



The Biggest Modern Woman of the World: A Novel

Susan Elizabeth Swan

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First published in 1983, *The Biggest Modern Woman of the World* was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for fiction and the Smith's Best First Novel Award. In this reissue you will find a new Afterword written by the author. In this exhilarating and profound novel, Anna Swan, the real-life 7'6", 413-pound Nova Scotian Giantess renders her own autobiographical account. Born in 1846 (an 18 pound baby) to a family of crofters, Anna Swan had to sit on the floor as a child so that her head would be level with her siblings at the dinner table. Searching for a home that fits, Anna Swan first goes from Nova Scotia to New York, where P.T. Barnum bills her, at his museum of freaks, as *The Biggest Modern Woman of the World*. Worn down by P.T. Barnum's museum fires, she goes from New York to Europe and then to a giant farmhouse in the American mid-west, where she hopes to live out the rest of her life like a Victorian lady. Part truth, part legend, *The Biggest Modern Woman of the World* is a saucy romp through the traditional categories of gender, art, sexuality and nationality. There never has been a story quite like it. (2001)

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