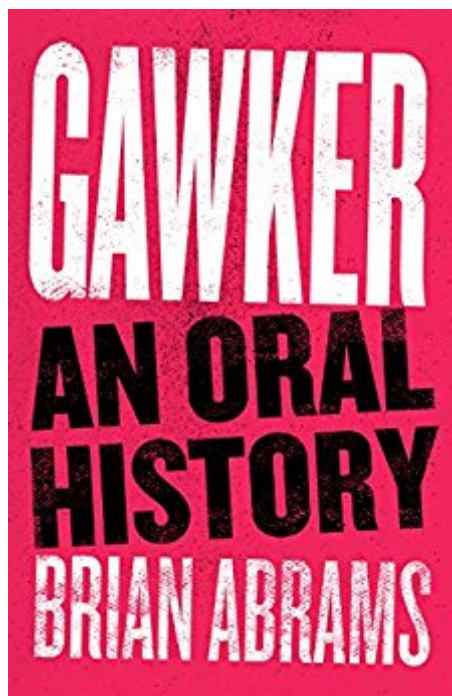


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Gawker: An Oral History (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

At last, the definitive history of the most infamous, controversial and successful gossip website in the world. Thirteen years after the birth of Gawker in 2002, Nick Denton's flagship property remains at the forefront of a revolution that modernized American media and resuscitated a fearless tabloid sensibility deemed all but lost after Spy magazine and The Tattler went to magazine heaven. In this extensive oral history of Gawker Media's news and gossip network, the bloggers, videographers, and reporters who've worked for Denton reveal the inner-workings of his media empire • from inter-office romances to rampant attacks on New York's rich and famous, from its halcyon days as a shoestring operation run out of coffee shops to its current status as a \$44 million business. Brian Abrams' first book, Party Like a President: True Tales of Inebriation, Lechery, and Mischief from the Oval Office (Workman Publishing), was released in February 2015 and earned attention from The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, NPR, and Vanity Fair. His Kindle Single, AND NOW...An Oral History of "Late Night with David Letterman, 1982-1993 became a #1 bestseller in 2014. He is editor-in-chief of the news and culture site Death and Taxes Magazine and lives in New York City. Cover design by Adil Dara.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read a lot of gawker posts and I've gone out of my way to read old posts, and old news stories ABOUT gawker. This oral history is certainly not a typical "it was the most amazing place ever, we were changing the world!" oral history that many oral histories fall victim too. It's a good companion piece of you already know things about Gawker. It's by no means comprehensive, and doesn't provide the kind of analysis that can come from reading more about them as a website. If you like reading Gawker and want to read some quotes from your favorite writers, I recommend it. If you hate gawker then don't buy it. There really isn't a middle ground.

The timing of this is slightly unfortunate (though I suspect that might also be a reason why it was published when it was), in that it doesn't deal with the most recent iteration of Gawker and its recent difficulties, both legal and journalistic. Still, this provides a good overall background as to the history and development of Gawker Media. Few of the principals interviewed come off particularly well IMO, but that doesn't make it any less entertaining.

Boring.

Entertaining and telling. I wish more of the recent staff were involved, but a book like this has to have an endpoint and it is a history, after all. Still, would read a sequel.

Unbelievably boring. There is nothing in this that would interest a person like myself who reads Deadspin and is intrigued by Nick Denton's business success. There isn't even anything funny or gossip which is damning or memorable.

This is a great early history of one of the most important players in the evolution of new media. Unfortunately, it ends just before the point where Gawker became so powerful and relevant that the establishment was compelled to take it down. It's nice to imagine a world where Hulk and Peter lost and Gawker continued unfettered in its mission to bring the truth at all costs. I can only guess at the dirt they would have uncovered and how it might have changed the outcome of the 2016 election had they not been so unfairly silenced. Sadly, nobody has risen in the blogosphere or otherwise to take Gawker's place.

I have become a new fan to oral histories in book format since Abrams first book about David Letterman. The series of interviews from people behind the scenes gives a personal take about Gawker. I am looking forward to seeing more from this author!

Whatever one thinks of Gawker (original or "20% nicer" version) this light bio of the company and its enduring, fascinating cast of characters is worth a read. Gawker is juvenile, needlessly insulting and a slave to the 24-hour online content cycle. It is also provocative, innovative, and unafraid to present inconvenient truths to readers and itself. In the midst of the uncertainty of Gawker's future, this book serves as a small reminder of what unvarnished and protected speech looks like. One would do well to remember that free speech is not always agreeable, but it is always a manifestation of our collective right.

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