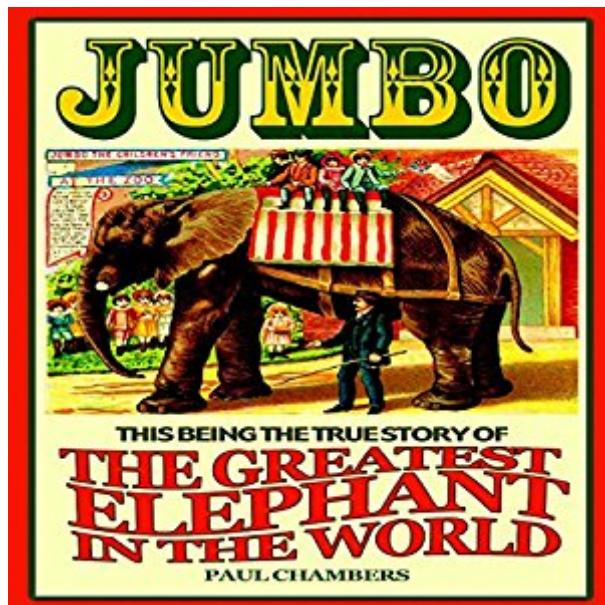


The book was found

Jumbo: This Being The True Story Of The Greatest Elephant In The World



Synopsis

Jumbo was a superstar of the Victorian era. Every day tens of thousands of people would visit this adored animal known as "the Children's Pet" at the London Zoo. When P.T. Barnum purchased him for his Greatest Show on Earth, Jumbo's transport to the United States made headlines for weeks. In North America, Jumbo became an instant sensation, and his name entered our lexicon as an adjective for oversized things. A half century after his death his still-famous and unrivalled popularity was the inspiration for Walt Disney's Dumbo. But the story behind the story is more gripping than one could possibly imagine. Jumbo's moving and surprisingly complex relationship with a junior zookeeper named Matthew Scott is told here for the first time using newly discovered archival material, including Scott's own diaries. Chambers' compelling account of Jumbo's secret history enhances an already magnificent legend.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps you have flown on a jumbo jet, and certainly you have seen jumbo sized bags of corn chips. "Jumbo" is even an official designation for a particular size of olive, among other things. Of course, these are big olives, and "jumbo" means big, but you might not realize that it is an eponym, a word taken from a name. It comes from Jumbo the elephant, but how Jumbo got that name isn't recorded; other elephants at the London Zoo were called, say, Tommy or Jack. Jumbo did not get his name because he was big (he got it long before he grew big), but "jumbo" came to mean big because Jumbo became big. In *Jumbo: This Being the True Story of the Greatest Elephant in the*

World_ (Steerforth Press), Paul Chambers has produced a delightful biography of what really was, for many reasons, the greatest elephant in the world. It is in many ways a sad story, with human greed and folly taking their toll on the poor pachyderm, who lost his life directly because of his fame. Jumbo's is, however, a unique story, in which are remarkable, flawed men, only some of whom had his best interest at heart. Jumbo was far from jumbo when his mother was killed and he was captured; he was a scrawny runt, and it would have surprised no one if he had died on his caravan of rhinos, giraffes, antelopes, and more heading to the Red Sea. After a sea voyage and transfer within Europe, the little elephant was bought by the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. The French never appreciated their acquisition, and the Superintendent of the London Zoo, Abraham Bartlett was eager to get Jumbo when the French zoo was selling off extra animals.

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