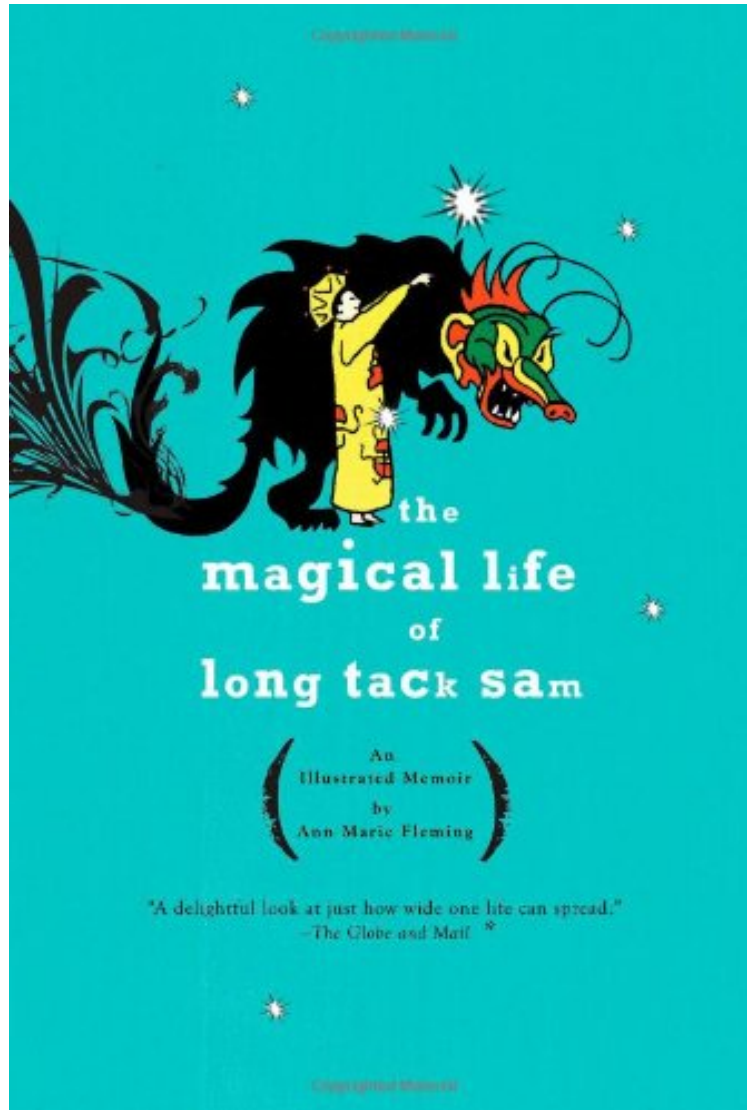


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The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam: An Illustrated Memoir

Ann Marie Fleming

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Ann Marie Fleming : The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam: An Illustrated Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam: An Illustrated Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classic quest!By John McCannWhat 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-granfather, 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.0

of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite books ever
By Susan Blumberg-Kason 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!
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book.
By Redhead18 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.

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 Shangtung 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.

From Booklist *Starred * Fleming's great-grandfather, Long Tack Sam, began life in a nineteenth-century Chinese village and died more than 70 years later in Austria. In between, he performed as a world-class magician and lived for significant portions of time on every continent except Africa and Antarctica. Fleming herself, born a year after his death, invested time, money, and travel in exploring her great-grandfather's story or, more accurately, the versions of his biography provided by far-flung relatives, fellow magicians, and former neighbors. Presenting both her search and what she found in a pastiche of succinctly written narrative (lots of it), cartoon drawings, old handbills, clippings, and photos, Fleming successfully shows how dramatic the role of international politics in a particular person's life can be. In the case of Long Tack Sam, both world wars, U.S. and Canadian laws written to bar Chinese immigrants, and the rise and fall of vaudeville as popular entertainment shaped, shifted, colored, and textured daily existence. Fleming makes that kaleidoscope of influences accessible and virtually tangible, not only as they formed Long Tack Sam but also on her own essence. Very appealing for biography readers, twentieth-century world-history buffs, and comics enthusiasts alike. Goldsmith, Francisca
About the Author Ann Marie Fleming is an award-winning Canadian independent filmmaker, writer, and artist, born in Okinawa of Chinese and Australian descent. Her critically acclaimed graphic novel, *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*, was adapted from her same-named documentary film, and is on the American Library Association's list of "10 Best Graphic Novels for Teens. It was nominated for two Eisner Awards and won the Doug Wright Best Book Award for graphic novels in Canada. Her work primarily deals with themes of family, history, and memory.