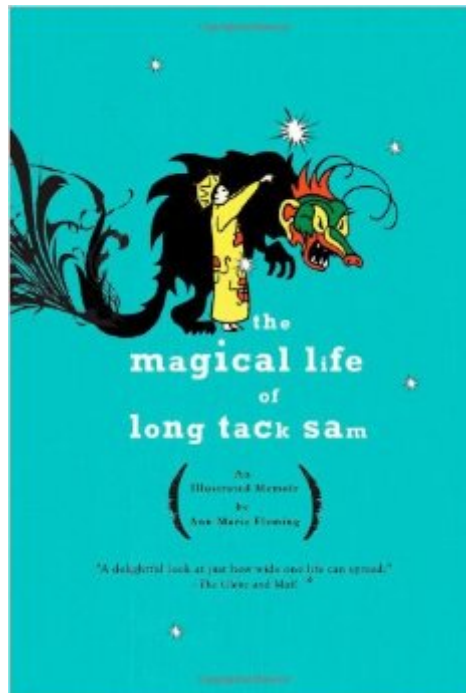


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# The Magical Life Of Long Tack Sam: An Illustrated Memoir



## Synopsis

A full-color graphic memoir inspired by the award-winning documentary-and the life and mystery of China's greatest magician. Who was Long Tack Sam? He was born in 1885. He ran away from Shangdung Province to join the circus. He was an acrobat. A magician. A comic. An impresario. A restaurateur. A theater owner. A world traveler. An East-West ambassador. A mentor to Orson Welles. He was considered the greatest act in the history of vaudeville. In this gorgeous graphic memoir, his great-granddaughter, the artist and filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming, resurrects his fascinating life for the rest of the world. It's an exhilarating testament to a forgotten man. And every picture is true. Watch a QuickTime trailer for this book.

## Book Information

Paperback: 170 pages

Publisher: Riverhead Books; 1st edition (September 4, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594482640

ISBN-13: 978-1594482649

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #354,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Magic](#) #149 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese](#) #3446 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers](#)

## Customer Reviews

I had seen Ann Marie Fleming's documentary film about her great-grandfather, Long Tack Sam, and was thrilled to see that she had also written a book about him. I was expecting the usual sort of biography, text with a couple of photo inserts. Instead, the book is a mix of text, cartoons, and photos, much in the same style as the movie. It's absolutely beautiful, and the period images (ads and posters, photos, etc) convey the style and feel of the vaudeville era which was Sam's heyday. I love to read about vaudeville but it's the images that bring those times to life for me, and this book does it wonderfully.

I read this in one sitting! This was done in a journal/comic book format that was informative, fun, and

made me feel that when I ended the book, I left with something special. Sam was a pioneer, and all the amazing people he met and worked with (Orson Wells, Laurel and Hardy to name a few), it's like the back of the book said, how come no one knows who this famous man is? His refusal to compromise to the Chinese stereotype in order to enter Hollywood, and that his daughters were considered too pretty to be filmed as Asians for any Hollywood pictures, really reminds you that the 20th century really changed our views of the world and culture. This man went all over the world, married an Austrian lady, and go figure, had competition from white magicians dressing in Asian motifs and taking similar names to him! I can go on ad infinitum about how great this was, and how I came upon this by accident. I strongly recommend this book to not only magicians, but also to anyone looking for a fun and entertaining read.

I loved everything about this book! The story, both of Long Tack Sam and his great-granddaughter's journey to learn about her ancestor, are amazing and riveting. The illustrations, photos, and newspaper clippings are perfect, as are the history, art, and show biz timelines along the side of the pages. A must-read!

What can we possibly know about our ancestors? What evidence may we rely upon? Why do people have different recollections of the same events? In following Ann Marie Fleming's quest to know more about her great-grandfather, we learn much about the process of history and detection and learn to question the family narratives that have been presented to us. A moving experience.

An insightful, delightful book. A very personal story that is bigger than it first appears and reminds us all we have stories worth researching and remembering. The confusing, conflicting details of family memories are presented in a creative way and the multiple perspectives are woven together with history, bystanders, Fleming and family in a compelling and funny presentation that wins you over only a few pages in.

Product description indicates "A full-color graphic memoir inspired by the award-winning documentary-and the life and mystery of China's greatest magician." I ordered this one with pictures in color for my daughter's IB English, received one with pictures in black and white. Not as useful for class discussion.

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