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The Circus Fire: A True Story of an American Tragedy

Stewart O'Nan

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The Circus Fire: A True Story of an American Tragedy Stewart O'Nan
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.

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