



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:

Donald Andrews:

The e-book untitled *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself* is the reserve that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the e-book content that will be shown to an individual. The language that writer use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of study when write the book, so the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself* from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

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