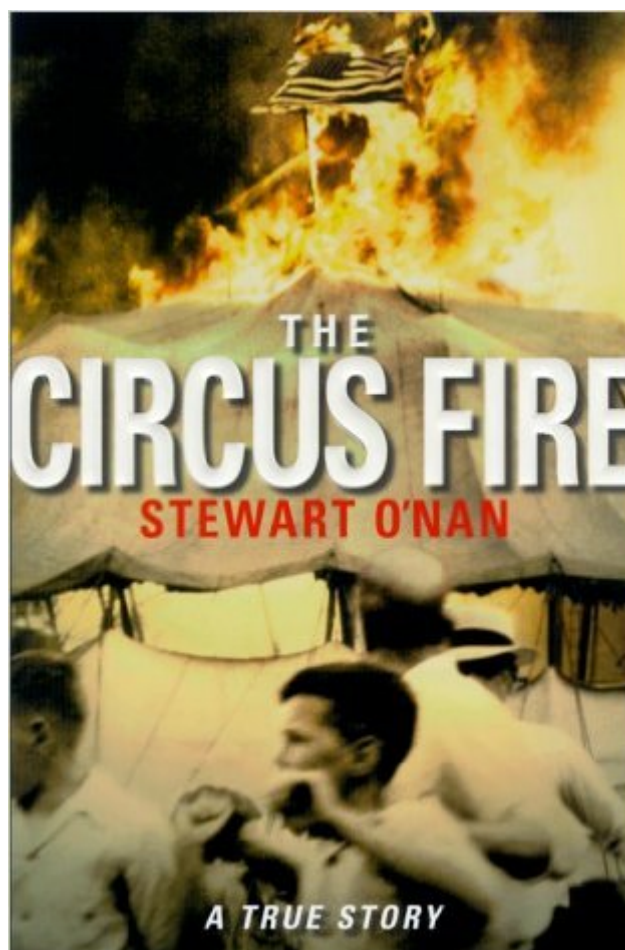


The book was found

# The Circus Fire: A True Story



## Synopsis

The acclaimed author of *A Prayer for the Dying* brings all his narrative gifts to bear on this gripping account of tragedy and heroism—the great Hartford circus fire of 1944. Halfway through a midsummer afternoon performance, Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus's big top caught fire. The tent had been waterproofed with a mixture of paraffin and gasoline; in seconds it was burning out of control, and more than 8,000 people were trapped inside. Drawing on interviews with hundreds of survivors, O'Nan skillfully re-creates the horrific events and illuminates the psychological oddities of human behavior under stress: the mad scramble for the exits; the hero who tossed dozens of children to safety before being trampled to death. Brilliantly constructed and exceptionally moving, *The Circus Fire* is history at its most compelling. From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Doubleday; 1 edition (June 20, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385496842

ISBN-13: 978-0385496841

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.5 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (132 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,093,078 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Circus](#) #22356 in [Books > History > Americas >](#)

[United States > State & Local](#) #90172 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment](#)

## Customer Reviews

I am sure that any decent writer who was willing to dig through the archives and old newspaper stories could have written a good book about the Hartford circus fire. For Stewart O'Nan however, that was not enough. He not only did the research that any author would do when writing about a historical event; he tracked down the survivors. That is what makes this book so good. The stories told by the survivors make the whole story much more personal and much more tragic. On top of all this, O'Nan's writing style is superb. As a novelist who usually deals in fiction he writes in a very engrossing manner that keeps the reader's interest from cover to cover. The chapters are divided by dates and O'Nan takes each of the several families he follows in detail from their preparations for the circus to the very end. Whether that end is death or recovery we get the whole story. In this way

the reader is able to connect in a personal way with the victims. If they escaped we find out how they got out. If they required hospitalization we get the story of their recovery. If they are killed we are taken through the identification process and some of the funerals. O’Nan even follows two of the survivors into their careers as firemen. The reader is also treated to the inner politics of the Ringling family and the power struggle after the fire. Along the way we meet circus people who were indeed negligent, politicians who struggled to cover their own negligence, nurses, doctors, and lots of policemen. We also meet many heroes; many of them policemen and firemen just like on 9/11. O’Nan spares no detail but he never gets boring. The reader will also get a good feel for 1944. The circus was short on workers because of the war. Hartford’s residents were prospering because of the war industries.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Circus Fire: A True Story of an American Tragedy The Circus Fire: A True Story Fire Stick: The 2016 User Guide And Manual - Learn How To Install Android Apps On Your Fire TV Stick! (Streaming Devices, How To Use Fire Stick, Fire TV Stick User Guide) Amigurumi Circus: Crochet seriously cute circus characters Young Men and Fire: A True Story of the Mann Gulch Fire Fire on the Mountain: The True Story of the South Canyon Fire Circus Pyongyang: A gig to North Korea (True Story: What Really Happened At The Birthday Party Of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung?) Queen of the Air: A True Story of Love and Tragedy at the Circus The Hartford Circus Fire:: Tragedy Under the Big Top (Disaster) Sandy’s Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder Ringlingville USA: The Stupendous Story of Seven Siblings and Their Stunning Circus Success My Father had this Luger... A true story of Hitler’s Greece: A true story of Hitler’s Greece They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan True Crime Stories: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases: True Crime Anthology, Vol. 1 True Ghost Stories and Hauntings: 10 Spine Chilling Accounts of True Ghost Stories and Hauntings, True Paranormal Reports and Haunted Houses True Crime Stories Volume 3: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases (True Crime Anthology) True Crime Stories: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases (True Crime Anthology) True Crime Stories Volume 2: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases (True Crime Anthology) Planes: Fire & Rescue (Disney Planes: Fire & Rescue) (Little Golden Book) Planes: Fire & Rescue (Disney Planes: Fire & Rescue) (Big Golden Book)

[Dmca](#)