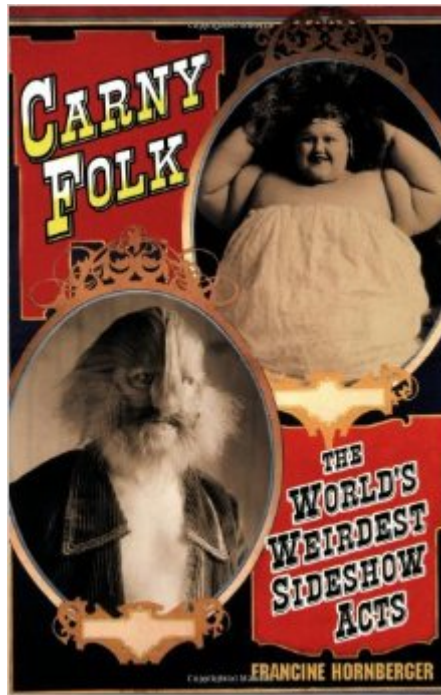


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# Carny Folk



## Synopsis

Carnival freak side shows.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Citadel (April 5, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806526610

ISBN-13: 978-0806526614

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #258,990 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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#29520 in [Books > History](#)

## Customer Reviews

The author had a great idea in taking a closer look at the personal stories of side show performers; however, the text itself reads like a badly written Freshman Comp. paper. Redundancies and awkward phrases abound. This book would have been greatly improved by additional editing before publication. I found the subject matter interesting but the text irksome.

This book was factual and well researched. It showed great respect for the individuals profiled. It was campy and funny but also sweet and touching at times. It let me stare and not feel guilty. It made me rethink whether these carney folks were being exploited or were just doing what they could do put food on the table. Like all us "normal" people.

I will admit a bit of fascination with human oddities. Why not? There seems to be little to be fascinated with anymore. Like the author, I also enjoyed Carnivale on HBO. I also enjoyed the old 30's movie Freaks. With this book, I was expecting more than I received. While the scope was adequate, I felt the depth was lacking. Overall, it was still an enjoyable read but each sub-section left me wanting more information about the person. The most disturbing aspect of the book was the lack of pictures. For sure, pictures were included but for many subjects, I had to do a Google image search. How hard would it have been to insert a picture for each person listed in the book? When

the topic is "human oddities" a picture is needed in order to get a real feel of the person's challenges. Still yet, I would recommend this book to my friends; at least those know how to get Google on their computer. Michael L. Gooch, Author of Wingtips with Spurs

A fascinating review of side show freaks and the more human side of their story. They seemed to hold a most non PC point of view, and some would fight for what they considered to be their rights as opposed to the rights allowed by others.

Loved it, it reminded me of when I was a kid going to sideshows at Riverview Amusement park in Chicago.

Needed more pictures, spent a lot of time looking up the performers

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