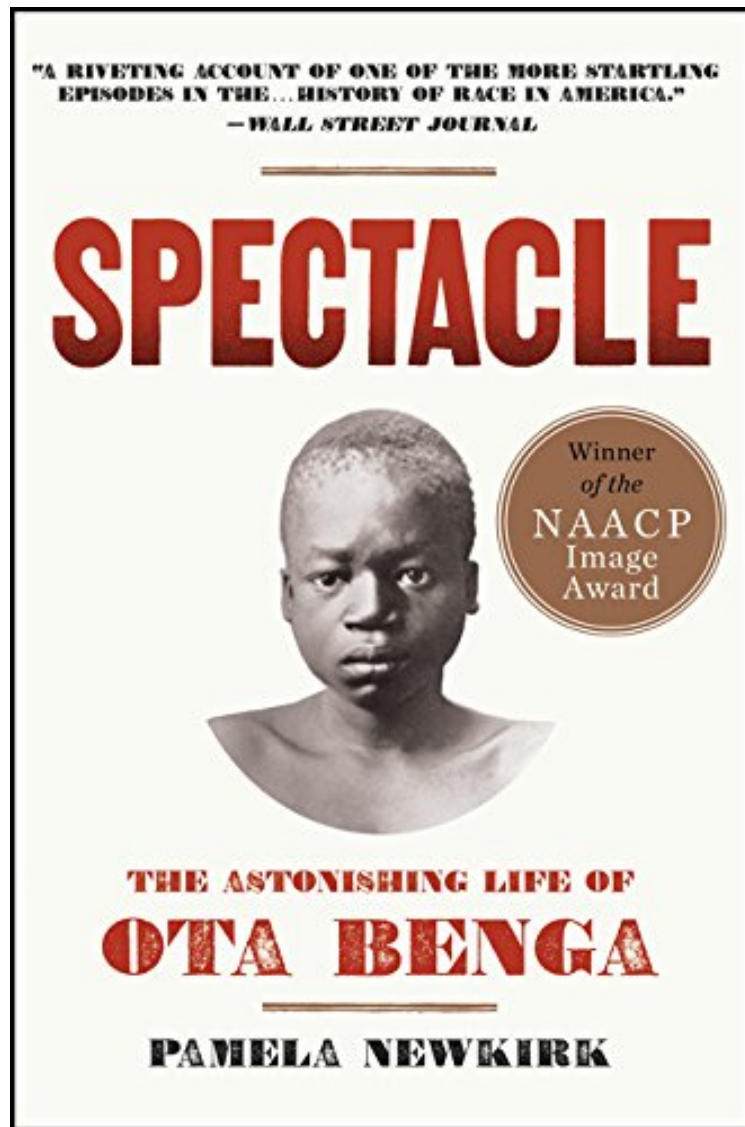


[Download free pdf] Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga

Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga

Pamela Newkirk

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#107390 in Books Newkirk Pamela 2016-09-06 2016-09-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .77 x 5.311, .65 #File Name: 0062201026336 pages Spectacle The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga | File size: 65.Mb

Pamela Newkirk : Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. you want to hide information, put it in a book By MAYA'S BOOKS N THINGS I found it very mind-boggling to read about a human being that was taken from his native land and put on display at a zoo for all of the world to see like some caged animal. Even though the book is not solely about Benga, I learned so many more facts about other things from reading this book. This was a great history lesson. My

favorite line in this book... "Minik cried, you're a race of scientific criminals, I am glad enough to get away before they grab my brains and stuff them in a jar". It's disturbing to know that people study other cultures and somehow want to change a person's way of life to suit your own. It's like invading someone's personal space. They actually called them savages when the real savages are the ones that go into these different environments and try to change them.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. HeartbreakingBy wittknitWhat a well written book. The fact that Newkirk chose to tell Benga's story by giving such rich historical facts of the state of our nation at that time; the beliefs of the rich, powerful and educated men. By doing so it brings clearer light to Ota Benga's journey.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is amazing the amount of things that are not mentioned in ...By JoyfulLittleRiverThis was a very timely read given the threat of North Korea on Guam, a place most people in the U.S. do not even know is a U.S. territory. Although this book does not specifically discuss Guam, it does focus on the imperialism of the U.S. which is very much related to Guam. It is amazing the amount of things that are not mentioned in the classroom when discussing U.S. history. This book speaks to the imperialist past of the U.S. by highlighting a very specific story that illustrates this seemingly forgotten past. Ota Benga was kidnapped from his home in the Congo to be put on display at the St. Louis World's Fair as well as the Bronx Zoo. At the time the science community, specifically the anthropological community, was very focused on displaying the superiority of the white race, relative to African people, specifically ones like Ota Benga (he was a Mbuti pygmy). Pamela Newkirk did an amazing job researching what she could on the information available on Ota Benga. A lot of the available information was skewed and/or biased given that it was not coming directly from Ota Benga. Nevertheless, she did a wonderful job letting the reader know that this was not necessarily the truth and to be skeptical. I appreciated though that she presented the information available in a matter of fact manner to allow the reader to make their own judgment on the information presented. The length of the book was perfect. I realize that it is hard with these sort of topics to know how much to put it and what to leave out. Additionally, Pamela integrated details on the African-American community of the time, beyond just the scope of their role in the release of Ota Benga from the Bronx Zoo. However, what stood out to me the most was the incorporation of the role the St. Louis World's Fair, zoos, museums and anthropology played in the imperialism of the U.S. It is not often that you happen upon a book that is able to cover such a breadth of topics and so well. Pamela Newkirk not only gave justice to the story of Ota Benga, but successfully used his tragic life story as a means to explain the greater forces at work. "The presence of Benga and his countrymen-- along with the Native American; the Filipinos and Igorot; and the Japanese Ainu--was intended to highlight the United States' conquests, imperialism, and progress". - Pamela Newkirk

2016 NAACP Image Award Winner Winner of the 2016 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Nonfiction An award-winning journalist reveals a little-known and shameful episode in American history, when an African man was used as a human zoo exhibit—a shocking story of racial prejudice, science, and tragedy in the early years of the twentieth century in the tradition of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *Devil in the White City*, and *Medical Apartheid*. In 1904, Ota Benga, a young Congolese “pygmy”—a person of petite stature—arrived from central Africa and was featured in an anthropology exhibit at the St. Louis World’s Fair. Two years later, the New York Zoological Gardens displayed him in its Monkey House, caging the slight 103-pound, 4-foot 11-inch tall man with an orangutan. The attraction became an international sensation, drawing thousands of New Yorkers and commanding headlines from across the nation and Europe. *Spectacle* explores the circumstances of Ota Benga’s captivity, the international controversy it inspired, and his efforts to adjust to American life. It also reveals why, decades later, the man most responsible for his exploitation would be hailed as his friend and savior, while those who truly fought for Ota have been banished to the shadows of history. Using primary historical documents, Pamela Newkirk traces Ota’s tragic life, from Africa to St. Louis to New York, and finally to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he lived out the remainder of his short life. Illuminating this unimaginable event, *Spectacle* charts the evolution of science and race relations in New York City during the early years of the twentieth century, exploring this racially fraught era for Africa-Americans and the rising tide of political disenfranchisement and social scorn they endured, forty years after the end of the Civil War. Shocking and compelling *Spectacle* is a masterful work of social history that raises difficult questions about racial prejudice and discrimination that continue to haunt us today.

“Here is a gripping and painstaking narrative that breaks new ground. Now, after a century, Benga has finally been heard.” (New York Times Book Review) “Newkirk’s account of this shocking and shameful story is forceful.” (The New Yorker) “Haunting and heartbreaking.” (Ebony) “What became of Benga is best left discovered by readers of this revelatory book. Suffice to say that the shock of it will haunt you. Newkirk’s dispassionate, powerfully understated writing lets her sorrowful account speak for itself.” (San Francisco Chronicle) “[Ota Benga’s] story has been told before, but the journalist Pamela Newkirk fleshes it out with chilling human dimension and rich anthropological perspective in her engrossing new book, *Spectacle*. (New York Times, Metro Section "Bookshelf") “With her meticulously researched account, Newkirk rights the record, offering a profoundly unsettling look at the racism deeply rooted in even the city’s (and the nation’s) progressive institutions at the start of the 20th century.” (NYU Stories)

(Online))“Newkirk’s investigation is a nuanced account of Benga’s relationship with Verner and Hornaday, a subtle look into what it meant for a colonized African to be free and how the pursuit of scientific knowledge played a role in racial subjection.” (Jezebel)“In this enthralling social history, Newkirk reveals the truth about Ota Benga, the people who exploited him and the heroes who fought vainly to save him.” (More magazine)“This is an explosive, heartbreaking book. It unfolds with the grace of an E.L. Doctorow novel, and spins forward with the urgency of a wild tabloid story.” (James McBride, bestselling author of *The Good Lord Bird*)“A riveting account of one of the most startling episodes in the sorry history of race in America. Ms. Newkirk is a crisp storyteller as well as an experienced journalist whose investigative skills bring alive both her cast of characters and the age in which they lived.” (Wall Street Journal)“Compelling. . . . Spectacle is an exhaustively researched work of social history that links Benga’s story with examinations of turn-of-the-century racial discrimination and discord, scientific polygenism, middle-class African American life in New York, and yellow journalism.” (Washington Post)“Deeply researched and thoughtful. . . . Writing with precision and moral clarity, Newkirk indicts a civilization whose ‘cruelty was cloaked in civility,’ leaving us to examine its remnants.” (Boston Globe)“Painstakingly researched and heartbreaking. . . . Newkirk does an exemplary job of respecting the damaged dignity of her subject.” (In These Times)“Pamela Newkirk has taken a careful, highly readable look at an episode that lays bare so much about our not-so-distant past. It’s all here: the dreams of glory in African exploration, appalling racism, and the moving, tragic odyssey of a forgotten man who was the victim of both.” (Adam Hochschild, author of *King Leopold’s Ghost*)“A shocking tale of a young African taken from his home for the purposes of Western science throws into relief the turn-of-the-century’s ill-conceived intentions and prejudice. . . . An inspired and moving work of intrepid scholarship.” (Kirkus s)“Meticulously detailed. . . . Readers will be moved, especially when reading about the tragic turns Benga’s life took in the years after he was released.” (Publishers Weekly)From the Back CoverNamed a Best Book of the Year by NPR, the Boston Globe, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Root, and the Huffington Post Black VoicesOta Benga, a young African man, was featured as an exhibit at the St. Louis World’s Fair. Two years later, the New York Zoological Gardens displayed him in its Monkey House, caging him with an orangutan. The attraction became an international sensation, drawing thousands of New Yorkers and commanding headlines from across the nation and Europe. Spectacle explores the circumstances of Ota Benga’s captivity and the international controversy it inspired. Using primary historical documents, Pamela Newkirk traces Ota’s tragic existence, from the Congo to St. Louis to New York and finally to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he lived out the remainder of his short life. Spectacle simultaneously explores New York City during the early years of the twentieth century, a racially fraught era that led to a rising tide of political disenfranchisement and social scorn for African Americans.About the AuthorPamela Newkirk is an award-winning journalist and a professor of journalism at New York University. She is the author of *Within the Veil: Black Journalists, White Media*, which won the National Press Club Award for media criticism, and the editor of *Letters from Black America*. She lives in New York City.