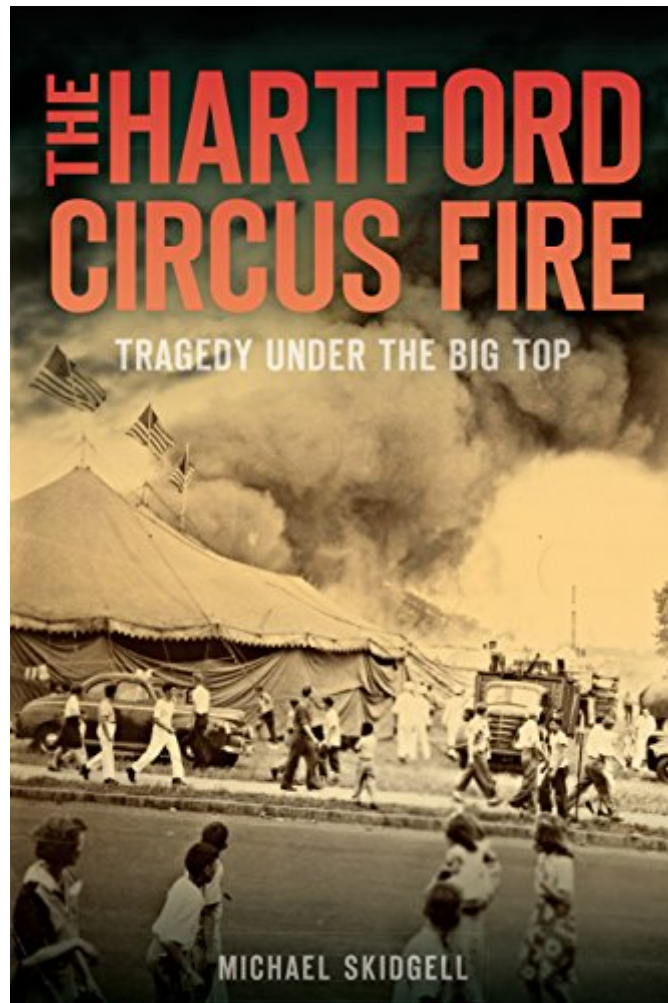




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# Hartford Circus Fire, The: Tragedy Under The Big Top (Disaster)



## Synopsis

Almost 7,000 fans eagerly packed into the Ringling Brothers big top on July 6, 1944. With a single careless act, an afternoon at the "Greatest Show on Earth" quickly became one of terror and tragedy as the paraffin-coated circus tent caught fire. Panicked crowds rushed for the few exits, but in minutes, the tent collapsed on those still struggling to escape below. A total of 168 lives were lost, many of them children, with many more injured and forever scarred by the events. Hartford and the surrounding communities reeled in the aftermath as investigators searched for the source of the fire and the responsible parties. Through firsthand accounts, interviews with survivors and a gripping collection of vintage photographs, author Michael Skidgell attempts to make sense of one of Hartford's worst tragedies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent retelling of the horrible Hartford Circus Fire in 1944. Author does not overwhelm us with too much information. Sticks to the pertinent facts and presents an easily read story Short personal biographies of each person killed in the fire is an interesting and very human addition to the book

An excellent, well written account of a terrible tragedy.

So sad. But a good read. Takes you through personal experiences.

Mr. Skidgell apparently did a great deal of research for this book, for which he must be commended. However, he has a tortuous, roundabout, and indirect writing style that makes this book a difficult read. I liken it to going next door by walking all away around the block to get there. I got the impression that this was done intentionally to fill space, because if you cut out the chapter detailing the fate of each victim- which unfortunately becomes tedious- the whole book might have been cut by a skillful editor to a work about the length of a magazine article.

Very sad.

Facts done in novel form.

This is along the lines of a biography of many circus fire survivors. It is not a history of the facts leading to the fire.

Tragic.

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