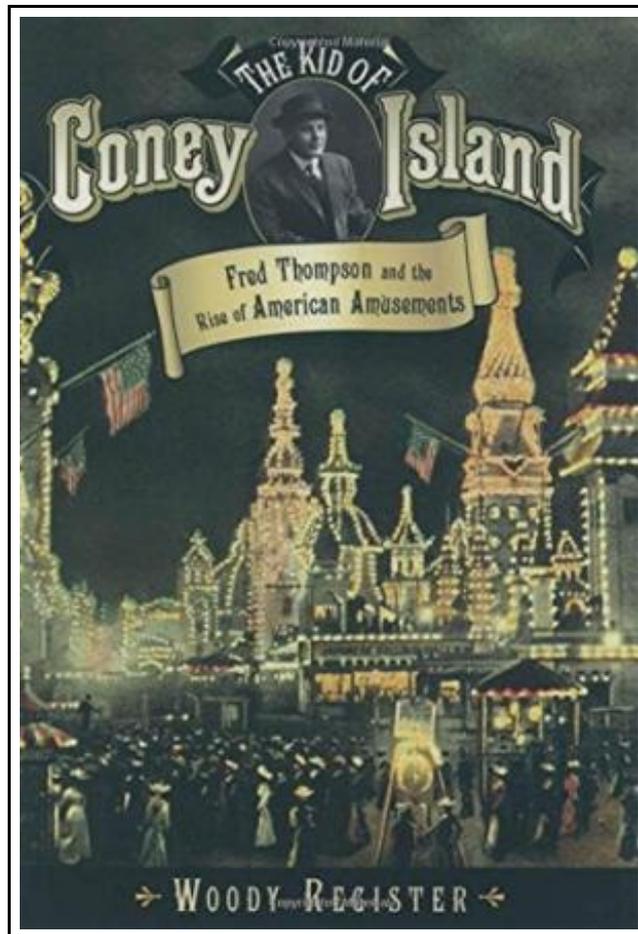


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Reviews

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THE KID OF CONEY ISLAND: FRED THOMPSON AND THE RISE OF AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS (PAPERBACK)



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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2003. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A generation before Walt Disney, Fred Thompson was the boy-wonder of American popular amusements. At the turn of the 20th century, Thompson s entrepreneurial drive made him into an entertainment mogul who helped to define the popular culture of his day. In this lively biography, Woody Register tells Thompson s remarkable story and examines the transformation of commerce and entertainment as American society moved into an era of mass marketing and large-scale corporate enterprise. Getting his start as a promoter of carnival shows at world s fairs, Thompson was one of the principal developers of Coney Island, where he created the majestic Luna Park. Register traces Thompson s career as he built the mammoth Hippodrome Theater in Manhattan, where he mounted many productions noted for their spectacular-and spectacularly costly-staging effects. Register shows how Thompson s fantasies appealed to the growing legions of Americans who found themselves in a world that seemed increasingly businesslike and profit oriented. He illustrates how Thompson aggressively marketed to adult consumers a world of make-believe and childlike play, carefully crafting his own public image as the boy who never grew up. Colorful, well-written, and insightful, *The Kid of Coney Island* brings to life a kaleidoscopic era in New York history as well as one of its most striking characters.

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