



Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam

By Pope Brock

Download now

Read Online →

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock

The inspiration for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival documentary, *NUTS!*. “An extraordinary saga of the most dangerous quack of all time...entrancing” –*USA Today*

In 1917, John R. Brinkley—America’s most brazen con man—introduced an outlandish surgical method for restoring fading male virility.

It was all nonsense, but thousands of eager customers quickly made “Dr.” Brinkley one of America’s richest men—and a national celebrity. The great quack buster Morris Fishbein vowed to put the country’s “most daring and dangerous” charlatan out of business, yet each effort seemed only to spur Brinkley to new heights of ingenuity, and the worlds of advertising, broadcasting, and politics soon proved to be equally fertile grounds for his potent brand of flimflam.

Culminating in a decisive courtroom confrontation, *Charlatan* is a marvelous portrait of a boundlessly audacious rogue on the loose in an America ripe for the bamboozling.

↓ [Download Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckste ...pdf](#)

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam

By Pope Brock

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock

The inspiration for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival documentary, *NUTS!*. “An extraordinary saga of the most dangerous quack of all time...entrancing” –*USA Today*

In 1917, John R. Brinkley—America’s most brazen con man—introduced an outlandish surgical method for restoring fading male virility.

It was all nonsense, but thousands of eager customers quickly made “Dr.” Brinkley one of America’s richest men—and a national celebrity. The great quack buster Morris Fishbein vowed to put the country’s “most daring and dangerous” charlatan out of business, yet each effort seemed only to spur Brinkley to new heights of ingenuity, and the worlds of advertising, broadcasting, and politics soon proved to be equally fertile grounds for his potent brand of flimflam.

Culminating in a decisive courtroom confrontation, *Charlatan* is a marvelous portrait of a boundlessly audacious rogue on the loose in an America ripe for the bamboozling.

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #137958 in Books
- Brand: Brock, Pope
- Published on: 2009-01-13
- Released on: 2009-01-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .70" w x 5.30" l, .59 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 344 pages

 [Download Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckste ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam* By Pope Brock

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

John Brinkley, who grew up poor in rural North Carolina but attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, got his start touring as a medicine man hawking miracle tonics and became famous for transplanting goat testicles into impotent men. Brinkley built his own radio station in 1923, hustling his pseudoscience over the airwaves and giving an outlet to astrologers and country music. His nemesis was Dr. Morris Fishbein, the buoyant, compulsively curious editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* whose luminary friends included Sinclair Lewis, Clarence Darrow and H.L. Mencken. Fishbein took aim at Brinkley in *JAMA*, lay publications and pamphlets distributed by the thousands. Even after the Kansas State Medical Board yanked his medical license in 1930, Brinkley ran twice for governor of Kansas and almost won. Finally, Brinkley sued Fishbein for libel and lost in a spectacular showdown. Brock (*Indiana Gothic*) did tremendous research on this rollicking story, but the result is at times unfocused, overwritten and digressive, borrowing just a little too much from the overblown rhetoric of its subject. 8 pages of b&w photos not seen by *PW*. (Feb. 5)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Reviewers across the board bought what Pope Brock is selling. The author reeled them in with the incredible Brinkley, a quack who was one of a kind yet revealed so much about the era in which he lived. Critics were mesmerized by Brock's ability to connect Brinkley's life to other episodes in American history and fill them with vitality. Yet the true potency of *Charlatan* derives from Brock's storytelling skill: many critics spent much of their reviews retelling the highly entertaining tales from the book. Like the work to which it was most often compared, Erik Larson's *Devil in the White City* (**1/2 May/June 2003), *Charlatan* will surely prove to be popular with those who love American history as well as with those simply in search of a good yarn.

Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

Review

"Told with uproarious brio...heavenly...A book so lively that its wild stories are virtually wall to wall."

—Janet Maslin, *New York Times*

"An extraordinary saga of the most dangerous quack of all time...A talented storyteller, [Brock] digs deep into the personal secrets of his characters...entrancing."

—*USA Today*

"You will devour *Charlatan*, Pope Brock's tale of fools and fanatics. With a vast and wild cast of characters, and filled with issues and topics that resonate through the years *Charlatan* begs comparison with Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* and deserves to be a best seller."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"Written with glee, in a style that is pure gusto, a bubbling fountain of metaphor and arresting image...Fishbein's campaign against Brinkley makes up one strand of this extraordinary tale and provides it with a bravura courtroom finale."

—*Boston Globe*

"Superbly crafted and enthralling...Brock's droll style is perfect for this tale of trickery and credulity."

—*Financial Times*

“Hugely amusing [but also] dark and cautionary, a reminder of the high price of gullibility and ignorance.”
—Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post Book World*

“A compelling slice of lurid Americana...fun to read.”
—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Fascinating...Brock is gifted.”
—Associated Press

“Pope Brock reaches into the past and captures an incredible story...perceptive.”
—*Chicago Sun-Times*

“An irresistible and wide-ranging slice of popular history.”
—*The Seattle Times*

“If Hollywood hasn't already optioned [this], what's keeping it?”
—David Gates, *Newsweek*

“Wonderful...a gripping narrative”
—*Nature*

“A rollicking biography—at turns funny and horrifying, brimming with wit, insight and who-knew facts.”
—*Wichita Eagle*

“Wonderful American social history and lots of fun.”
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“In this lively and absorbing biography, Brock deftly captures the consummate snake-oil salesman and gifted entrepreneur John R. Brinkley...recommended.”
—*Library Journal*

“Brinkley’s astonishing rise and fall story is told with wry good humor in *Charlatan*...compelling.”
—*The Times* (Acadiana, Louisiana)

“Brock exploits the outlandishness of Brinkley’s escapades to brilliant comic effect.”
—*Washington CEO*

“This spellbinding saga of a once-famous medical man who left all too many corpses in his wake is nothing short of spectacular. Impeccably researched, smartly crafted, beautifully written, it’s a pure joy to read. And dealing, as it does, with eternal traits of human greed and gullibility, this extraordinary book is timely as well as timeless...A mesmerizing must-read, written by a writer of exquisite talent...One is left with the kind of reaction one has after reading a masterpiece.”
—Heinz Kohler, Willard Long Thorp Professor of Economics, Emeritus Amherst College

“Take the Duke and the King in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Roll them into one. Hand this creature a scalpel, a radio microphone and the sweet-talking skills to get filthy rich hawking a deadly implantation of goat sexual organs to gullible American men— and women. Then set him about transforming American pop culture in the 1920s and 30s. You have John R. Brinkley, a con artist of leviathan proportions. Pope Brock's true-life account of this comic-evil monster is nothing less than Twainian: a blend of reportage, social history, portraiture and storytelling in the gland--excuse me, in the grand tradition.”
—Ron Powers, author of *Mark Twain: A Life*

“Come one, come all, to the fabulous, hilarious world of rheostatic dynamizers, foot-powered breast enlargers, and goat-gland transplants--the surreal province of one John Brinkley, diploma-mill quack and flimflammer extraordinaire. With perfect pitch story-telling and wonderfully stylish prose, Pope Brock gives us a portrait of a master fraud as Brinkley works the ballyhou-stoked pseudo-science of the Twenties and Thirties to take in millions, while dodging ex-patients, the law, and the AMA. A dazzling cast of walk-ons includes Sinclair Lewis, Eugene V. Debs, a hypochondriacal H. L. Mencken, Mussolini, and Sigmund Freud, not to mention Nora, the Monkey Turned Woman. Stranger than fiction doesn't really say it. This is a book you won't put down and a story you'll never forget.”

—James R. Gaines, author of *For Liberty and Glory: Washington, LaFayette and Their Revolutions*

“Shocking and hilarious in equal measure, this is an extraordinary story of greed, gullibility and goat-glands. In chronicling the outrageous career of John R. Brinkley, king of the quack doctors, Pope Brock has also written a cautionary tale for our own times – about celebrity, mass-marketing, media power, political huckstering and the dangerous allure of mumbo-jumbo. As irresistible as Brinkley's snake-oil, and far more invigorating, *Charlatan* is an instant classic.”

—Francis Wheen, author of *How Mumbo-Jumbo Conquered the World* and *The Irresistible Con: The Bizarre Life of a Fraudulent Genius*

“Astonishing...This masterfully told story of the world's most dangerous quack and the medical sleuth who tracked him down is a delight. Brock skilfully mines the narrow fissure between cutting-edge medicine and outrageous quackery while plumbing the depths of human credulity. His punchy, exuberant style is spot-on perfect for this improbable tale of money, murder and menace.”

—Wendy Moore, author of *The Knife Man: Blood, Body-Snatching and the Birth of Modern Surgery*

"Before 'The Mythbusters' put truth to the test on national television (usually by blowing things up), and before the Amazing Randi went on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson to expose charlatans and frauds in front of millions, there was Morris Fishbein, a quackbuster extraordinaire who relentlessly pursued the greatest charlatan of the 1920s and 1930s, one Dr. John Brinkley, huckster of quack cures and remedies, commercial hustler and schemer, and in the end a cold-hearted murderer. Pope Brock's gripping tale of fraud and flimflam is at once compelling and disturbing--compelling because it's such a great read, disturbing because it reveals the endless gullibility of human nature."

—Michael Shermer, Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, author of *Why People Believe Weird Things*, *How We Believe*, and *Why Darwin Matters*

“*Charlatan* is the fabulous tale of John R. Brinkley, notorious purveyor of goat-gland flimflam, and unsung pioneer who changed the face of American politics, mass media, popular taste, and--yes--medicine.”

—Joel Best, author of *Flavor of the Month: Why Smart People Fall for Fads*

"*Charlatan* is a serious work of history that reads like a novel. It tells the story of the little-known Dr. John Brinkley and his unquenchable thirst for fame and fortune. Along the way, however, it paints a refreshingly unique and vivid portrait of America as it struggled to maintain its Jacksonian faith in democracy at the same time that it looked to the magic of scientific experts to find new cures to old problems. Rarely has history been this fun, fast-paced, or fulfilling."

—Steven M. Gillon, author of *Ten Days That Unexpectedly Changed America*

“A fascinating look at one of America's most dangerous quacks and the advertising and political maneuvering that sustained him. Must reading for everyone who wants to understand the dark side of the marketplace and the vulnerability of its victims.”

—Stephen Barrett, M.D., Head, Quackwatch.org, author of *The Health Robbers*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michelle Wilson:

Here thing why this Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam are different and reputable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it really depends in the content of it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no publication that similar with Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your approach home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam in e-book can be your alternative.

Steven Ward:

The actual book Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was authored by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research ahead of write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

Elaine Woodring:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam reserve written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one reserve that can break don't determine book by its handle, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Victor McDowell:

E-book is one of source of information. We can add our know-how from it. Not only for students and also native or citizen need book to know the revise information of year to be able to year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside we all add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By the book Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam we can have more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? For being creative person must love to read a book. Only choose the best book that suited with your aim. Don't become doubt to

change your life with that book Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam. You can more desirable than now.

Download and Read Online Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock #EZ26BL78YAH

Read Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock for online ebook

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock books to read online.

Online Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock ebook PDF download

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock Doc

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock Mobipocket

Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam By Pope Brock EPub