *(they all motion as Shep walks in with a sheep in his arms)*

ALL THREE: **Petunia!**

EVERYONE: *(ad lib. cheers)* **Alright! Yeah!**

SHEP: **I would've stayed out all night if I had to.**

(Zoe pops up from searching the floor with her coin in her hand.)

ZOE: **I found my coin!** *(clowns applaud wildly)*

ANNABELLE: **Oh, I'm so glad.**

A.J.: *(sarcastically)* **Well, yippee. Let's have a party.**

ANTONIO: **That's exactly what we'll do. Come on, everyone, we should celebrate. What was lost ... is found! Let's have a party!**

(music begins to "What Once Was Lost Is Found")

EVERYONE: *(ad lib. cheers)* **Alright! Yeah!**

SONG: "WHAT ONCE WAS LOST IS FOUND"

What Once Was Lost Is Found

verse 1

A story was told about a lost sheep
It could've been days, it could've been weeks
The shepherd left to find it, showing his love
Returned excited telling everyone





chorus

Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
We can hardly contain the joy, now that you're back around
Get started with the celebration let it spread throughout the town
Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found

verse 2

A story was told about a lost coin
Was it under the rug or by the back door?
The lady searched the house from room to room
Til she found the coin, now we know what to do

chorus

Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
We can hardly contain the joy, now that you're back around
Get started with the celebration let it spread throughout the town
Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found

bridge

There's good news, for all of us
God's Son laid His life down
Through Jesus, God saved us
What once was lost is found

chorus (with bridge lyrics)

Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
We can hardly contain the joy, now that you're back around
Get started with the celebration let it spread throughout the town
Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found

chorus (with bridge lyrics)

Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
We can hardly contain the joy, now that you're back around
Get started with the celebration let it spread throughout the town
Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
What once was lost is found
What once was lost is found

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Scene 6

(Antonio, Maria, Tia, and Sophia are standing out by the road with their uncle.)

TIA: **Uncle Antonio, I think we should go back now. It's almost sundown.**
(tenderly) **You've never given up hope ... that Giorgio might come home, have you?**

MARIA: **I still can't believe that he just left.**

SOPHIA: **I think he's a rotten son for leaving. If I ever see him again, I'll bop him on the head.**

ANTONIO: ***When you do see him, you'll hug him just like I will.***

(On the other side of the stage we see Giorgio sitting on a bench.)

GIORGIO: **Wow, did I make a mess of things. I never thought I'd say this, but I kinda miss the circus. I miss *home*.** *(He pulls out the clown nose that Zoe gave him and puts it on.)*

(A well-dressed woman and her child walk by, the child looks up and laughs.)

CHILD: **Mommy, look at the funny clown!**

MOTHER: *(embarrassed)* **Oh, honey ... that's not a ...**

GIORGIO: *(interrupting)* **How'd you know?**

MOTHER: **I'm sorry, you poor young man, would you like these oranges?** *(She hands him the bag.)*

GIORGIO: **Thank you. You're the first nice people I've met here.**

MOTHER: **You're not really a clown are you?**

GIORGIO: **Actually, I'm the biggest fool in the world. I used to be a clown, but I pretty much ruined my life. I left my home, abandoned my father, and totally made a mess of things.**

MOTHER: **You should go home. I'm sure they'd be glad to see you.**

GIORGIO: **That's where you're wrong. I took all my inheritance and wasted every dime. My father could never take me back. I lost everything.**





- MOTHER: **No matter what you've done, you can always go home.**
- GIORGIO: **Look at me, I don't know if I can make people smile anymore.** *(a thought occurs to him)* **Hey, maybe my dad would take me on as a hired worker cleaning up after the animals. That is, if I can find where the circus is now.**
- MOTHER: *(unfolds a handbill just like the one at the beginning)* **It wouldn't be "The Amazing Parabalini Family Circus," would it?**
- GIORGIO: **That's it!**
- MOTHER: **It says they're performing at the town just down the road. We're thinking of buying tickets!**
- CHILD: **Yeah, Mommy, let's go!**
- (music begins to "We All Need Jesus")*
- GIORGIO: **Could I ever really go back to the circus, after what I've done?** *(has a faraway look)*
- MOTHER: **I think you should go home, young man. Go home.**

SONG: "WE ALL NEED JESUS"

We All Need Jesus

verse 1

We all need a home
A place we're welcome when we feel alone
A family kind and loving as we grow
We all need a home

verse 2

We all need a father
With forgiveness overflowing, full of love
And mercy that embraces like a hug
We all need a father

scripture

"At one time you were dead in your sins ... But God gave you new life together with Christ. He forgave us all of our sins."
"So you aren't slaves any longer. You are God's children. Because you are his children, he gives you what he promised to give his people."





“Jesus said ‘I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one can steal them out of my hand.’”

verse 3

We all need Jesus
A Savior sent to rescue and redeem
The Gift of Life for all who will believe
We all need Jesus
We all need a home
We all need a father
We all need Jesus
We all need Jesus
We all need Jesus

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Scene 7

(Giorgio is walking down the aisle. Antonio is looking out from the stage again.)

GIORGIO: *(talking to himself)* So when I see him I'll just fall to my knees and say, “Dad, I was wrong, I blew it, but please would you just let me work cleaning up after the animals.” No wait, I should just say, “Dad, I'm a miserable excuse for a son.” Or maybe ... *(he hears his name)*

(Antonio spots Giorgio in the aisle and starts to run toward him.)

ANTONIO: **Giorgio, my son! You've come home!** *(he hugs his son)*

GIORGIO: **Dad ... I mean, Mr. Parabalini ...** *(he falls to his knees)* **Please forgive me. I know I blew it, but I'm begging you to just let me be a hired workman in your circus. If I could just ...**

ANTONIO: *(interrupting)* **I'm sorry, Giorgio, I cannot.** *(Giorgio slumps even lower)* **I will not hire you as a worker,** *(grabs Giorgio by both arms and lifts him up)* **because you are my son and nothing makes me happier than to welcome you home.**

GIORGIO: **But Dad, I took my share of everything, all the money you worked so hard to earn and I ... I ...** *(he pauses, very emotional, wipes his eyes)* **I lost it all Dad, I lost everything.**





ANTONIO: **You may have lost the money, but I have found my son. That's worth more to me than all the money in the world.** *(He takes off his coat and puts it around Giorgio.)* **Here, take my coat. Oh,** *(he reaches in his pocket)* **and here is your Parabalini ring. I saved it for you.** *(he shouts)* **I feared you were dead, but now you're alive!**

(All the gang runs out to see Giorgio. Everyone except A.J.)

ANNABELLE: **Giorgio, you're home. I knew you would come back!**

(Zoe has a sponge of water hidden beneath a handkerchief. She "cries" her line and wrings the sponge out creating "tears.")

ZOE: **You guys made up! I love clown makeup!**

(Sophia comes up and bops Giorgio on the head.)

GIORGIO: **Ouch! What did you do that for, Sophia?**

SOPHIA: **What were you thinking? You know that your father had to sell the elephants to give you your inheritance?**

GIORGIO: *(hangs his head)* **I know.**

MARIA: **Where did you go?**

GIORGIO: **I went to Lost Vegas, and let's just say, what happened there, stays there!**

TIA: **What did you do? You smell ... uh ...** *(holding her nose)* **pretty bad.**

GIORGIO: **I know. I was sleeping in a pig pen.**

ZOE: **I'd give you a hug, but I'll wait till you get a shower.**

ANNABELLE: **It's great to have you home, Giorgio! I'm gonna give you a hug right now, smell or no smell!** *(hugs Giorgio)*

ANTONIO: **My son has returned! Annabelle, tell the chef to bring out the finest steaks for everyone!**

ANNABELLE: **Let me guess, you want to have ...**

EVERYONE: **A party!**

ANTONIO: **That's right! What was lost ... is found! Everybody to the big top!**

ZOE: **Excellent idea, sir. I love parties! We'll all help get ready.**





(Everyone starts making their way off stage.)

MAX: **I'll help slice the cake.**

BRUNO: *(holding out his whip)* **I'll help whip something up!**

SHEP: **I'll help in the kitchen ... to make sure that we're *not* serving lamb!**

(All exit the stage as Antonio walks back to the center.)

(music begins to "Home")

ANTONIO: *(in his ringmaster voice)* **Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, prepare to celebrate. My son, who was lost, is found. My son, who I feared was dead, is alive. My son is home!**

SONG: "HOME"

Home

verse 1

There's a place where I long to be
When I wander I can easily see
I'm not the same when I'm all alone
There's nothing like it, that's why I call it

chorus

Home, where I'm welcomed and loved
At home, where my family is waiting
I know, I can't get enough of home
I tell you it's good to be home

verse 2

I am lost and I need to be found
In my sin I wander around
But my heavenly Father know my needs
Grace and forgiveness are waiting for me at

chorus

Home, where I'm welcomed and loved
At home, where my family is waiting
I know, I can't get enough of home
I tell you it's good to be home

bridge

No matter how far I go
I'll always be welcomed home





Forgiven in Christ, I'll never be lost again
And I'll always have a

chorus

Home, where I'm welcomed and loved
At home, where my family is waiting
I know, I can't get enough of home
I tell you it's good to be

chorus

Home, where I'm welcomed and loved
At home, where my family is waiting
I know, I can't get enough of home
I tell you it's good to be home
Here with my family at home

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Scene 8

(A.J. is standing off by himself, pouting. Antonio walks out and sees A.J. alone.)

ANTONIO: **A.J., what are you doing out here by yourself? Come on in and celebrate.**

A.J.: **Dad, I've been a faithful son all these years working hard to make this circus successful. Giorgio runs off with half our fortune and blows it all on who knows what. Now he waltzes back into our lives and we're having this great feast. What did I get for all my hard work? Not even a pizza party!**

ANTONIO: **I know you've worked hard, and you've always been obedient. But that's not why I love you, A.J. I love you because you're my son. And I never stopped loving Giorgio for being disobedient. I love him, because he is my son.**

A.J.: **It's not fair, Dad. He doesn't deserve to be here after what he's done.**

ANTONIO: **You're right. He has made a terrible mess of things. His rebellion broke my heart. But I thought I had lost him forever, and now I have my son back. A.J., come into this party with me and celebrate all that we have as a family. After all, you are my firstborn son, and all that I have is yours! Please think about it, A.J. Just like I rejoiced when Giorgio came home, I'll rejoice when you join the party.**





(Antonio rushes off in one direction, and A.J. thoughtfully moves off in another direction.)

(The Street Sweeper enters.)

SWEEPER: This must have been some kind of party. Somebody left quite a mess!

(music begins to “Sweeper Underscore”)

Hmm ... I wonder if that older son ever joined the party? You know, it seems like both sons got a little lost, didn't they? *(pause for thought)* The young one got rebellious and ran off to do whatever he wanted. But, I know what you're thinking. Wasn't the older one the good one? He wasn't rebellious, and he stayed there and worked hard. But the problem is that both sons cared more about their father's *stuff* than they did about their father's *love*. Makes me wonder if there are any younger sons ... *and* daughters out there? *(points to audience and pauses)* And perhaps there are a few older sons and daughters out there too!

(Leans on her broom and smiles.)

You know, the Bible says that God, our heavenly Father, loves you, and however you've made a mess of things in your life, you can come home. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our rebellion and sin, and He rose from the dead so we never have to die. He makes it possible to become a child of God.

(She pauses again at this thought and looks around.)

So, what are you waiting for? Come on home. *(looks around)* You know, I'm with Zoe, I love parties! I think we might need to have another celebration just for you!

(music begins to “The Prodigal Clown Curtain Calls”)

SONG: “THE PRODIGAL CLOWN CURTAIN CALLS”

The Prodigal Clown Curtain Calls

“Home”

bridge

No matter how far I go

I'll always be welcomed home





Forgiven in Christ, I'll never be lost again
And I'll always have a

chorus

Home, where I'm welcomed and loved
At home, where my family is waiting
I know, I can't get enough of home
I tell you it's good to be

chorus

Home, where I'm welcomed and loved
At home, where my family is waiting
I know, I can't get enough of home
I tell you it's good to be home
Here with my family at home

“What Once Was Lost Is Found”

chorus (with bridge lyrics)

Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
We can hardly contain the joy, now that you're back around
Get started with the celebration let it spread throughout the town
Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found

chorus (with bridge lyrics)

Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
We can hardly contain the joy, now that you're back around
Get started with the celebration let it spread throughout the town
Have a party, shout it out, what once was lost is found
What once was lost is found
What once was lost is found

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THE END

