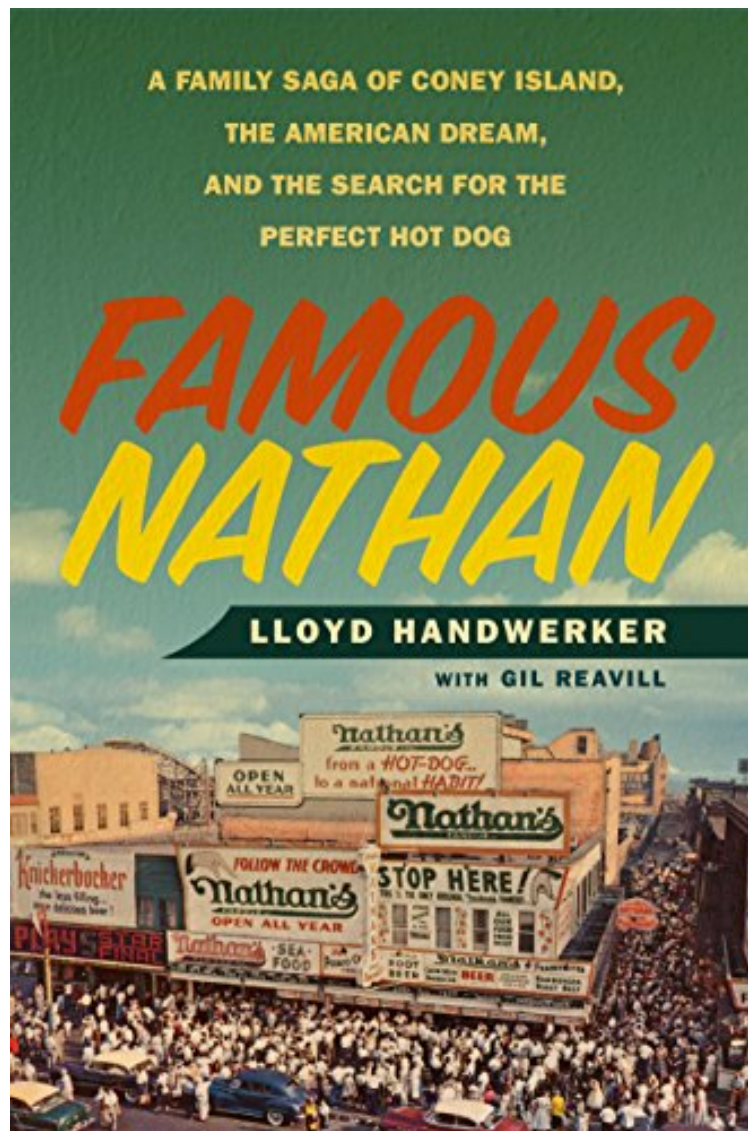


[Download] Famous Nathan: A Family Saga of Coney Island, the American Dream, and the Search for the Perfect Hot Dog

Famous Nathan: A Family Saga of Coney Island, the American Dream, and the Search for the Perfect Hot Dog

Lloyd Handwerker, Gil Reavill

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Lloyd Handwerker, Gil Reavill : Famous Nathan: A Family Saga of Coney Island, the American Dream, and the Search for the Perfect Hot Dog before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Famous Nathan: A Family Saga of Coney Island, the American Dream, and the Search for the Perfect Hot Dog:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This is a terrific book!By Howard B. LevyOne hundred years ago, in

1916, an enterprising, bright and savvy, but uneducated, young Polish immigrant, started a modest business that would eventually grow to become one of the most popular and beloved food service establishments in the world — and one of the most famous — Nathan's Famous, that is. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of this iconic American family business, in the summer of 2016, two grandsons of its colorful founder Nathan Handwerker (whom I call "the Henry Ford of the American Hot Dog"), independently published books in loving tribute to Nathan and the company. For those from Brooklyn, Nathan's Famous is, perhaps, second in its nostalgic value only to Ebbets Field (except that Ebbets Field has been gone for almost 60 years, and Nathan's Famous is still there). These two books are titled, respectively, *Nathan's Famous: The First 100 Years of America's Favorite Frankfurter Company* and *Famous Nathan: A Family Saga of Coney Island, the American Dream, and the Search for the Perfect Hot Dog*. Each from their own separate point of view, both books palpably oozing with family pride, the authors, first cousins, William and Lloyd Handwerker, poignantly tell the classic rags-to-riches story in most readable, moving, and delightful ways, of their poor, immigrant, illiterate but remarkable grandfather, and how he overcame all the conflicts and other obstacles frequently associated with family businesses, as well as two world wars, the Great Depression and all the other economic upheavals that occurred over the first 55 years of Nathan's Famous — until Nathan retired reluctantly in 1971, three years before he died at age 81. As I started reading the first available of the two books, Bill Handwerker's, on the day before the popular annual Nathan's Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest in Coney Island, I instantly developed a craving for one of those fantastic hot dogs. We had them for dinner that night. Both accounts tell substantially the whole story and, accordingly, they overlap considerably, especially to the extent the text relies on a 1973 taped interview of Nathan made shortly before he died by another cousin of the authors, David Sternshein. However, Lloyd's book, based largely on recorded interviews of family members and other long-term employees of Nathan's Famous, delves deeper than Bill's into his grandfather's early life in poverty in Poland, his struggles as a young immigrant and a novice entrepreneur in New York City and the early history of the business. Bill's book is more of a personal memoir that focuses mainly on the history of the mature business by the beach and beyond, most particularly the period when he worked there. They both emphasize and deeply explore the dynamics of running a family business when family members with strong personalities have divergent ideas about how to do it. For anyone who has an emotional, nostalgic attachment to Nathan's Famous, or an interest either in the challenges and triumphs of America's early twentieth century immigrants from Europe or a case study in managing a family business, I highly recommend reading both of these books. Never before has this story been told as intimately, passionately, completely and engagingly as in these two labors of love. And you just can't make this stuff up.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. hersquo;s created the greatest hot dog stand in history By Josh Alan Friedman Irsquo;ve admired many of Gil Reavillrsquo;s books and feel Irsquo;m in the hands of a superb craftsman. Irsquo;m also a sucker for Jewish immigrant stories, and this is one hot dog of a tale. Young Nathan Handwerker from the Polish countryside escapes a darkening Europe two years before WWI and arrives at Ellis Island with absolutely nothing. Four years later, hersquo;s created the greatest hot dog stand in history. His "give rsquo;em-feed rsquo;em" ethic is the foundation of the fast food industry, and the original Nathan's of Coney Island has never been surpassed. Professional hot-dog counter men became lifers at Nathan's. One, Sammy Fariello, could serve 60 hot dogs in one minute, making change all the while. Nathan's served New York's best hot dogs machine-gun style, in a sweep, ignoring no one. During its first seven decades, before corporate ownership, long lines of sun-baked customers received instant satisfaction with an ice cold lemonade. I fantasized about this level of service last week while waiting 15 minutes for coffee on a short line at Einstein's Bagels at DFW Airport while five employees staggered aimlessly behind the counter, as if each had been hit over the back of the head with a frying pan. Gil Reavill also provides dollops of hot dog grease throughout this history, an ingredient I require. On the beachfront, not to mention in Coney Island itself, "coins with mystery schmutz of unknown origin" were the currency of this realm. (Just like at Show World.) The Nathan's counter was the only jernt open all year round at Coney Island. A million of us have absolutely magical memories. I defy anyone to get through this book without yearning for a trip to Nathan's right now.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good Read By green thumbs The first chapters of Nathan's impoverished childhood in Europe and his bleak start in America were so touching and well written, I almost cried. With amusing anecdotes, interviews and thorough research, Lloyd Handwerker captures Granpa's personality and innate business smarts. I liked the way the events of the times were woven into the Nathan's story. The author tells all, of family and business issues, anger, jealously sibling rivalry and much more. This is a good read, even if you have never wolfed down a Nathan's frankfurter.

From a Nickel to an Empire Before the gut-busting eating contests and franchise stores across the country, there was a single man, Nathan Handwerker. An Eastern European Jewish immigrant who left the small provincial world he knew for a fresh start in America, Nathan arrived at Ellis Island speaking not a word of English, unable to read or write, and with twenty-five dollars hidden in his shoes. He had a simple goal: work hard and carve out a piece of the American dream. But history had bigger plans for Nathan. Beginning in 1916, with just five feet of counter space on Coney

Islands's Surf Avenue, Nathan sells his frankfurters for five cents. As New York booms, bringing trains and patrons to the seashore, so too does Nathan's humble frankfurter stand. Soon Nathan's Famous takes over the whole block, and Nathan gathers around him a dedicated core of workers (many who stay for decades) who help launch the hot dog as an American food staple. Even as the business soars, Nathan remains fiercely loyal to what matters most: his customers, workers, and family. There's Ida, the wife he fell in love with because no one could peel an onion faster; Sammy, the counterman who could serve an astonishing sixty franks per minute; and then there are the heirs to the empire, Murray and Sol, whose differing visions for the future lead to clashes with their eternally demanding father. Success brings difficulties, and as the two sons vie over control of the family business, a universal story of success and ambition plays out, mirroring the corporatization of the American food industry. Written by Nathan's own grandson, and at once a portrait of a man, a family, and the changing face of a nation through a century of promise and progress, Famous Nathan is a dog's tale that snaps and satisfies with every page.

"A nostalgic, truly American journey from impoverished immigrant to the eponymous owner of one of the country's most iconic restaurants, Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs. Handwerker relates every knowable detail about Nathan's Famous: employee tensions, how the potatoes were sourced, even who painted the sign. He also nestles his grandfather's story in the greater context of family struggles, Coney Island, the history of hot dogs, and the evolving American landscape...Even though Nathan is gone and his business has been corporatized, his commitment and character still live on in the heart of the American dream." ?Publishers Weekly"A flavorful paean to his grandfather topped with heartwarming anecdotes about Nathan's Famous and Coney Island in its heyday as the proletarian Riviera." - The Wall Street Journal"Famous Nathan captures the tender and funny story of the man and the immigrant family behind the Coney Island hot dog stand that generations of New Yorkers will instantly recognize as an American icon. The American Dream lives on in Grandpa Nathan." ?Tilar Mazzeo, New York Times bestselling author of *The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It* and *The Hotel on Place Vendôme: Life, Death, and Betrayal at the Hotel Ritz in Paris*"Handwerker's book about Nathan's is an entertaining, anecdote-filled romp through the ups and downs of the Coney Island food icon. The book is chock-full of colorful stories and quotes. I recommend it for anyone who is interested in the gastronomic history of New York." ?Ted Merwin, author of *Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli*"From Eastern Europe to the Lower East Side. From immigrant to icon. Our stories are similar. Only the food is different: theirs, the hot dog; our's, bagels and lox. This is a tale often told, but here told exceedingly well. A must-read for lovers of food and food history." ?Mark Russ Federman, author of *Russ Daughters: Reflections and Recipes From the House That Herring Built*"Everyone's a wiener in this frank account by a scion of hot dog nobility... A well-made, evenhanded, sometimes cautionary story of business, told with the affection and exasperation of an insider." - Kirkus [Famous Nathan] is more than just a business case study or a rosy-colored family portrait." - The Daily Beast

About the Author
Lloyd Handwerker is the grandson of Nathan Handwerker. A cinematographer and documentary filmmaker, he lives in New York City.