

# **Everyman in the Circus of Life**

by Travis Tyre  
Cast of Characters  
(In Order of Appearance)

**First Barker**  
**Second Barker**  
**Strongman**  
**Juggler**  
**Ballerina**  
**Circus Boss**  
**Ringmaster**  
**Everyman**  
**Balloon Seller**  
**Prudence**  
**Constance**  
**Freak**  
**Clown**  
**Fortune Teller**  
**Tightrope Walker**  
**Holy Man**

All the characters may be played by males or females

## **Suggested Doubling for a cast of 2 Males/2 Females**

1 <sup>st</sup> Male Actor	Circus Boss, Everyman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Male Actor	First Barker, Ringmaster, Strongman, Holy Man
1 <sup>st</sup> Female Actor	Juggler, Prudence, Balloon Seller, Clown
2 <sup>nd</sup> Female Actor	Second Barker, Ballerina, Constance, Freak, Tightrope Walker

Balerina A:           The same bright sun that used to brighten his days  
                               Now casts a shadow across his face.  
 Juggler :               And in the end,  
 strong man:            His reckoning waits.  
                               It must be written.  
 Juggler :               A record of his deeds.  
                               All the good and the bad.  
 Balerina A:            His good deeds will be crowned with an eternal smile.  
                               The bad ones enthroned in a forever frown.  
 strong man:            All deeds weighed and balanced  
                               Juggler. — Carefully managed, measured, magnified, and scrutinized . . .  
 Balerina A: ——— Pinched, poked, prodded. and tested.  
 strong man: ——— And then . . .  
                               Juggler. ——— And then . . .  
 Balerina A: ——— And then . . .  
                               everybody — Every man will be . . . judged!  
 Barker: 1 ——— We hope that you in the audience  
                               Will follow us into the crowded tents.  
 Barker: 2 ——— Take a deep breath.  
                               Leave your worries behind.  
                               Enter with us into Everyman's mind!

*circus goes into full swing, and the ensemble resumes their activities. The us Boss enters in a rage. Ballerina meets him.*

Circus BOSS:           Where is Everyman? I want to see him, now!  
                               Find him and bring him here. We're going to have a little talk.  
                               I've warned him and warned him about his duty.  
                               But he's not doing any of it, not one thing.  
                               Everyday he comes and goes,  
                               He waltzes around, flatly refusing to follow the rules.  
                               And not once does he stop and talk to me.  
                               He pays no attention to anyone or anything.  
                               He knows so little, and what he does know is wrong.  
                               He turns his back on me and does his own thing.  
                               That's it! I've had it. His time is up.

Ring Master: I will seek him in the circus.  
He thinks only of his own pleasure.  
He'll be easy to find.

*us Boss exits. Ballerina moves upstage to rehearse her act. Everyman enters, hinging the ensemble perform and stuffing his face with an oversized ball of bright m candy. Balloon Seller joins Everyman.*

Ballon SELLER: Hey, Everyman! Over here!

EveryMAN: I've got something for you. (*Showing Everyman a single balloon.*)

For me? Thanks, you're the best. Friendship.

I knew you'd come through.

Ballon SELLER: Where are all the other ones?

Everyman: I gave you everything, now there's nothing around?

I let them go. By accident.

Sorry, I let you down.

Ballon SELLER: No! Don't think like that.

What's mine is yours. A friend 'til the end, that's me.

Here. This one's special.

*Everyman takes the balloon.*

Every MAN: Thanks! Hey, is that a quarter?

*Everyman bends down for the coin, the balloon floats away.*

You're a good companion to me, Friendship.

Do you ever tire of my company?

Ballon SELLER: I'd be less than the very best friend, wouldn't I,

If I left you and turned my back.

Never will I turn from you. You can count on that.

*Ringmaster startles them with a crack of his whip. Balloon Seller screams.*

Ring Master: Come here, you two.

Let's talk. Now.

Ballon SELLER: Him, right? It's him you want, not me.

*Balloon Seller pushes Everyman toward Ringmaster.*

Every MAN: Name's Everyman. How do you do?

Ring Master: I've been sent for you. With a message.

Every MAN: What is it?

**EVERYMAN:** But I don't have what you need.  
 I'm not prepared. I need more time.  
**RINGMASTER:** There is no more time.  
**EVERYMAN:** An hour? Please! One hour.  
**RINGMASTER:** And if I give you this hour?  
**EVERYMAN:** I'll have it then. I promise.  
**RINGMASTER:** When I return to this spot, present me your reckoning . . . or you  
 will burn. One hour.  
**EVERYMAN:** No problem. I'll get my friends to help me write it.  
 They'll vouch for my character. It won't take any time at all.  
 And when I pass the test, I'm coming right back to the circus—  
**RINGMASTER:** There is no coming back. You get  
 Only one time on earth, Everyman.  
**EVERYMAN:** No more circus? I said I'd do what you wanted.  
**RINGMASTER:** Be ready for me and have your affairs in order.  
 You have one hour! Not a minute more.  
*Ringmaster cracks the whip and exits. Everyman calls for Balloon Seller.*  
**EVERYMAN:** Fellowship! I'm glad you're still here.  
 I knew you'd never leave me.  
**BALLOON SELLER:** I am here like I said I always would be.  
**EVERYMAN:** Listen. I'm in big trouble  
 I need something that I don't have.  
 And I have very little time to get it. Can you help?  
**BALLOON SELLER:** Yes, yes, poor baby. Tell me all about it.  
 Poor baby . . . poor, poor baby.  
**EVERYMAN:** I've been summoned by the circus boss.  
 I was just strolling through the circus,  
 Minding my own business, when the Ringmaster came to me and—  
**BALLOON SELLER:** (*Suddenly.*) That was him? The Ringmaster?  
 Oh, no, oh no, oh no. You're done.  
 Can I give you some advice, as a friend? Run!  
**EVERYMAN:** I can't. He found me once, he'll do it again.  
 He's coming back in an hour. You have to stay with me.  
**BALLOON SELLER:** You're in a fix, that's for sure.  
 But hey, that's what I'm here for.

**EVERYMAN:** Wait, there's Prudence. She loves me.  
 She'll stay with me, for sure. Hi, Prudence.  
*Prudence and her little sister Constance wave.*

**PRUDENCE:** Hi, Everyman. I've been looking all over for you.  
 My little sister had to come along. I hope you don't mind.

**CONSTANCE:** Hi, Everyman!

**EVERYMAN:** Hi, Constance.

**PRUDENCE:** What's the matter?

**EVERYMAN:** I have to leave the circus and go to another place far away.  
 Will you come with me?

**CONSTANCE:** Can we go? Can we?

**PRUDENCE:** Well, I'd have to know where it is first.

**EVERYMAN:** Would it make a difference here or there?  
 Wouldn't you go with me anywhere?

**PRUDENCE:** I'd follow you to the ends of the earth, you know me, dear.  
 Just tell me where it is. I have her to think about.

**EVERYMAN:** I need to know if you will help me, wherever it takes us.

**PRUDENCE:** What's all this about, Everyman?

**EVERYMAN:** I have a book of my life to write in less than an hour.  
 You can help me write it. It's about all the good things I've done.  
 Who better than you to vouch for my character?  
 All you have to do is tell the Big Boss what a good person I am.

**PRUDENCE:** Of course, I can do that. I'll do anything you want.

**EVERYMAN:** In the realm of the spirit, okay?

**PRUDENCE:** Anywhere, silly. How do we get there?

**EVERYMAN:** Well, um, you have to leave the circus first.  
 That's the only way to get there.

**PRUDENCE:** I'd stand in front of bullets for you, Everyman.  
 I'd give my life if I had to.

**EVERYMAN:** Every guy should have a girl like you.  
 I'm ready, so if you're ready, we can just . . . go.

**PRUDENCE:** There is one teeny, tiny little thing.

**EVERYMAN:** What is it? Lipstick, luggage? We're running out of time.

**PRUDENCE:** No, no. It's not that. It's just . . .

**EVERYMAN:** It's what? You love me, don't you?

**PRUDENCE:** It's her!

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**JUGGLER:** This is my job. I juggle things for you.  
When you get more things, I juggle those, too.

**EVERYMAN:** Hey, why aren't you out getting more stuff?  
I got a little sidetracked.  
Do you know why I got all this stuff?  
To keep me happy when I got old.  
I'm old, so it's your turn to come with me.  
Bring your things, *my* things, and come on!  
I wish I could, man.

**JUGGLER:** But, I don't have time.

**EVERYMAN:** You just said you don't actually do anything.

**JUGGLER:** I'm busy all the time.

**EVERYMAN:** Can you pencil me in?

**JUGGLER:** When?

**EVERYMAN:** Now.

**JUGGLER:** No can do.

**EVERYMAN:** Fine. Just go. I don't need you either.

**JUGGLER:** I've been neglecting you, haven't I? I'll make a deal with you.  
Feed me along the way and I'll think about it.

**EVERYMAN:** Forget it. You can't go anyway.  
I can't take you with me. You're useless in the realm of the spirit.  
Useless there, useless here, too.

**JUGGLER:** Hey, you just crossed the line.

**EVERYMAN:** You can't go with me because  
I still owe on you.

**JUGGLER:** You mean, I'm not even yours?  
I stayed with you this long, and I belong to somebody else?  
Talk to the hand, 'cuz I'm outta here.

**EVERYMAN:** Wait. The least you could do is stay with me  
For another minute or two.  
The Ringmaster just came too soon.  
(*Gasp.*) You met the Ringmaster?

**JUGGLER:** He came once, and he's coming back.  
I have to meet him in a few minutes.

**JUGGLER:** Man, look at the time. I really gotta go.

**EVERYMAN:** Won't you stay with me just until he comes?

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**EVERYMAN:** I don't have much time.  
The Ringmaster's coming for me.

*Barkers stand near an eerie light that illuminates the Fortune Teller.*

**1<sup>st</sup> BARKER:** She'll boggle your senses and amaze you all  
Madame Fortunata and her crystal ball!

**2<sup>nd</sup> BARKER:** She's a marvel to watch, a sight to behold,  
She sees the future, and into your soul!

**FORTUNE TELLER:** I chart your future dot by dot  
And even the past at a dollar a shot!

*Barkers move away.*

**CLOWN:** Come on, I think she can help you. She's Madam Fortunata.  
She learns from the past. Her real name is Knowledge.  
She'll be a big help. If you ask her nicely,  
Maybe she'll tell you what you need to know.

**EVERYMAN:** She's my last hope.

*They go to her.*

**FORTUNE TELLER:** Come over here, young man.  
Let me see your hands.  
Oh. You have no pulse. Are you dead?

**EVERYMAN:** Dying. I have only a few minutes left.

**FORTUNE TELLER:** The Ringmaster has come to you?

**EVERYMAN:** I'm meeting him in a few minutes.

**FORTUNE TELLER:** He gave you a task to complete?  
Then, there's still a chance.

**EVERYMAN:** For what?

**FORTUNE TELLER:** It's coming to me, it's coming.

**EVERYMAN:** What? What?

**FORTUNE TELLER:** You're looking for something.

**EVERYMAN:** Any good deed I've ever done.

**FORTUNE TELLER:** I have to look way back . . . way, way back . . .  
A long, long time ago.

**EVERYMAN:** How far is that?

**FORTUNE TELLER:** Sssh! I have to concentrate.  
Knowledge is a good thing,  
But when the mind starts to age,  
It'll let you down.

Birth, marriage and death . . .  
 A life of sleeping and weeping  
 Each and every one of us.  
 But, when the Ringmaster comes . . .  
 When he comes  
 The choices are gone.  
 The first chance and the last chance are one.  
 No more decisions to make.  
 There is only the reckoning left.

1<sup>st</sup> BARKER:  
2<sup>nd</sup> BARKER:

1<sup>st</sup> BARKER:

BOTH:

*Everyman has been walking through the circus, dejected and alone. The Holy Man appears and watches, as Everyman sees the Strongman and the Ballerina.*

EVERYMAN: Strength . . . you can help me. I have to make my way to a Holy Man.  
 STRENGTH: *(Struggling with a bar bell.)* I'm here for ya, buddy. Yours to the end, buddy.  
 BALLERINA: I'll pull you through. Whew! *(Dropping the weights, exhausted.)*  
*(Balancing unsteadily on a tightrope.)* Hey, Everyman! Watch me!  
 EVERYMAN: Beauty! Am I glad to see you!  
 BALLERINA: Ssh! I'm concentrating.  
 EVERYMAN: Beauty. Strength. You're all I have left.  
 I'm leaving the circus for more pain and suffering.  
 I just want someone to go with me.  
 BALLERINA: I will never leave you. Just look at me. Don't I amaze you?  
 EVERYMAN: My life has meant nothing. Pain, sorrow, and suffering  
 Have been my only companions. *They* never left me.  
 The friends I thought I had have all turned away.  
 I'm counting on you two to go the whole way, not just part of it.  
 There's going to be pain and suffering ahead.  
 But how much of it, I don't know yet.  
 It's the whole way or nothing. I don't need you  
 If you can't help me in my moment of need.  
 BALLERINA: Everyman, can we talk?  
 Back there when I said I'd go with you



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It's your turn now. Had you shown courage and met me sooner,  
They would be with you now.  
Those things you have done for others,  
The meaningful and the good things,  
Will be the only things that last.  
The only things worth writing about.  
**EVERYMAN:** I want to change. What can I do?  
**HOLY MAN:** You must put your affairs in order.  
And let your book speak for you.  
Whether living or dying, through your pain, others may see.  
**EVERYMAN:** Every friend has lied and left me. You're the only honest one I  
know.

*The Ringmaster's whip cracks.*

This is where it all ends, isn't it?  
If there is any time to repent, to change . . . I want to . . . I want to.  
**HOLY MAN:** In the final moments, I can give you comfort.  
But only she can help you now.

*Clown approaches and kneels beside Everyman.*

**CLOWN:** You will find me with you in the end, Everyman.  
I may not be very strong, but love has kept me alive.  
In fact, love is my real name.  
In the end, it is all that truly matters.  
Do you see why you have had to go on this journey?  
Do you know why you have been commanded by the circus boss?  
**EVERYMAN:** He knows everything.  
Why does he want me to write it down?  
**CLOWN:** You do not see. The reckoning is not for him. It is for you,  
Everyman. He wants you to be meaningful.

*The Ringmaster enters, cracking his whip.*

**RINGMASTER:** Where is the book?  
**CLOWN:** I will give it. I will speak for Everyman.  
(*To Everyman.*) Do not fear the end, my love.

*Ringmaster gives a final crack.*

**RINGMASTER:** Follow me.