



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

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Dawne Feliciano:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself*. Try to stumble through book *The Life of P. T. Barnum, Written by Himself* as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

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