



Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga

By Pamela Newkirk

HarperCollins Publishers Inc. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga, Pamela Newkirk, An award-winning journalist reveals a little-known and shameful episode in American history, when an African man was used as a human zoo exhibit—a shocking story of racial prejudice, science, and tragedy in the early years of the twentieth century in the tradition of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *Devil in the White City*, and *Medical Apartheid*. In 1904, Ota Benga, a young Congolese "pygmy"—a person of petite stature—arrived from central Africa and was featured in an anthropology exhibit at the St. Louis World's Fair. Two years later, the New York Zoological Gardens displayed him in its Monkey House, caging the slight 103-pound, 4-foot 11-inch tall man with an orangutan. The attraction became an international sensation, drawing thousands of New Yorkers and commanding headlines from across the nation and Europe. *Spectacle* explores the circumstances of Ota Benga's captivity, the international controversy it inspired, and his efforts to adjust to American life. It also reveals why, decades later, the man most responsible for his exploitation would be hailed as his friend and savior, while those who truly fought for Ota have been banished...



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