



The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself

By P T. Barnum

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An autobiography of Phineas T Barnum that immortalizes the showman who hoodwinked customers into paying to hear the reminiscences of a woman presented as George Washington's 161-year-old nurse, the impresario who brought Jenny Lind to America and toured Europe with General Tom Thumb, and the grand entrepreneur of the American Museum of New York.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

For more than fifty years, Phineas T. Barnum embodied all that was grand and fraudulent in American mass culture. Over the course of a life that spanned the nineteenth century (1810-91), he inflicted himself upon a surprisingly willing public in a variety of guises, from newspaper editor (or libeler) to traveling showman (or charlatan) and distinguished public benefactor (or shameless hypocrite).

Barnum deliberately cultivated his ambiguous public image through a lifelong advertising campaign, shrewdly exploiting the cultural and technological capabilities of the new publishing industry. While running his numerous shows and exhibitions, Barnum managed to publish newspaper articles, exposes of fraud (not his own), self-help tracts, and a series of best-selling autobiographies, each promising to give "the true history of my many adventures".

Updated editions of *The Life of P. T. Barnum* appeared regularly, allowing Barnum to keep up with demand and prune the narrative of details that might offend posterity. The present volume is the first modern edition of Barnum's original and outrageous autobiography, published in 1855 and unavailable for more than a century. Brazen, confessional, and immensely entertaining, it immortalizes the showman who hoodwinked customers into paying to hear the reminiscences of Joyce Heth, ostensibly George Washington's 161-year-old nurse. It also unveils the grand entrepreneur of the American Museum of New York and the impresario who brought Jenny Lind to America and toured Europe with General Tom Thumb. Above all, it ensures that Barnum would be properly remembered ... exactly as he created himself.

About the Author

Whalen is an associate professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Johnson:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for people. The book *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself* has been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself* is not only giving you more new information but also being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself*. You never sense lose out for everything if you read some books.

Warren Ford:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by*

Himself, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Mary Goldstein:

The book untitled The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new age of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice go through.

Judy Brown:

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