

## Ray Quinn

### "Hugo The Human Cannonball"

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Well, they came to town  
With their elephants and clowns  
On a hit sticky August day

And every telephone pole  
Had a poster that told  
Of the thrills that were coming our way

There were trapeze fliers  
And men that ate fire  
And things we never dreamed existed

And the radio and TV  
Told us we'd be  
Fools if we dared to miss it.

Now all three rings  
Held wondrous things  
Marvels of every invention

But the big long shrouded  
Shape in the corner  
Increasingly drew our attention

There were bareback riders  
Lions and tigers  
And clowns in their itty bitty car

But every woman and man  
And child in the stand  
Had come to see the star

Then a hush fell on the crowd  
As the men pulled the shroud  
From the muzzle that was 30 feet long

And to screams and cheers  
He finally appeared  
And flamboyantly bowed to the throng

He wore red sequined tights

That sparkled in the lights  
And boots that came to his knees

And a chromium  
football helmet  
And a cape that flapped in the breeze

And the dazzled crowd  
Shouted out loud  
You could hear them one and all

We want Hugo!  
Hugo! Hugo!  
The Human Cannonball

The aim was carefully calculated  
The trajectory was precise

The charge was carefully measured  
And poured into the loading device

The fuse was trimmed, the lights were dimmed  
Hugo slid down the barrel and then

All was ready and Hugo's daddy  
Counted down from

Ten!  
And the drums rolled

Nine  
And our blood ran cold

Eight!  
The ambulance stood by

Seven!  
Several woman cried

Six!  
The spotlight hit the net

Five!  
No one would ever forget

Four!  
Eternity passed

Three!  
Every heart beat fast

Two!  
And Hugo's daddy said, "Are you ready Hugo?"

One!  
And from the bowels of the gun, "I'm a-ready, Papa!"

Boom!

Well, fire and smoke belched  
Out of the cannon  
And the earth trembled for a while

And the big gun roared  
And Hugo soared  
Through the air like a projectile.

Two hundred and fifty  
Feet he flew  
Like an Air Force fighter jet

But at the apex  
Of his trajectory  
He knew he's gonna miss the net

Oh! Arms flailing  
He kept on sailing  
A terrified screaming creature

And the crowd scattered  
As Hugo splattered  
All over the upper bleacher

In the aftermath  
Of this tragic event  
Disbelief filled every face

There was Hugo  
And there was Hugo  
There was Hugo all over the place!

Well, the dust has  
Finally settled and  
The smoke has finally cleared

Hugo's name  
And Hugo's fame  
Will always be revered

But no one  
Ever took his place  
No matter who they were

Because they never found  
Another man  
Of Hugo's ? caliber

The Circus? main attraction  
The greatest star of all

Was Hugo!

Hugo!

The Human Cannonball!

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