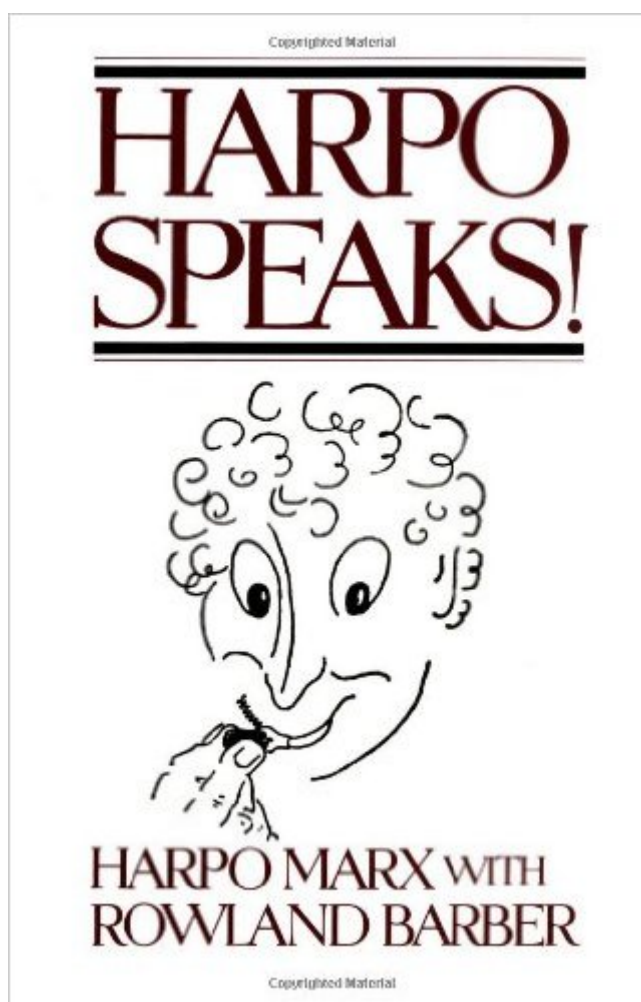


The book was found

Harpo Speaks!



Synopsis

(Limelight). "This is a riotous story which is reasonably mad and as accurate as a Marx brother can make it. Despite only a year and a half of schooling, Harpo, or perhaps his collaborator, is the best writer of the Marx Brother. Highly recommended." Library Journal "A funny, affectionate and unpretentious autobiography done with a sharply professional assist from Rowland Barber." New York Times Book Review

Book Information

Paperback: 482 pages

Publisher: Limelight Editions; 1st Limelight ed edition (July 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0879100362

ISBN-13: 978-0879100360

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (271 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,543 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Video > Reference #29 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Reference #34 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Acting & Auditioning

Customer Reviews

Autobiographies are usually enjoyable for one of two reasons. The author can possess an engaging style that piques the reader's interest regardless of the material. On the other hand, the author may have lead such an interesting life that the subject matter is fascinating despite their ability to spin a good yarn. Fortunately, in the case of HARPO SPEAKS! both conditions are satisfied, creating a well-written, intriguing look at one of the more interesting characters of the first half of the Twentieth Century. Harpo Marx was famous for being the silent clown who never uttered a word during any of the dozen or so Marx Brothers movies. However, his story is quite a fascinating one. I'll admit to being slightly surprised at exactly how engaging the prose style of this book was. Having no idea what he sounded like, even in scripted movie conversation, I was curious as to how he'd come across in print. Fortunately, either he or his co-author, journalist Rowland Barber, was quite good at the art of storytelling. The reader really feels close to the action, as though one were really there. It's a simple and straightforward style, but it's one that is quite effective. As I mentioned, the events of

Harpo's life were extraordinary in themselves. Quite literally a rags-to-riches story about a group of vaudeville brothers who made it very big, this book is excellent at reconstructing those early days when they rarely had enough to eat, but always had a laugh and a game of cards to pass the time. The autobiography goes into great detail about his early childhood, from being literally thrown out of school (from a first floor window) and never returning, to every lousy part-time job that he had.

This book is a true must-read for anyone, Marxist or not. Full of good humor, incredible experiences, an amazing childhood, and life in vaudeville, its message is one of warmth and hilarity. I first read it at 18 years of age, and still revisit its pages twelve years later. I hope that's always the case, for each time, I find something new. As you read through this book, you'll find yourself thinking, "There just aren't people like this guy anymore" - Harpo Marx was the cheerful, resourceful product of turn-of-the-century New York, and vaudeville, at that. His childhood of scrapping out a survival of relative destitution (the jobs he took are hilarious, and fascinating, to read about), in a loving, albeit quirky, family couldn't be found in fiction - it's too wacky to have been invented. And his introduction to life on the stage - well, you'll have to read for yourself. Harpo Marx's life seems never to have had a dull moment - from a hugely successful life on stage and screen, to his intimate friendships with members of the legendary Algonquin Round Table (the croquet fixation among those folks is a book in itself) - it's practically a life worthy of fairytale status. His stories about Alexander Woollcott are absolutely hysterical, and a great treat by themselves. And don't even get me started on the section about Oscar Levant - just thinking about it makes me laugh out loud. Finally, we read about Harpo's marriage to Susan Fleming, and their adoption of five children. The warmth and humanity that were such a huge part of Harpo can be summed up by the reason he chose to adopt five children - so that when he came home every day, there would be a face in each window to greet him. What a great, great man.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Harpo Speaks! Slim Harpo: Blues King Bee of Baton Rouge Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) Poetry Speaks Who I Am: Poems of Discovery, Inspiration, Independence, and Everything Else (A Poetry Speaks Experience) Poetry Speaks to Children (Book & CD) (A Poetry Speaks Experience) Ai Weiwei Speaks: with Hans Ulrich Obrist (A Penguin Special) Che Guevara Speaks: Selected Speeches and Writings Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, The Premier Edition John Adams Speaks for Freedom (Ready-to-read SOFA) Rigby On Our Way to English: Big Book Grade K My Rooster Speaks Korean (On Our Way English) Gangs and the Abuse of Power (Tookie Speaks Out

Against Gang Violence) Anubis Speaks!: A Guide to the Afterlife by the Egyptian God of the Dead (Secrets of the Ancient Gods) Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks (Bible Study Book) A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything The Message of Exodus: The Days of Our Pilgrimage (Bible Speaks Today) The Message of Ecclesiastes (Bible Speaks Today) Jesus Speaks to Me about My Baptism Jesus Speaks to Me on My First Holy Communion Why Christianity Must Change or Die: A Bishop Speaks to Believers In Exile

[Dmca](#)