



The Greatest Show: Stories (Yellow Shoe Fiction)

Michael Downs

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Fire sweeps along the wall of a circus tent while inside thousands of people enjoy a Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey matinee. Within minutes, flames consume the canvas and vast sections collapse, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more.

Inspired by the 1944 Hartford Circus Fire, the interconnected stories in Michael Downs's *The Greatest Show* explore the aftermath of a disaster in a world of clowns, elephants, and childhood fantasies.

In the opening story, Ania Liszak, a young Polish housemaid, steals circus tickets from her employer to take her three-year-old son, Teddy, to the matinee. The fire nearly kills both and leaves them scarred in different ways: Teddy's mother enjoys the beautiful strangeness of the scar on her face, but the patches across Teddy's body inspire cruel schoolmates to call him "Lizard Liszak." Over time, his mother transforms her pain into drama, while Teddy, having no memory of that day, seeks ways to return to it.

These and other captivating characters appear throughout the book, creating a portrait of an American city and its people over five decades, raising questions about wounds and healing, memory and forgetting, and about the human capacity for kindness—with all its futility and power—in the midst of great loss.

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From reader reviews:

Lidia Flynn:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day long to reading a book. The book The Greatest Show: Stories (Yellow Shoe Fiction) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

Stephanie Dillard:

Exactly why? Because this The Greatest Show: Stories (Yellow Shoe Fiction) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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