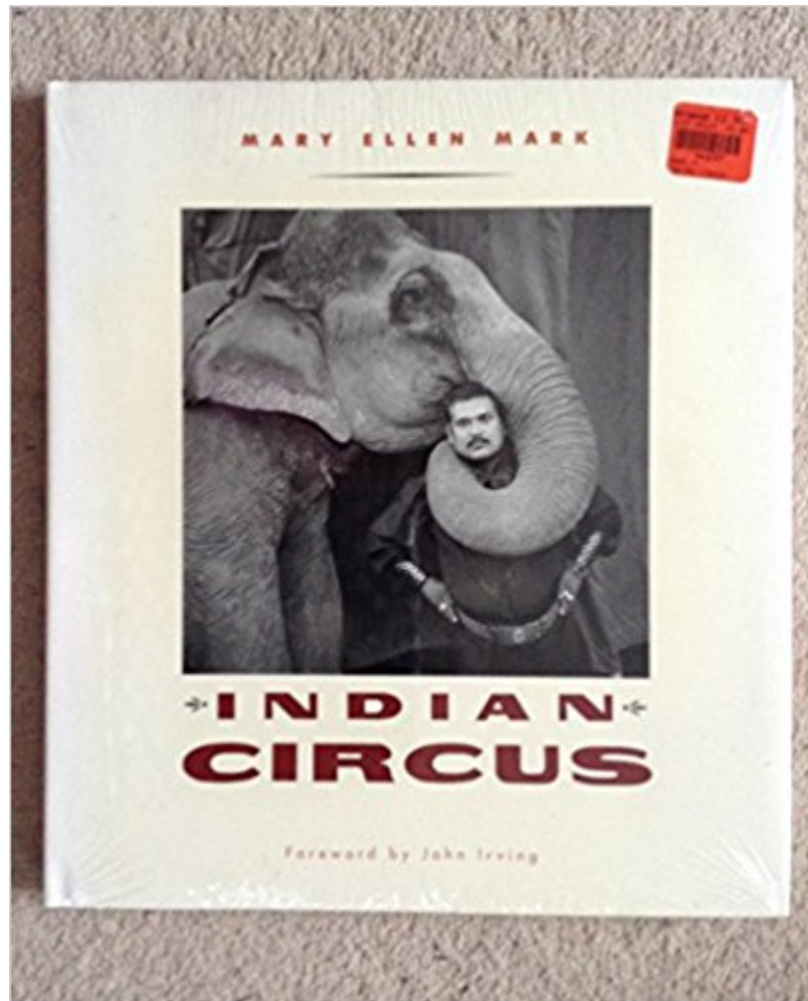




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Indian Circus



Synopsis

Mary Ellen Mark's work has become a standard by which all other contemporary documentary photography is compared. The work in *Indian Circus* is no exception. "A beautiful young contortionist twists into an improbable pose and gazes at the camera. A trainer relaxes in the gentle, coiled embrace of his elephant's massive trunk. These and other poignant images offer an eloquent glimpse into the lives of assorted acrobats, clowns, animal trainers, and other traveling Indian circus members. Like Diane Arbus, Mary Ellen Mark's extraordinary photographs demonstrate a remarkable affinity for those living on the fringes of life, and involve the observer with a level of passion, spontaneity and dignity rarely equaled in photojournalism."--the publisher.

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Customer Reviews

Mary Ellen Mark's work has become a standard by which all other contemporary documentary photography is compared. The work in *Indian Circus* is no exception. "A beautiful young contortionist twists into an improbable pose and gazes at the camera. A trainer relaxes in the gentle, coiled embrace of his elephant's massive trunk. These and other poignant images offer an eloquent glimpse into the lives of assorted acrobats, clowns, animal trainers, and other traveling Indian circus members. Like Diane Arbus, Mary Ellen Mark's extraordinary photographs demonstrate a remarkable affinity for those living on the fringes of life, and involve the observer with a level of passion, spontaneity and dignity rarely equaled in photojournalism."--the publisher.

This series of portraits is unique. Certainly worthy of having it in your library if you like photography,

portraits or a different angle on travel images (even though there are only portraits in this book).

Mary Ellen Mark likes to go deep into her subject matter. This is a unique record of the fast-vanishing world of the Big Top Circus - Indian style! The circus was imported into India from Europe in 1880. Although it is a rare commodity today in Europe, it continues to exist in pockets of the subcontinent, having changed little over the decades. However, with rapid globalization, it is but a matter of time before this art becomes extinct. As a collector of documentary photography, I can attest that this book is one of the finest examples of the medium.

Mary Ellen Mark is an outstanding photographer. This is among her best work. Her superb technique complements her incisive portraiture. She has studied the circuses of India carefully and captured something of the soul of her subjects. Many of the performers that she photographs are young, and for all intents and purposes are indentured servants. Their lives are filled with pathos, but also with immense pride in what they do. It is impossible not to be moved by this wonderful book. I recommend it highly.

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