

# Barnum by Mark Bramble

Part of P. T. Barnum

. . . Barnum's the name, P. T. Barnum, and I want to tell you that tonight, on this stage you are going to see . . . bar none . . . every sight, wonder, and miracle that name stands for! Even if you have a doubt in your mind, you're still gonna buy it! Why? Because every sixty seconds in this world a delightful phenomenon takes place which absolutely guarantees it. *(he leans forward toward the audience)* THERE IS A SUCKER BORN EV'RY MINUTE! . . . and I will prove it to you! If I was to tell you I got a real live mermaid back there, how many of you would pay twenty-five cents to see her? Maybe one. Two at the most. The rest of you are missing a helluva lot because there happens to be one behind that curtain, but now I'll be damned if I'll show her to you! I don't think she's et yet, Wally, so would you ask her to put on that middy blouse I got for her, I don't want you getting all wrought up when you open the wine. *(suddenly to someone out in the house)* . . . Sit down you! Oh, now you're interested! When you hear Mademoiselle Neptuna's got no blouse on! Well, it happens to be the mystic joining of earth and ocean that's the miracle, sir, not her uncovered bosoms . . . *(with a chuckle)* Pearly pink and simply beautiful though they may be!