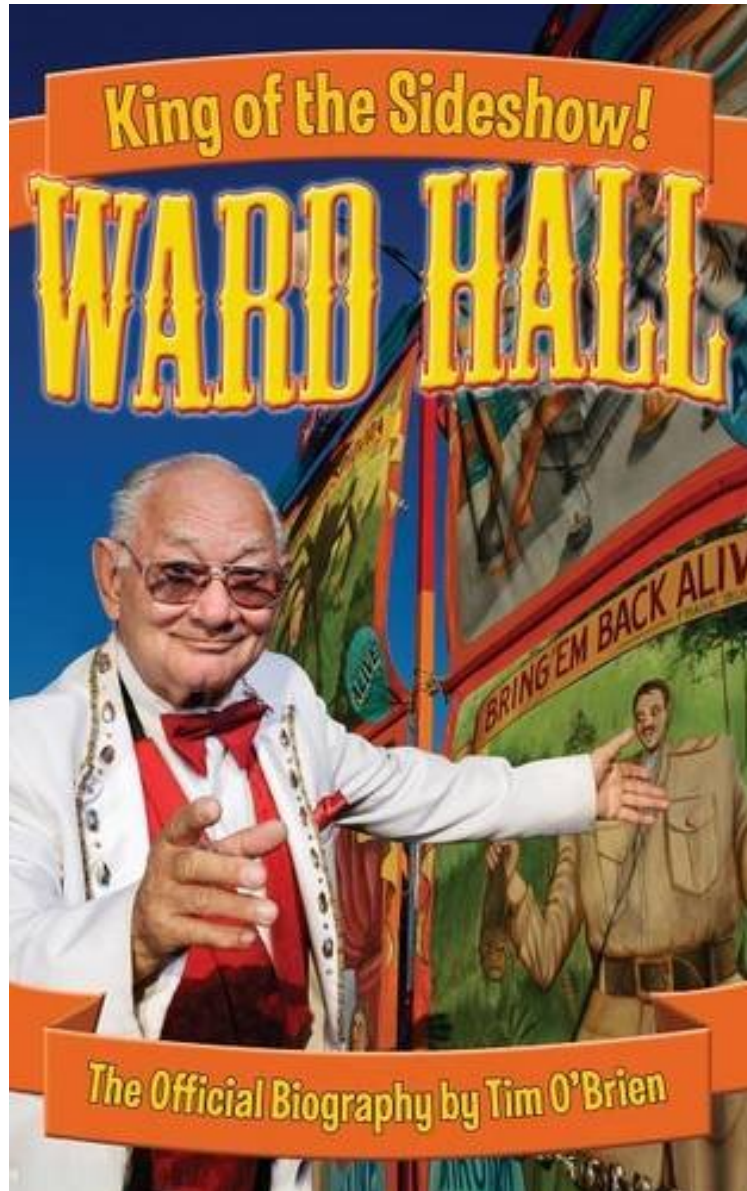


(Library ebook) Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow!

Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow!

Tim O'Brien

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Tim O'Brien : Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow!:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Made me want to run away with the circus too! By Chad Lewis Having pre-ordered this book, I had plenty of time to stock up on cotton candy and ice-cold lemonade as I waited with anticipation of its arrival. Needless to say, I wasn't disappointed. Right from the start I was swept away

into the fascinating world of the carnival sideshow filled with giants, pygmies, penguin boys, monkey ladies, tattooed characters, two-head babies, exotic animals, and more than a few humbugs. O'Brien does a masterful job with providing us with a first-class ticket into the amazing (and almost unbelievable) world of Ward Hall's life. The inclusion of so much carnival jargon (along with a handy glossary) allowed me to feel as though I was taking a leisurely stroll along the 200-foot banner line touting the wonders and mysteries that inevitably lurk behind the curtain. The photos of Ward and his wild assortment of "freaks" really helps to bring the glory days of the carnival to life. My favorite part of the book was the "blow off" section that contains short snippets of wisdom from Ward himself. Just like a wide-eyed kid standing in the tip, entranced by the bally, I found myself extremely glad I chose to pay my admission in order to ride along on the journey of this remarkable story. Highly Recommended! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Presenting an Astonishing Read! All Genuine and Alive on The Inside! By V Brisbin

Tim O'Brien has done a masterful job in not only chronicling the life and career of Mr. Ward Hall, master showman of the sideshow, but in revealing the very personal, human side of the outdoor shows, the carnies, exhibitors, and "the very special people" who were the stars of any performance arena or ten-in-one. This is a poignant, often funny, riveting read for both fringe show-biz fans, historians, and anyone who ever paid to go inside the canvas inner sanctum on a midway to experience the diversity and talent that marked a departure from the familiar, mundane existence of most people in 20th Century America. Highly recommended. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

WOW!!!!!! By Jack M. Beebe I just received "Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow" --- The Official Biography by Tim O'Brien. I couldn't wait to get started on it. And, to be very truthful, I couldn't put it down!!! Tim O'Brien has done the impossible!! He has captured THE Ward Hall that NO ONE else has ever met or heard about. How Tim keeps everything in proper sequence and in category is a wonder. In it, Ward has many quotes. In it, Ward does all of his pitches. But, it is Tim who writes the facts and ties it all masterfully together. A TRUE biography. Loved the pictures and photo captures from Ward's personal and other archives. They are never before seen visual links to Ward's past. Where did they all come from? Tim has a way of writing, describing events and situations that a non show person can understand. Also, certainly show people will not feel talked down to, as Tim speaks "show biz language" with relationship to being on the road and about the events and about those we know and have worked with. His experience as an author and as editor and writer with Amusement Business and with Ripley's sure pays off here. For the other show people who have heard Ward before. You NEVER heard him like THIS!!! If you have ever met Ward Hall then you MUST get this book. If you never met Ward Hall then you NEED to get this book. If you ever gone to a fair, a circus, a carnival, walked a boardwalk, seen a side show or have never seen a side show you HAVE to get this book. If you are "with it" --- you will REALLY enjoy this one!!! "Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow!" The Official Biography by Tim O'Brien is truly THE STORY that someone else other than Ward Hall HAD to tell. And, Tim O'Brien DOES tell it!!! and VERY well!!! GET IT!!!! jack m. beebe

Ward Hall ran across town and joined the circus for a part time gig in 1944 when he was a "kid" living in Colorado. A year later, as a 15 year old 10th grade dropout, he ran away for good, joining the Dailey Bros. Circus. He never looked back. By 16 he was performing in a sideshow and by age 21, he owned a sideshow! Today, 70 years later and countless circus and side show, vaudeville and burlesque house performances under his belt, Ward Hall is still in the business. Ward has worked with a monkey girl, a half-lady/half man, numerous fat men, countless sword swallows, fire eaters, several giants, big snakes, big rats and little horses. He has mastered juggling, ventriloquism and the art of enticing thousands of curious onlookers to part with their money and go inside the tent of his world-famous sideshows. Ward has owned and operated sideshows, animal shows, magic shows, and illusion shows with such fashionable names as Magic on Parade; Wondercade: Aquarama water circus; Gladiators vs. Mankillers wild animal show; World Attractions; Sky High Circus; the Wonder Circus; the Pygmy Village; and the World of Wonders. He has exhibited the World's smallest woman, the World's tallest giant, and employed Pete Terhune, the mighty fire-eating dwarf for 55 years. In addition to owning or co-owning sideshows and circuses during his career, Ward has written four books, four musical stage productions, been in seven movies and more than 100 videos and TV specials, performed at Madison Square Garden and the Lincoln Center in New York City and has sung at Carnegie Hall. He is in the Hall of Fame of both the Outdoor Amusement Business Assoc. and the International Independent Showmen's Assoc. and is a member of the prestigious Circus Ring of Fame in Sarasota, Fla. Ward is the only person in all three of those halls of honor. Ward has operated the sideshow for many big time circuses, including: Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus, the Toby Tyler Circus, the Al G. Miller Circus, Circus Vargas (where he was part owner of the circus for a while), Beatty Cole, and the E.K. Fernandez Circus. Ward Hall's title of King of the Sideshows is not a new or recent act of coronation, and as the ruler of his own little world of misfits and human anomalies, Ward's title isn't self-awarded, but is a judgment rendered by his peers. The year 2014 is the King's 70th year anniversary in show business. This is his story.