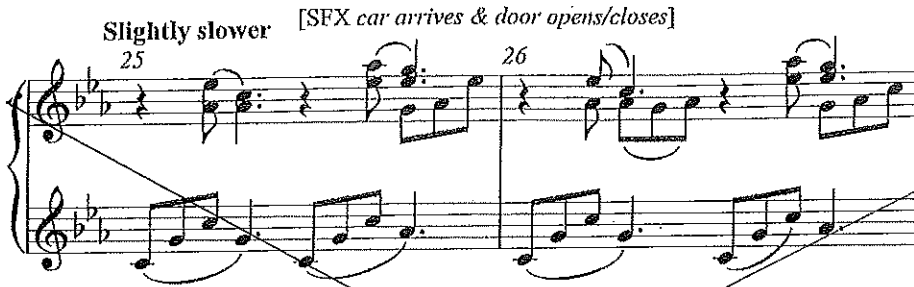


# Escapologist

17. Acrobat Story IV (I'm Here) - p4

Slightly slower [SFX car arrives & door opens/closes]



But that day the escapologist happened to come home early.  
And when he heard the sound of his daughter's tears he smashed the door open!

**C**



**START**

**DOOR OPENS**

**D** Poco maestoso



Don't cry, I am here lit-tle girl.



Please don't cry, dry your eyes, Wipe a-way your tears, lit-tle

38 39 40 41 42

girl. For - give me, I did - n't mean to de - sert you. Don't

*mf*

43 44 45

cry lit - tle girl, noth - ing can hurt you, You've noth - ing to

*mp dim poco a poco*

46 47 48 49

fear, I'm here.

*molto rall.*  
(He wraps his white scarf around Matilda's neck)

**MATILDA**

And she beat her, and threw her into a dank, dark, dusty cellar, locked the door and went out.

*MATILDA alone, like she's been thrown into a cellar. Suddenly there is a banging on the door. More. More. SHE turns to face it.*

But that day the escapologist happened to come home early. And when he heard the sound of his daughter's tears he smashed the door open!

*The door bursts open. It is the ESCAPOLOGIST, furious. He runs to Matilda hugs her, THEY hug for all they are worth. He wears his wife's white scarf.*

**ESCAPOLOGIST**

DON'T CRY  
 I AM HERE, LITTLE GIRL  
 PLEASE DON'T CRY, DRY YOUR EYES,  
 WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS, LITTLE GIRL  
 FORGIVE ME, I DIDN'T MEAN TO DESERT YOU.  
 DON'T CRY LITTLE GIRL, NOTHING CAN HURT YOU  
 YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR  
 I'M HERE.

**START**

*He wraps the white scarf around Matilda's neck.*

**MATILDA & ESCAPOLOGIST**

*'Have I been so wrapped up in my grief for my wife that I have forgotten the one thing that mattered to us most? I love you so much, my daughter, I shall spend the rest of my life making it up to you. We shall be together forever'*

**MATILDA**

DON'T CRY DADDY  
 I'M ALRIGHT, DADDY  
 PLEASE DON'T CRY  
 HERE-- LET ME WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS.

**ESCAPOLOGIST**

*(same time as MATILDA, following)*

FORGIVE ME  
 I DIDN'T MEAN TO DESERT YOU  
 DON'T CRY LITTLE GIRL, NOTHING CAN HURT YOU  
 YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR. I'M HERE.

**MATILDA**

*(same time as ESCAPOLOGIST)*

DADDY, FORGIVE ME

(MATILDA)

I DIDN'T WANT TO UPSET YOU  
PLEASE DADDY  
DON'T CRY  
I'LL BE ALRIGHT  
WITH YOU BY MY SIDE  
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR  
YOU'RE HERE.

*The ESCAPOLOGIST scoops Matilda up in his arms, takes her to the bed, lays her down to sleep. MATILDA ducks out, leaving the scarf.*

MATILDA

But when the little girl fell asleep, the escapologist's thoughts turned to the acrobat's sister and an almighty rage grew inside his great heart.

MATILDA & ESCAPOLOGIST

*"This demon, this villain, this monster! She has sullied the memory of my wife, she has betrayed the trust of her own sister, she has shown cruelty to the most precious reality of my marriage. Bullying children is her game, is it? Then let us see what this creature thinks she can do when the wrath of a grown man stands before her!"*

*The ESCAPOLOGIST leaves. MATILDA alone, now.*

MATILDA

**END**

But that was the last the little girl ever saw of her father. Because he never came home. Ever again.

*MATILDA, alone. MISS HONEY enters with some books.*

MISS HONEY

Matilda, I've got you those books, we spoke about, so if you like—

*The shrill scream of a whistle. The TRUNCHBULL steps forward, dressed in old-fashioned gym gear. BRUCE is with her, a shadow of his former self, broken, tamed, can hardly look at Matilda and Miss Honey. The TRUNCHBULL stares at Miss Honey.*

#17n - What Are You Doing With Those Books?

TRUNCHBULL

What are you doing with those books, woman?

MISS HONEY

They... they're for Matilda