



Freaks

Daniel P. Mannix, Katherine Dunn (Introduction)

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Meet the strangest people who ever lived!

Read all about:

- the notorious love affairs of midgets
- the strange sex lives of Siamese twins
- the dwarf clown's wife whose feet grew directly from her body
- the mule-faced woman whose son became her manager
- the unusual amours of Jolly Daisy, the fat woman
- the famous pinhead who inspired Verdi's *Rigoletto*
- the tragedy of Betty Lou Williams and her parasitic twin
- the midget, only 34 inches tall, who was happily married to a 264-pound wife
- the human torso who could sew, crochet, and type
- and bizarre accounts of normal humans turned into freaks--either voluntarily or by evil design!

Originally printed in a small edition and withdrawn by the publisher after one month, this book (out of print for nearly 20 years), is brought back to eye-popping life with many new photos. Daniel P. Mannix, now enjoying a cult revival, is the author of noir classics such as *Those About to Die*, *The History of Torture*, *The Hell-fire Club*, *Memoirs of a Sword Swallower*, *The Beast* (the first biography of Aleister Crowley to enjoy wide readership), and many others. A former sword-swallowing, fire-eater, fakir and world traveler, Mr. Mannix still lives on the family farm with his falcon, miniature horses and reptile collection.

Freaks Details

Date : Published May 1st 1999 by Juno Books (first published 1976)

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Author : Daniel P. Mannix , Katherine Dunn (Introduction)

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From Reader Review Freaks for online ebook

Storyheart says

A look at the people who worked the sideshows: pinheads, fat ladies, monkey-women etc. This isn't about titillation or exploitation; rather it's a gentle exploration of people who had to make hard choices to survive.

Rachel James says

This is my favorite Research book. It has great photos and is easy to reference.

Tone says

Poorly edited and far too few pictures this is, however, the finest book on freak culture I've ever read.

George Schmoe says

Absolutely great book to begin the voyage into the carny world, a great place to start and refer back to.

Bat Boy says

The Baby Jesus knows that I love freaks. I really hope to have a little person as a friend one day. I see them occasionally and stare, not because they are freaks, but because I want to call one my friend. They don't seem to mind. I think they are used to getting stares. I wish this book had more pictures.

Carly says

Loved this book! Wish there was a reference page at the back listing the other memoirs that he mentioned throughout, but they shouldn't be too hard to track down. A more personal look at "freaks" and sideshow performers. If you read a lot in this genre some information will be repeated, but I found that Mannix always added something I hadn't read before.

A says

I actually read the edition that is now out of print, but I bought the RE/Search edition a couple of years ago, just so I could have a copy. Haven't read the whole thing since '98 or thereabouts.

What I like about this book is the way it investigates the world of freakshows through interviews and 1st

hand accounts. In this sense it's a unique artifact of a world that doesn't really exist anymore.

Debra says

This was a very informative book, but not well-written (you can tell the author is not a professional writer, in fact, he's a professional carny guy). It is also outdated and some of the terms used to talk about certain folks can seem offensive if you don't take into account that this was written in the mid-seventies. Still, seeing the word "negress" really rubbed me wrong, but perhaps it was the politically correct term for someone from the writer's generation. Anyway, I learned a lot I'd never knew and saw some startling (and sometimes, explicit) photos - Warning! Adult content in some pictures!

Arnpoe says

This was an excellent introduction into the world of sideshows, well before their modern, less shocking incarnations.

Arpad Okay says

my favorite of the re/search books. dan mannix lived the life, and both stories and photos are captivating. perfect format, the perfect resource on they who are not as others.

Stephanie says

I love freaks. Really, I do. I'm fascinated by deformities, diseases, special talents--anything that makes someone different. I liked this book because it had lots of anecdotes and personal stories about the little people, the giants, the hirsutes, the malformed twins and everyone else. It was more than just a freak show; it was a peak into their lives. That said, I do wish there had been more pictures.
