



## The Telephone Booth Indian

*A.J. Liebling , Luc Sante (Introduction)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Telephone Booth Indian

A.J. Liebling , Luc Sante (Introduction)

**The Telephone Booth Indian** A.J. Liebling , Luc Sante (Introduction)

**A classic work on Broadway sharpers, grifters, and con men by the late, great *New Yorker* journalist A. J. Liebling.**

Often referred to as “Liebling lowlife pieces,” the essays in *The Telephone Booth Indian* boisterously celebrate raffishness. A. J. Liebling appreciated a good scam and knew how to cultivate the scammers. Telephone Booth Indians (entrepreneurs so impecunious that they conduct business from telephone booths in the lobbies of New York City office buildings) and a host of other petty nomads of Broadway—with names like Marty the Clutch and Count de Pennies—are the protagonists in this incomparable Liebling work. In *The Telephone Booth Indian*, Liebling proves just why he was the go-to man on New York lowlife and con culture; this is the master at the top of his form, uncovering scam after scam and writing about them with the wit and charisma that established him as one of the greatest journalists of his generation and one of New York’s finest cultural chroniclers.

## The Telephone Booth Indian Details

Date : Published July 13th 2004 by Broadway Books (first published 1942)

ISBN : 9780767917360

Author : A.J. Liebling , Luc Sante (Introduction)

Format : Paperback 272 pages

Genre : Writing, Essays, Fiction, Mystery, Crime

 [Download The Telephone Booth Indian ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Telephone Booth Indian ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Telephone Booth Indian A.J. Liebling , Luc Sante (Introduction)**

---

# From Reader Review *The Telephone Booth Indian* for online ebook

## Rufussenex says

This was my first introduction to Liebling. Incomparably dry and funny prose (the unexpected adjective followed by a left-hook simile, or a metaphor so grossly unnecessary in its erudition that it is thus perfectly right) renders a 30s New York of carnies and cons and businessmen and wrestlers and hatcheck clerks so vividly that it becomes your life, your memories, your people. I get that way with Liebling.

---

## Bryan says

I no longer own this book. I was so fond of it that I had to give it away.

Liebling is incredible. Though he lacks the soft, nostalgic heart of Joseph Mitchell, he captures the rough edges of old New York's hustlers and promoters perfectly.

---

## John says

Reprint of a look from 1945 of the way New York was before and during the depression. Filled with bookies, boxers, producers and hat girls. Fun read about New York in the early part of the 20th century. Chapters cover the Shuberts, boxers and the creating of coat checks.

---

## Jonah says

this was recommended by luc sante, who wrote the introduction - liebling's a new yorker writer from way back when, and this is a series of essay on broadway con men and riff raff in the 40s. it's excellent...

---

## Jesse says

And again, and again. I have the North Point ed., and it was reissued in this series, which I reviewed in 2003, and which, sad to say, seems to have ceased publication soon thereafter. Not because of me, I don't think.

So in several ways, they don't make 'em like this anymore. Some of that is probably a good thing; as this article by Jack Shafer points out, Liebling made stuff up. Which is sorta disappointing, but also not that surprising. I'm not sure *anyone*, not even the promoters and shysters and scammers Liebling profiles here, could be as consistently quotable as they are here. And I don't care much, even though Shafer's article makes a bunch of entirely convincing arguments that I should. I guess I think of this as just as much a collection of short stories about NYC roguery as a set of journalistic profiles of real people. They're still great pieces about life at the margins of respectability, in the whole NYC demimonde of the 30s. I always picture this era in black-and-white when I imagine living there, which is both understandable and dumb of me, with a swing

soundtrack. And this furnishes the laugh track, and the street smarts, and all the ways I'd know to make a dollar, as they say.

Read it two or three times: once for the plot, again for the zesty language, and again for the sheer joy Liebling takes in constructing and living the pieces. Even if they're not, you know, totally true.

---

### **Vickey Foggin says**

A collection of sharp and smart essays written in the 1930's by an ace reporter about the hucksters and con men of the day. Mostly engaging and hilarious, except for "The Boy in the Pistachio Suit" about the history of a newspaper syndicate.

---

### **Linet Henry says**

I read this book in bits and pieces sometimes over and over again. Like Joseph Mitchell's stories it reminds me of the New York my father told me about, the New York I remember very vaguely from early childhood with the pre-memory sense of familiarity which could have come from the stories your parents told you.

This is a fantastic book to read if you want to become a good writer, and if you like this book I suggest reading some Joseph Mitchell.

---

### **Takipsilim says**

Interesting vignettes of Depression-era life in New York. The day to day activities of small-time businessmen, crooks, athletes, and others are finely shown. Liebling's bias shows but this is worth the read in being a time capsule to a bygone age.

---