



Groucho and Me

Groucho Marx

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The “Me” in the title is a comparatively unknown Marx named Julius (1895-1977), who, under the nom de plume of Groucho, enjoyed a sensational career on Broadway and in Hollywood with such comedy classics as Animal Crackers, Monkey Business, Horse Feathers, Duck Soup, A Night at the Opera, and A Day at the Races. His solo career included work as a film actor, television game show emcee, and author of The Groucho Letters, Memoirs of a Mäng Lover, and his classic autobiography, Groucho and Me.

With impeccable timing, outrageous humor, irreverent wit, and a superb sense of the ridiculous, Groucho tells the saga of the Marx Brothers: the poverty of their childhood in New York’s Upper East Side; the crooked world of small-time vaudeville (where they learned to carry blackjacks); how a pretzel magnate and the graceless dancer of his dreams led to the Marx Brothers’ first Broadway hit, I’ll Say She Is!, how the stock market crash in 1929 proved a godsend for Groucho (even though he lost nearly a quarter of a million dollars); the adventures of the Marx Brothers in Hollywood, the making of their hilarious films, and Groucho’s triumphant television series, You Bet Your Life!. Here is the life and lunatic times of the great eccentric genius, Groucho, a.k.a. Julius Henry Marx.

“The book is never less than readable and its glimpses of American show business at its least glamorous are simple, true and sometimes rather touching.”—Times Literary Supplement

“My advice is to ration yourself to a chapter a night—it’s that delectable.”—Chicago Sunday Tribune

Groucho and Me Details

Date : Published July 11th 2017 by Muriwai Books (first published 1959)

ISBN :

Author : Groucho Marx

Format : Kindle Edition 378 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Humor, Autobiography, Memoir, Comedy

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From Reader Review Groucho and Me for online ebook

Mads says

The best autobiography ever. I agree completely with what Mrs. Calabash says on the blurbs. I wish more people would write their autobiographies this way and enough of the oh-so-serious tones. Let's have no more of the endless boasts about illustrious ancestors and goody-goody anecdotes.

Rozonda says

Not just humorous, but also a down-to-earth account of Groucho's travel from rags to riches and a very revealing portrait of the real face of showbusiness.

Luis says

Una genialidad del humor. Consiste en anécdotas de su vida, en orden más o menos cronológico, salpicadas de observaciones agudas e irreverentes, totalmente un must read para cualquier aficionado al teatro o al cine clásico o simplemente para quien busque reírse. A través del libro se dibuja la época dorada del teatro de bodevil y la vida de sus artistas, los inicios de Hollywood, la radio y la televisión.

Pili says

La Autobiografía - y biografía - más divertida que he leído en mi vida. Fue una recomendación de mi esposo, y admito que al no conocer a los hermanos Marx ni haber visto ninguna de sus películas creí que me aburriría mortalmente... pero nada más lejos de la realidad: el autor domina magistralmente el idioma, inserta humor en cada página y no teme romper todas las reglas de la estructura narrativa. Lo disfruté de principio a fin.

Anina e gambette di pollo says

Autore: statunitense (1890-1977). Autobiografia più o meno.

Non è la classica autobiografia piena di “introspezioni” o di successi, ma piuttosto il racconto di una vita dedicata a racimolare soldi, possedere un’auto, conoscere ragazze, lavorare nel varietà.

Cinquant’anni tra un quartiere di New York con una famiglia veleggiante tra lo squinternato e lo squattrinato, le mille piccole città che sono state la gavetta dei fratelli e poi il trasferimento in massa a Los Angeles..

Piacevole, rilassante, con qualche risata e un sorriso costante.

Bella la chiusa con la coppia che, incontratolo casualmente a Chicago, gli gira un po' intorno fino a che la signora si fa coraggio e chiede

È lei, vero? È Groucho?

Annuii.

Allora mi toccò timidamente un braccio e disse

Per favore non muoia. Continui a vivere.

Si può desiderare di più?

12.01.2018

Mary says

Only since I'm from the generation that watched Groucho's quiz show "You Bet Your Life" on NBC back in the day, was I somewhat amused to read his dyspeptic, cantankerous account of random events from his life which, he makes clear, is really not anyone's actual definition of an autobiography nor was it meant to be.

Anne says

Growing up, I adored the Marx Brothers. As a small child, I would watch the films over and over again, learning and aping the songs, comedic bits, and mannerisms.

As an adult, I developed a deeper appreciation for all the skills that go into making great comedy, and a deeper interest in learning about the men behind the movies. I absorbed trivia like a fiend. I dug up black and white game show appearances from 'What's My Line' and the like.

And then, at my local library, browsing through biographies and memoirs to fill a space on an adult summer reading program bingo card, a bright yellow cover caught my eye. I had sought 'Groucho and Me' out years prior, at my old local library in my old town-- in a faraway library system-- to no avail. I had browsed bookstores and charity shops with a hopeful eye! But here-- here!-- was that book I'd long wished to hold in my hot little hands.

Also, to read. I feel like that's probably a very important part of the book enjoyment process, especially as I wasn't inside of a dog at the time.

'Groucho and Me' was funny. I laughed out loud frequently and annoyed all my loved ones by stopping to read aloud at those bits. I expected it to be funny, and was not disappointed. I expected to learn things which I did not already know about Groucho and the brothers in general and the path their showbiz career took, and again, was not disappointed.

I did not expect the final paragraph or so to tug so poignantly at my heartstrings as to render me incapable of picking up the next book on the stack for the rest of the night. But... when it happened, I was not disappointed.

Neil says

Groucho and Me is much more a collection of anecdotes and shaggy dog stories than an autobiography as such. Groucho or rather Julius deliberately and definitely holds back on all personal information about himself or his brothers, but tells some interesting and entertaining stories (of dubious believability) about their early life up to their success on Broadway. After that and having made the big time, of the films and the TV shows that his reputation will forever rest with, he shows little interest in. Groucho didn't write his most famous lines, the quips and insults for which he is remembered were in the main scripted by others, so this isn't a book by the character on the screen, but the man behind the greasepaint moustache. Still entertaining, but the voice is gentler and the wit more rambling and less focused. However the book doesn't give a clear portrait of either man or myth.

Constanze Scheib says

One of my favourite books of all time. Groucho is funny and clever and totally nuts! Whenever I'm down, I simply read a couple of pages and it cheers me up immediately!

Andy says

Groucho's pretty amusing. He makes me grin but he doesn't really make me laugh.

Wade Grassman says

I was a bit disappointed by the book only in that I had hoped to learn more of the history of the brothers and the act. On the other hand the humour that poured out on every page more than made up for it. I laughed at nearly every turn of the page. This was a wonderful read and I whole heartedly recommend it for any fan of the brothers.

Patti says

A fun quick read. I read this book right after I read A tree Grows in Brooklyn, so I had a whole theme thing going with turn of the century.

The stories that Groucho tells about his family and himself are the types of stories that you would tell about the dinner table to tease each other. Groucho tells his stories without making him look like a saint, too. In fact, it seems like he goes out of his way to show his faults.

There's no bragging in this book, or sugar coating. It's just a fun way to read how Vaudeville evolved into Movies. I spent some time afterwards looking up the people he mentioned on Youtube!

Harold says

Just what you would expect from Groucho. No revelations, very little about his life. Really just a series of anecdotes of show biz life, vaudeville, movies, tv, etc etc. All written in a highly humorous fashion. Those of us old enough to remember Groucho will hear his voice narrating it.

Danielle says

I was really excited to read this autobiography of Groucho Marx and the majority of the book didn't disappoint. Groucho tells some terrific stories about growing up Marx with his brothers. I also loved his tales about Kansas City (it's neat to read what an important tour stop it was back in its hey-day) and what he had to say about living in Chicago for a little while as a teen.

But then...! Then it just turns into a GROUCHY old man (the book was published in 1959) griping about the way things are these/those days. It gets so random and drags on and on. It broke my heart, but I couldn't even finish the last 20 pages.

Check it out at the library like I did and read the first 3/4ths if you want some greats Marx Brothers history.

Franklin P says

I was honestly (and naively) hoping for Harpo Speaks mk2, but Groucho SURPRISINGLY is no where near the story teller.

As a Marx Brothers fan I loved some of the stories and anecdotes, but there was less of the person than I felt in Harpo speaks.

I also found the fairly constant referencing of Money fairly crass. I dont in any way mind the man being rich, I love that he earned so well. But to me you talk loud by saying nothing, in particular in relation to wealth.

Worth reading for Marx fans. I cant see what anyone else will get from it.
