



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Fiction about Carnivals and Circuses

Baker, Kevin. **Dreamland** Novel about turn-of-the-century New York and Coney Island's Dreamland amusement park.

Boll, Heinrich. **The Clown In Nazi and post-Nazi Germany**, a 27-year-old clown finds life to be meaningless.

Bradbury, Ray. **Something Wicked This Way Comes** Diabolical carnival wreaks havoc on the lives of the people of a small Illinois town. **Science Fiction**

Brown, Carrie. **The Hatbox Baby** A desperate father brings his premature baby to the Chicago World's Fair in hopes that it can be saved by famous baby doctor, Leo Hoffman.

Carnahan, Matthew. **Serpent Girl** College dropout working for a traveling circus seduces flipper-armed Serpent Girl to get the inside dope on the circus payroll.

Carter, Angela. **Nights at the Circus** Chronicles the adventures of Sophia Fevers, a six-foot two-inch aerialiste who is part swan and part woman.

Chalmers, Robert. **Fortune's Bastard** London tabloid editor seeks refuge in a Florida town inhabited by circus freaks and carnies.

Chase-Riboud, Barbara. **Hottentot Venus** Novel based on the true story of Sarah Baartman, a South African herdsman who was exhibited as a scientific curiosity.

Davis, Amanda. **Wonder When You'll Miss Me** Young girl runs away to join the circus after being sexually assaulted by a group of boys from her high school.

Day, Cathy. **The Circus in Winter** Eleven linked stories that feature the inhabitants of Lima, Indiana, winter headquarters for the Great Porter Circus.

Dodd, Renee. **A Cabinet of Wonders** Dugan the dwarf runs a profitable freak show.

Ducovny, Amram. **Coney** In 1939, 15-year-old Harry Catzker grows up among the freaks and lowlifes of Coney Island.

Dunn, Katherine. **Geek Love** Al and Lil, proprietors of Binewski's Fabulon, decide to breed their own freak show.

Dunn, Mark. **Ibid: a Life: a Novel in Footnotes** When the only copy of a manuscript - a biography of a three-legged circus performer - is lost by a careless editor, the author publishes the only surviving text - the footnotes.

Fermine, Maxence. **Snow** Young haiku poet falls in love with a French tightrope walker.

Galloway, Steven. **Ascension** Transylvanian gypsy becomes a high-wire artist.

Grant, Charles. **The Black Carousel** When night comes to the village of Oxrun Station, a mysterious and compelling carnival welcomes all, at a price.

Gruen, Sara. **Water for Elephants** Nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression.

Hall, Sarah. **The Electric Michelangelo** Coming-of-age story about an apprentice tattoo artist from the north coast of England who reinvents himself in Coney Island, New York.

Harrison, Harry. **Stainless Steel Rat Joins the Circus** Master thief Jim DiGriz a.k.a. the Stainless Steel Rat is hired to investigate a string of unsolved interstellar bank robberies which always occur when the circus is nearby.
Science Fiction

Haskell, John. **I Am Not Jackson Pollock** The story, **Elephant Feelings** features Topsy, a circus elephant and the Hottentot Venus.

Horan, Richard. **Goose Music** Man tries to uncover the truth of his brother's apparent murder outside the town of Baraboo, Wisconsin, home of the Circus World Museum.

Hough, Robert. **The Final Confession of Mabel Stark** Fictional autobiography of Mabel Stark, the greatest female tiger trainer in history.

Irving, John. **A Son of the Circus** An alienated, middle-aged Bombay-born doctor returns to his birthplace to study circus dwarfs.

Jacobs, Harvey. **American Goliath** Fictionalized account of the Cardiff Giant, a stone statue purported to be a giant fossilized man and displayed by P. T. Barnum.

Koontz, Dean. **The Funhouse** After joining a traveling carnival in her youth, woman rebuilds her life but hides a secret guilt.

MacLean, Alistair. **Circus** Three aerialists, recruited by the CIA, penetrate a fortified castle to retrieve a top-secret scientific formula.

Prill, David. **Dating Secrets of the Dead** In the story, *Carnyvore*, members of a carnival, categorically banned by a small town's bureaucracy, take revenge in a fitting manner.

Raleigh, Michael. **The Blue Moon Circus** In 1926, ringmaster Lewis Tully tours the American West with his circus act for the last time.

Rubenstein, Wade. **Gullboy** Near Coney Island, a hard-luck loser finds the "Gullboy", half bird and half boy, in a seagull's nest and takes him in as his own.

Schmitt, Richard. **The Aerialist** Young man progresses from circus hand to wirewalker.

Shafak, Elif. **The Gaze** Story of a Turkish circus impresario who creates his own freak show.

Singer, Isaac. **The Magician of Lublin** Set in late 19th century Poland, Yasha Mazur, who is a conjurer, tightrope walker and hypnotist, suffers a crisis of conscience.

Slouka, Mark. **God's Fool** Siamese twins, Chang and Eng were exhibited by P. T. Barnum but they eventually settled in North Carolina, married and had children.

Smith, Mary-Ann. **Masters of Illusion** Fictionalized account of the Hartford, CT circus fire of 1944 which left 168 people, mostly children, dead.

Strauss, Darin. **Chang and Eng** Fictionalized account of the Siamese twins, Chang and Eng, who were brought to America by P. T. Barnum.

Toscana, David. **Our Lady of the Circus** Group of disillusioned circus performers decide to settle down and live like ordinary people.

Ursu, Anne. **The Disapparation of James Boy** vanishes while participating as a volunteer in a circus clown's act.

Valenzuela, Luisa. **Clara** Argentinian streetwalker lives with abusive men until she meets a magician, marries him and forms her own carnival act as a bodiless head.

MYSTERY

Barth, Richard. **Jumper** Roller coaster designer is called in to investigate an accident with the Cyclone at Coney Island.

Dams, Jeanne. **Silence is Golden** A killer of young boys is targeting members of the circus.

Gilman, Dorothy. **Tightrope Walker** New owner of an antique store filled with merry-go-round horses and hurdy-gurdies finds a threatening note written years before.

Jahn, Mike. **Murder in Coney Island** The body of a real estate developer is found in the basement of a Coney Island candy store.

Kaminsky, Stuart. **Catch a Falling Clown** Detective is hired by famous circus clown, Emmett Kelly to find out who is trying to kill him.

McBain, Ed. **There Was a Little Girl** Attorney is shot while investigating the long ago suicide of a circus star.

Maron, Margaret. **Slow Dollar** Midway concessionaire is found murdered.

Riggs, John. **A Dragon Lives Forever** The disappearance of a teenage boy and the murder of a stock-car racer are both linked to the annual arrival of a carnival.

Schechter, Harold. **The Hum Bug** P. T. Barnum enlists the aid of Edgar Allan Poe to solve a gruesome murder.