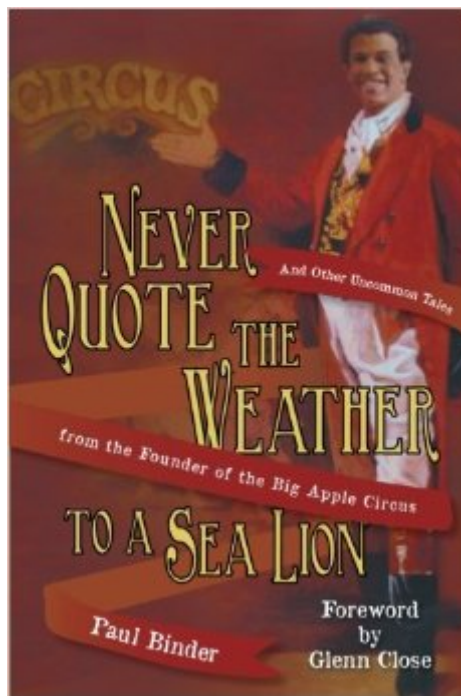


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# Never Quote The Weather To A Sea Lion: And Other Uncommon Tales From The Founder Of The Big Apple Circus



## Synopsis

*Never Quote the Weather to a Sea Lion (and Other Uncommon Tales from the Founder of the Big Apple Circus)* is a celebration of Paul Binder's life in and around the circus. Drawing on thirty-five years with the show he created, the Big Apple Circus' founder and founding Artistic Director invites us inside the fence every kid peers through for an intimate look at the uncommon life of circus artists, their animal partners, and the roustabouts who spend their days in a world that is both close-knit and international, high-minded and low comedy, death-defying and ludicrous. *Never Quote the Weather to a Sea Lion* balances the weird and the workaday, the curious and the commonplace, the exhilaration and the exhaustion of life in the circus, with simple portrayals of ordinary people going about the business of achieving the extraordinary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Paul Binder not only lived the circus life, he created his own show. This collection of anecdotes provide a look at the unique people and lifestyle of the traveling American circus. Well written and fascinating from start to finish.

I enjoyed this well-written, spirited romp of a book immensely. The stories of unanticipated challenges encountered mounting a circus are amusing, surprising, and charming. Their overall effect on me was impressive. More than simply bringing a smile to my face, they brought me in touch with the exuberant energy at the heart of the circus experience. The buoyant feeling of

watching a circus came to life while reading this book in a most welcome way. Bravo!

This is a delightful compendium of "behind-the-scenes" tales of circus life told from the perspective of its founder. Binder gives us glimpses of his personal adventure--from Brooklyn beginnings to the Ivy League to inside the Big Top. Written with wit and skill, these whimsical morsels are perfect snacks just before bedtime!

Paul Binder has taken his life and shared it with the community from his early beginnings as a street performer to developing and creating a brand new artistic one ring circus the Big Apple known well on the East Coast and especially in New York City. Many people have dreams but he followed his dream and created an artistic masterpiece and through your reading you will learn more about how hard he worked to make all of this happen. My only regret is that he probably has another 1000 stories he has not yet shared and I for one would love to hear them all. The book is an easy read and one which when started is hard to put down until finished. His creativity and development of a new style of circus lives on and many have copied his ways and not all have been as successful. It is also a delight to have met Paul Binder through the years on the Big Apple Circus.

I just finished reading *Never Quote the Weather to a Sea Lion*. What a fun read. It makes one want to run away and join the circus. Skipping over all of the hard work and difficult struggles that he must have had to overcome, Paul Binder has chosen the most delightful stories of his great adventure, first in developing his skills as a performer, and then using those skills and the necessary skills and disciplines (honed at Dartmouth) to found and perpetuate the Big Apple Circus. It is an amazing glimpse into what takes place behind the curtain of a classical circus. What an interesting life - talk about "the road less traveled." It is well written, and there is a smile on every page. It was a joy to read this book and share Paul's wonderful adventures and know his story.

Mr. Binder's stories are entertaining, witty, and often moving, as he chronicles his life in and out of the circus ring. Yes, there are plenty of great behind-the-scenes stories here, but also some insight into a man who started with an idea and founded what is an institution in New York City. The chutzpah required to start a circus from the ground up and keep it running for 30 years? It's evident as you breeze through this terrific collection of stories from a legendary figure.

This is a great and fast moving story of a boy from Brooklyn who eschews his Ivy League world for

the life under the big top. It's a fun and well written story of Paul Binder's journey from that of a broke and novice juggler to that of the creator and star of a world renown circus. The book could be the essence of a Harvard Business School case study or as the next Dr. Seuss children's book. Don't miss it. It's fast moving and very entertaining and a happy insight into life under the big top.

It's very funny but with great moments of clarity. I love this book and highly recommend it to anyone who likes circus or wants to hear true stories that amaze.

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