



The Night Circus

By Erin Morgenstern

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The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night.

But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway—a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them, this is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will. Despite themselves, however, Celia and Marco tumble headfirst into love—a deep, magical love that makes the lights flicker and the room grow warm whenever they so much as brush hands.

True love or not, the game must play out, and the fates of everyone involved, from the cast of extraordinary circus performers to the patrons, hang in the balance, suspended as precariously as the daring acrobats overhead.

Written in rich, seductive prose, this spell-casting novel is a feast for the senses and the heart.

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The Night Circus By Erin Morgenstern Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6863 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-09-13
- Released on: 2011-09-13
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Q&A with Author Erin Morgenstern

Q. This is a lovely and unique story. Why a circus? How did this story first come to you—through a character, a plotline, an emotion?

A. The story came as a location created out of desperation. I was working on a different story altogether, one that was becoming progressively more and more boring because nothing was happening. I needed something exciting to happen and I couldn't figure out how to do it with the locations I had so I sent the characters to the circus. That circus was immediately much more interesting and eventually I abandoned that other story and its characters entirely and focused on the circus instead. What eventually became *The Night Circus* started from exploring that spontaneously-created location, figuring out who created it and who performed in it and what its story was.

Q. What was your inspiration for some of the amazing acts in this circus?

A. Some of them were traditional circus acts or attractions made a bit more unique, like the acrobats performing directly overhead or the carousel that doesn't simply go in circles. The Cloud Maze is a play on a climbing maze I hazily recall from childhood visits to the Boston Children's Museum. Other tents were created based on color, or lack thereof. I had a lot of dark tents and wanted something lighter and white, the Ice Garden developed from that relatively simple starting point.

Q. Do you have a favorite character?

A. It's impossible to pick a true favorite, though Poppet & Widget are very dear to my heart as they're the first of the characters to turn up in my imagination. They're also just plain fun, both individually and as a pair.

Q. What was the most challenging aspect of developing this story?

A. It didn't have a plot for a very long time. Really, my biggest challenge was finding the actual story within all the atmosphere. I had the place and the characters and the feel of the book long before it had a proper story structure to tie everything together. The novel went through a great many revisions before it figured out what it wanted to be, I tried things that didn't work and then things that sort of worked and replaced old ideas with new ones until I got it right.

Q. Is there an emotion that you had to spend a lot of time with that made you uncomfortable?

A. I'm an emotional sort of person in general and I have a vivid imagination, so I feel the whole spectrum of emotion strongly when I write. It's something I'm used to, though, so nothing in particular made me uncomfortable. There is a lot of frustration felt by various characters, which is not the nicest emotion to be spending a lot of time with, but it helps to drive characters to actions which bring different emotions along.

Q. Tell me about your writing life. Do you have any rituals?

A. I binge write. I think it's because I started seriously writing by participating in National Novel Writing Month, an online-based challenge to write 50,000 words in 30 days. I don't have as tight a time limit anymore but I still write in long marathon sessions and then I won't write for a while, I'm not a write-every-day writer. I go back and forth between input phases where I'm reading a lot or trying to get out and explore the world a bit and soak up inspirations and then I'll get back into output mode and write and write and write.

I don't have any particular rituals, I sometimes like to write in longhand when I'm searching for ideas but I do the vast majority by typing, I can't always keep up with my thoughts longhand. I'm not a coffeeshop writer because I feel obliged to order more coffee and then I end up over-caffeinated.

Q. What's the one true thing you learned from your characters in this novel?

A. I think it's something that I knew already but explored more with these characters, that nothing is as simple as black or white, good or evil. There are all those shades of grey and everyone acts from a place that they see as right and true. (Though they are allowed to change their minds.)

Review

Praise for THE NIGHT CIRCUS:

"The Night Circus made me happy. Playful and intensely imaginative, Erin Morgenstern has created the circus I have always longed for and she has populated it with dueling love-struck magicians, precocious kittens, hyper-elegant displays of beauty and complicated clocks. This is a marvelous book."

-- **Audrey Niffenegger**, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*

"Debut author Morgenstern doesn't miss a beat in this smashing tale of greed, fate, and love...a giant, magical story destined for bestsellerdom. This is an electric debut on par with *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*."

--Publishers Weekly, starred review

"Self-assured, entertaining debut that blends genres and crosses continents in quest of magic... Generous in its vision and fun to read. Likely to be a big book—and, soon, a big movie, with all the franchise trimmings."

—*Kirkus* Reviews, starred review

"This big and compelling first novel ushers in a menacing tone with its first sentence: "The circus arrives without warning."...With appeal for readers not particularly geared to fantasy but who plainly enjoy an unusual and well-drawn story, this one will make a good crossover suggestion."

--Booklist, starred review

“‘Dark as soot and bright as sparks,’ *The Night Circus* still holds me willingly captive in a world of almost unbearable beauty. This is a love story on a grand scale: it creates, it destroys, it ultimately transcends. Take a bow, Erin Morgenstern. This is one of the best books I have ever read.”

—Brunonia Barry, author of *The Lace Reader*

“A riveting debut. *The Night Circus* pulls you into a world as dark as it is dazzling, fully-realized but still something out of a dream. You will not want to leave it.”<...

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-- **Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife***

"If this novel is just cotton candy, it's cotton candy spun from strands of edible silver...With no more lust than a late volume of *Harry Potter*, Morgenstern manages to conjure up a love story for adults that feels luxuriously romantic. When Celia calls their circus a 'wonder and comfort and mystery all together,' she could have been talking about this book."

--**Ron Charles, *The Washington Post***

"A Romeo and Juliet tale drenched in magic realism, *The Night Circus* defies both genres and expectations. In short, it's a showstopper."

--***The Boston Globe***

"Erin Morgenstern's debut novel, *The Night Circus*, is quietly, enchantingly perfect...reading this novel is like having a marvelous dream, in which you are asleep enough to believe everything that is happening, but awake enough to relish the experience and understand that it is magical."

--***Newsday***

"[A] dark and extravagantly imagined debut...The plot follows the separate and then intertwining lives of Celia and Marco, both forced to spend their lives pitting their unusual talents against each other in a cruel competition. But their world is Morgenstern's most vivid creation, a fantastical circus featuring illusionists whose powers transcend mere sleight of hand; like those performers, the author entices her audience to suspend disbelief and rewards its members with captivating pleasure."

--***People magazine***

"Morgenstern's exquisitely realized world will have the reader wishing to run off and join this circus."

--***USA Today***

"Morgenstern's Circus is the stuff that dreams are made of, and nothing short of a wild ride."

--***Elle magazine***

"Magical. Enchanting. Spellbinding. Mesmerizing."

--***Associated Press***

"[A] few pages into this story of a mysterious circus and its two stars, a young man and a woman who are both capable of real magic, and you know you are in the presence of an extraordinary storyteller."

--***The Daily Beast***

"Morgenstern's novel feels crafted from the fabric of a dream, and the circus itself never fails to astound. For me, the only real disappointment was that I couldn't buy a ticket."

--***The Christian Science Monitor***

"[T]he world of *The Night Circus* is elaborately designed, fantastically imagined and instantly intoxicating -- as if the reader had downed a glass of absinthe and leapt into a hallucination."

--**Rachel Syme for NPR.org**

"Two star-crossed magicians, Celia and Marco, duel for supremacy against the backdrop of a big top unlike any other. Morgenstern conjures up a world of dark enchantment and romance in this dazzling foray into the

dreamscape of illusion."

--Family Circle

"A beguiling, gripping read...Ms. Morgenstern has crafted a thrilling and transporting tale. In so doing she makes it clear that of all the shapes magic may take, storytelling is often the most powerful of them all."

--The Economist

"Debut author Morgenstern doesn't miss a beat in this smashing tale of greed, fate, and love...a giant, magical story destined for bestsellerdom. This is an electric debut on par with *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*."

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—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"To enter the black-and-white-striped tents of Le Cirque des Rêves is to enter a world where objects really do turn into birds and people really do disappear...Debut novelist Morgenstern has written a 19th-century flight of fancy that is, nevertheless, completely believable. The smells, textures, sounds, and sights are almost palpable. A literary *Mr. Toad's Wild Ride*, this read is completely magical."

—Library Journal, starred review

"This big and compelling first novel ushers in a menacing tone with its first sentence: "The circus arrives without warning."...With appeal for readers not particularly geared to fantasy but who plainly enjoy an unusual and well-drawn story, this one will make a good crossover suggestion."

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—Téa Obreht, author of *The Tiger's Wife*

"Every once in awhile you find a novel so magical that there is no escaping its spell. *The Night Circus* is one of these rarities -- engrossing, beautifully written and utterly enchanting. If you choose to read just one novel this year, this is it."

—Danielle Trussoni, author of *Angelology*

"Pure pleasure...Erin Morgenstern is a gifted, classic storyteller, a tale-teller, a spinner of the charmed and mesmerizing -- I had many other things I was supposed to be doing, but the book kept drawing me back in and I tore through it. You can be certain this riveting debut will create a group of rêveurs all its own."

—Aimee Bender, author of *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

"*The Night Circus* is a gorgeously imagined fable poised in the high latitudes of Hans Christian Anderson and Oscar Wilde, with a few degrees toward Hesse's "Steppenwolf" for dangerous spice. The tale is masterfully written and invites allegorical interpretations even as its leisurely but persistent suspense gives it compelling charm. An enchanting read."

—**Katherine Dunn, author of *Geek Love***

"*The Night Circus* is a very atmospheric tale in which things are seen in the half-light of another century's lamps. Morgenstern makes much of these shadows. She also clearly savors objects such as unusual clocks, vanishing rings, flaming cauldrons and strange carousels, and will make you savor them as well."

--***Los Angeles Times***

"Puts me in mind of Ray Bradbury's *Something Wicked This Way Comes* lightened up by *Harry Potter*. This will be big."

--***Library Journal***

"This dueling-sorcerers premise brings to mind Susanna Clarke's magnificent 2004 novel, *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*...[Morgenstern] employs her supple prose to conjure up a series of wonders: A maze made of clouds, a ship of books floating on a sea of ink, a tent that seems to contain a vast desert."

--***Salon.com***

"Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus* is a standout. With echoes of Alice Hoffman (fairy tale magic), Audrey Niffenegger (teleporting) and J.K. Rowling (young wizards, here magicians), Morgenstern's debut is lifted by its poetic writing, winking literary allusions and thematic cohesion."

--***The Kansas City Star***

"Erin Morgenstern has crafted a debut that is original and surprising and fitted it with a wonderful conclusion. She's revealed herself as a writer worthy of notice."

--***The Denver Post***

"If the preamble -- so aptly titled 'Anticipation' -- doesn't make you sit right down on the floor of your library or bookstore to see what Morgenstern conjures up next, you may not be the right reader for this novel. I'll wager, however, that you will fall quickly under her spell."

--***Star Tribune***

"So should you read Erin Morgenstern's debut novel, *The Night Circus*? The short answer: 'Yes.' The Book is engaging and magical, entrancing the reader every step of the way."

--***Huffington Post***

"The circus is a veritable cornucopia of sights and sounds and appetizing scents. It is a fantasia, a fairy tale writ large and come to life."

--***Slant Magazine***

"*The Night Circus* succeeds on a grand scale...Morgenstern's lush descriptions are magnetic, as if conjured by spell. The joy of reading this book is its offer of pure escapism."

--***Nashville Scene***

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Long:

The book *The Night Circus* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big

problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *The Night Circus* being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open and read a reserve *The Night Circus*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Melinda Anderson:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book *The Night Circus* it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

James Drake:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, short story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not hoping *The Night Circus* that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world a great deal better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be stated constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for all of you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you may pick *The Night Circus* become your personal starter.

Doris Snell:

The book untitled *The Night Circus* contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice learn.

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