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# AMERICAN SIDESHOW

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AN ENCYCLOPEDIA of History's  
MOST WONDROUS and CURIOUSLY  
STRANGE PERFORMERS

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
MARC HARTZMAN

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# American Sideshow by Marc Hartzman

Marc Hartzman

a desirable look at the heritage of the yank sideshow and its performers. research what is real, what is fake, and what is simply downright bizarre. you might have most likely heard of Tom Thumb. The Elephant Man. even perhaps Chang and Eng, the unique Siamese twins. yet what approximately Eli Bowen, the legless acrobat? Or Prince Randian, the human torso? those have been quite a few of the numerous stars that shone in the course of the heyday of the yank sideshow, from 1840 to 1950. "American Sideshow" chronicles the lives of actually notable performers, studying those courageous and awesome curiosities not only as sideshow performers yet as people, delving into the lives they led and the methods they have been in a position to conquer American Sideshow or even take advantage of their abnormalities. "American Sideshow" discusses the increase American Sideshow and fall of the unique sideshows and their next substitute by way of cutting-edge self-made freaks. With the development of recent medicine, technological advancements, and the glorious international of physique modification, abnormalities are being overcome, handled or even prevented: Siamese twins can now be separated, and also to this, tongues may be forked, horns surgically implanted, and earlobes removed. There are also, of course, modern day giants, hearth eaters, sword swallows, glass eaters, human blockheads, and oh, a lot more. those attention-grabbing personalities are celebrated via intimate biographies paired with lovely photographs. nearly 200 performers from the prior 100 and sixty years are featured, giving readers a finished and occasionally outstanding inspect the background of the yankee sideshow

i have constantly come upon myself surprisingly attracted to the unusual. This includes, to a good degree, circus folk. So, while I observed a unmarried reproduction of yank Sideshow within the theatre American Sideshow part on the bookshop I instantly honed in. This e-book is a treasure chest of data approximately sideshow performers all through America's heritage that may by no means depart my own library. American Sideshow provides us brief vignettes on, easily, greater than 100 diverse halfway "freaks". yet do not permit the size of those biographies, such a lot a few web page long, idiot you into pondering the data is insignificant. Where else could you discover own details on Fanny Mills, The Ohio giant Foot Girl, who was once incomes \$150 per week within the 1880's. that is a hundred yrs sooner than i used to be making \$150 every week at my first activity and feeling rich! And examine the tale of Isaac W. Sprague, the unique skinny Man. Born in 1841 he used to be consistently losing weight from the age of 12. He ate frequently and good yet was American Sideshow once losing away, dumbfounding his doctors. He labored for his father as a shoemaker until eventually his mom and dad demise at which period he all started operating at a grocery. as soon as this paintings turned too tricky (he was once purely in his 20's) he was once fortunate sufficient to be provided a task with a sideshow. right here he used to be making \$80/wk within the 1860's. He took a spouse and had a family. His situation used to be ultimately clinically determined as severe innovative muscular atrophy. Mr. Sprague's story, unfortunately, ends a great deal the way in which that's frequently assumed of many sideshow performers. The same, gladly, cannot be stated for Dick Brisben, American Sideshow The Penguin Boy American Sideshow who may perhaps nonetheless be alive and kicking, at the least on the time this booklet used to be

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written. Born within the 1940's with toes yet no legs and palms yet essentially no arms, Brisben begun his occupation with the sideshows in 1960. He have been on welfare till Ward corridor invited him to hitch his show. The Penguin Boy stayed with corridor for 27 years and then he was once capable of buy a house in southern California. This publication comprises such a lot of outstanding tales approximately those that might simply have lived lives as "burdens" to society and relatives yet in its place took what that they had and used it to their advantages. Marc Hartzman as divided this publication into three sections. It starts off with the "Golden Age" which encompasses 1830's-early 1900's. This was once the heyday of Barnum & Bailey. It maintains directly to the "Silver Age" with the advent of the Ringling Brothers and eventual downfall of the sideshow because it was once known. the ultimate part covers the "Modern Age", the hot sideshows. For me, the ultimate part is the one failing during this book. I see the old-time performers as those that came upon themselves in strange conditions exciting an audience. As for the fashionable performers, they're humans placing themselves in strange occasions to entertain. I cannot suggest this booklet adequate to someone with even the slightest curiosity during this subject. i might additionally reccommend it to inventive writers trying to find springboard material. <http://nobsbookreviews.today.com>

## American Sideshow

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