



The Abyssinian Contortionist: Hope, friendship and other circus acts

David Carlin

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Sosina Wogayehu learned to do flips and splits at the age of six, sitting on the floor of her parents' living room in Addis Ababa, watching a German variety show on the only television channel in the land. She sold cigarettes on the Ethiopian streets at the age of eight, and she played table soccer with her friends who made money from washing cars, barefoot in the dust. And, she dreamed of being a circus performer. Twenty-five years later, Sosina has conjured herself a new life in a far-off country: Australia. Along the way, she helped rescue one brother, yet she lost another. Sosina has traveled the world as a professional contortionist, capable of bounce-juggling eight balls on a block of marble. She performed with Circus Oz (Australia's premier circus company) from 2002-2009, and she appeared in Peter Jackson's 2005 remake of King Kong. Sosina was also a 2007 nominee for the Australian of the Year Award. Additionally, Sosina has been able to juggle worlds and stories, and, by luck - which is something she is not short of - she is friends with author David Carlin. Following his acclaimed memoir *Our Father Who Wasn't There*, David Carlin brings us his 'not-me' book, traveling to Addis Ababa where he discovers ways of living so different from his own and where he confronts his Western fantasies and fears. Through Sosina's story, David shows us that, with risk and enough momentum, life's circumstances are never predictable: whom we befriend, where we end up, and how we come to see ourselves. *** "...Carlin is a master storyteller who is well-equipped for the challenge of capturing the life of a woman about whose culture, at the outset, he knows practically nothing. The subject of *The Abyssinian Contortionist* is clearly a remarkable person of unusual social mobility and ability, yet Carlin manages to navigate the high-wire act of astute observation without falling into hagiography....his writing is so crisp and vivid that, on reading its final pages, I felt a deep satisfaction and a longing for more. - Andrew McMillen, *The Australian*, May 2015 [Subject: Biography, African Studies, Australian Studies, Women's Studies, Refugee Studies, Diaspora Studies]

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From reader reviews:

David Nester:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love The Abyssinian Contortionist: Hope, friendship and other circus acts, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Barbara Baker:

This The Abyssinian Contortionist: Hope, friendship and other circus acts is brand new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information given it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this The Abyssinian Contortionist: Hope, friendship and other circus acts can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get through anyone. These books develop itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in guide form make them feel tired even dizzy this book is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book style for your better life and knowledge.

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