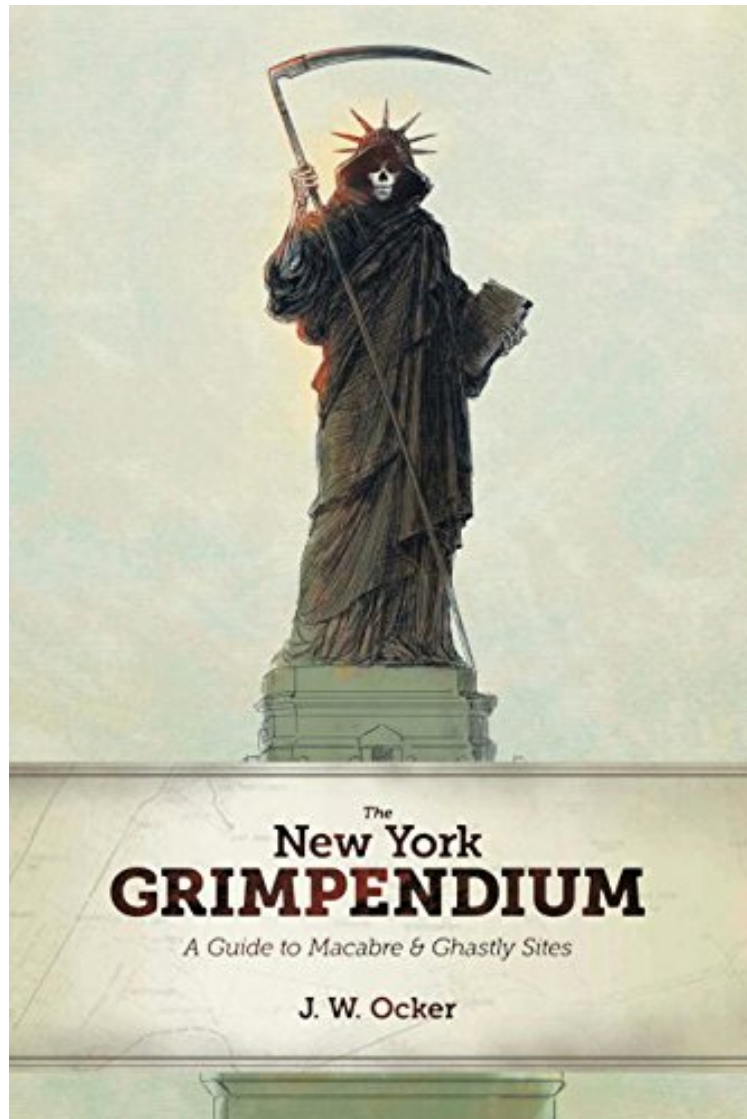


(Free read ebook) The New York Grimpendium: A Guide to Macabre and Ghastly Sites in New York State

The New York Grimpendium: A Guide to Macabre and Ghastly Sites in New York State

J. W. Ocker

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J. W. Ocker : The New York Grimpendium: A Guide to Macabre and Ghastly Sites in New York State before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New York Grimpendium: A Guide to Macabre and Ghastly Sites in New York State:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The Most Entertaining Book That Ever Gave Me Chills By Carl Boehm*This review is of the Kindle edition. In the 18th and 19th centuries, authors would go on extensive journeys

and notate all of their experiences. Those unfortunate enough not to have the means to travel would be inspired by and learn from these travel journals. One such person who found his muse in them was an Irishman by the name of Bram Stoker. He would go on to pen THE vampire novel, Dracula. Moving through the extensive New York Grimpendium by blogger/author J.W. Ocker, one wishes that Stoker were alive today. The stories he could glean from the Ocker's travel journal would make Dracula seem like Twilight. Ocker created and maintains the Odd Things I've Seen website where he and his intrepid photographer and wife, Lindsey, travel to remote locations to find things, well, odd. Ocker's comfortable tone and gee-whiz approach to the most baffling and entertaining artifacts makes the site a daily stop-- particularly around Halloween when he posts every day on the celebration of the 31st. Ocker carries that same friend-telling-you-a-tale-in-a-bar tone for the second grimpendium. Focusing on the 11th state added to the union, the author searches through packed cities, pastoral graveyards, and abandoned buildings to demonstrate just how strange this world, and the state of New York, really is. I have read some of the "Weird" books that also focus on a particular state and all the eccentricities to be found in its borders. What I have noticed about those books is that they have a layout that looks to be done by an overenthusiastic graphic artist. Where the "Weird" books have the feel of a turnpike rest-stop brochure, Ocker keeps things simple and organized. Broken down in five sections, the author highlights legends of the macabre, notable crimes, filming locations, graves, and monsters. Ocker's everyman comments and anecdotes provide a most entertaining experience. Additionally, an undertone of respect shines through each situation, no matter how abhorrent or absurd. Ocker pokes fun but never makes fun of, and that's what makes the Grimpendium so enjoyable a read. Some encounters are amazing successes: The trip to Troma studios sounded like a blast. Some encounters are busts: Charles Addams' studio was closed when Ocker visited. Nevertheless, the book provides details on how to get around and find each artifact, location, and tombstone. No, he doesn't horde the information all to himself; instead, he gladly shares like the giver kings of old. And the background information given is so thorough that you will be ready to answer the Final Jeopardy question every night. The Grimpendium suffers from a few shortcomings. Lindsey's photos for the site show the keen eye of someone who can discern the beauty in the shadowy and peculiar. Unfortunately, Ocker doesn't include very many of those pictures in the book. When explaining some situations, the author would suggest the reader to look up pictures and added information (serial killer Fish's letter) on the net. A few hyperlinks for the Kindle edition would be very helpful for those of us bold enough to look. I would also hope for some maps to give an idea of location. This would be another great opportunity to hyperlink some Google Maps locations for those using the digital version of the text. But those are petty requests in light of this dense collection of oddities that deserve their own twisted Smithsonian. Ocker plays an excellent carnival barker, tour guide, and curator. Those of you who live in the greatest state in the nation will marvel at the assortment of weird that thrives in the Big Apple and the surrounding areas. Even if you aren't lucky to live in The Empire State, you will be amazed at just how much weird stuff really goes on in this world. Who needs to believe in ghosts, demons, and zombies when there are the Fox sisters, shrunken heads, and the Boyd-Parker Torture Tree to send shivers up and down your arms? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wry look at the macabre and death-related sites in New York State By Frank Lynch Ocker has a book concept with legs: death-related and macabre sites within a specific geographic area. This, his second book, follows on his New England Grimpendium. Ocker does -not- restrict himself to the obvious places in New York City, but goes afield into all five boroughs, Long Island, and the many counties of "upstate" New York. He covers horror movie locations, murder scenes, graveyards, haunted sites, and all with a special touch of humor. I've long been a fan of Ocker's writing, through his blog O.T.I.S. (Odd Things I've Seen), and in this book, as there, he has this smarmy touch that borders on "I can't believe I'm writing about this." A classic approach-avoid conflict, like the patron at a horror movie peeking between the fingers they're using to cover their eyes. He uses parallelism wonderfully, coupled with the 1 punch, the 2 punch, and 3, boom, the hay-maker. His vocabulary and his allusions make this a never-boring roller coaster a joy to read. I haven't read it all, but I've read a good chunk and skimmed more, and learned about places I knew about as well as parts about Brooklyn I never knew at all. The book is a lot of fun. Seriously. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A New Yorker who loves this book! By valkyrieval Author J.W. Ocker does a great job weaving his way through the morbid and bizarre things places in New York State. He makes you feel like you're right there along side of him, with his dark sense of humor and witty scrutiny of some really cool, obscure stuff. I'm really glad to add this book and its predecessor, New England Grimpendium to my personal library. They're both a greatly entertaining read and good guide to the weird and creepy. LOVE IT!!! p.s. I also LOVE the cover art!..The New England Grimpendium

From the author of The New England Grimpendium comes a new travelogue and insiders guide to wicked, weird, wonderful New York. When J. W. Ocker's first book, The New England Grimpendium, emerged on the scene, Max Weinstein of Fangoria.com called it a travelogue for those who revel in the glory of their nightmares. Rick Broussard at New Hampshire Magazine said of it, I've read a dozen books about New England ghosties and weirdnesses, and this one is my favorite. Its also one of the few that actually came up with stuff I didn't already know about. Now the author of that Lowell Thomas Award winner has unearthed hundreds of similarly creepy and colorful places in the Empire State that will make your skin crawl and your hair stand on end! Ocker's essays on these places, some little known,

some area landmarks, include directions and site information along with entertaining anecdotes delivered in his signature wry style. Its definitely a wild ride from a jar full of the harvested brains of dead killers to horror movie filming sites around the state; from a ships graveyard to lake monster sightings. If its in New York and its bizarrely noteworthy or wonderfully wacky, youll find it in The New York Grimpendium.

Winner of the Lowell Thomas Gold Award from the Society of American Travel Writers for Best Guidebook 2013
About the Author
J. W. Ocker is the author of two award-winning macabre travelogues, *The New England Grimpendium* and *The New York Grimpendium*. He runs the website *OTIS: Odd Things I've Seen* (oddtthingsiveseen.com), where he chronicles his visits to oddities of nature, history, art, and culture. His work has appeared on CNN.com, TheAtlantic.com, *Rue Morgue* magazine, *The Boston Globe*, and other places people stick writing.