

# The Doctor Who Fooled the World

In the early 20th century, Dr. John Brinkley was a charismatic and unscrupulous doctor who used unethical methods to become a millionaire and a national celebrity. He claimed to have developed a revolutionary new medical procedure that could cure a wide range of ailments, from impotence to cancer. Brinkley's methods were later exposed as fraudulent, but his story remains a fascinating example of the power of quackery and the gullibility of the public.



## The Doctor Who Fooled the World: Science, Deception, and the War on Vaccines by Brian Deer

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
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Print length	: 393 pages



## Brinkley's Early Life

John Richard Brinkley was born in Jackson County, North Carolina, in 1885. He grew up in poverty and had little formal education. After graduating from high school, Brinkley briefly attended medical school at the University of Arkansas, but he dropped out after two years. He then worked

as a traveling salesman and a stockbroker before settling in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1918.

## **The Goat Gland Transplantation Scam**

In Kansas City, Brinkley began experimenting with a new medical procedure that he claimed could cure a variety of male sexual problems, including impotence. Brinkley called his procedure "goat gland transplantation," and he claimed that it involved transplanting the testicles of goats into the testicles of men. Brinkley claimed that this procedure would restore men's sexual vigor and virility.

Brinkley's claims were not supported by any scientific evidence, but they were nonetheless widely believed. Brinkley's clinic in Kansas City became a popular destination for men from all over the country who were desperate to cure their sexual problems. Brinkley performed thousands of goat gland transplantations, and he became a millionaire from the fees he charged for his services.

## **Brinkley's Radio Empire**

In addition to his medical practice, Brinkley was also a successful radio broadcaster. He owned and operated several radio stations in Kansas City and other cities, and he used his broadcasts to promote his goat gland transplantations. Brinkley's radio programs were extremely popular, and he became one of the most famous doctors in the country.

Brinkley's radio broadcasts also helped to spread his quackery to a wider audience. He used his broadcasts to make outrageous claims about the benefits of goat gland transplantation, and he even claimed that he could cure cancer. Brinkley's broadcasts were eventually investigated by the

Federal Radio Commission, which found that Brinkley was making false and misleading claims.

## **Brinkley's Downfall**

In 1930, Brinkley's medical license was revoked by the Kansas State Board of Medical Examiners. The board found that Brinkley had performed unnecessary surgeries and that he had made false and misleading claims about his goat gland transplantation procedure. Brinkley appealed the board's decision, but the courts upheld the revocation of his license.

Brinkley's radio broadcasting license was also revoked by the Federal Radio Commission in 1935. The commission found that Brinkley had made false and misleading claims about the benefits of goat gland transplantation, and that he had used his broadcasts to promote a dangerous and ineffective medical procedure.

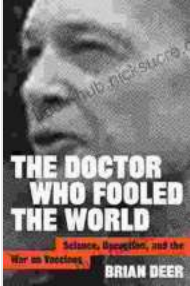
Brinkley continued to practice medicine in Mexico after his license was revoked in the United States. He died in 1942 at the age of 57.

## **The Legacy of Dr. John Brinkley**

Dr. John Brinkley was a charismatic and unscrupulous doctor who used unethical methods to become a millionaire and a national celebrity. His claims about the benefits of goat gland transplantation were not supported by any scientific evidence, but they were nonetheless widely believed. Brinkley's story is a fascinating example of the power of quackery and the gullibility of the public.

Brinkley's legacy is also a reminder of the importance of skepticism and critical thinking. We should not blindly believe the claims of doctors and

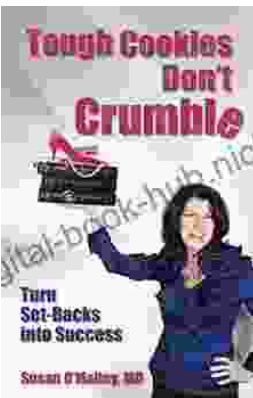
other medical professionals. We should always ask for evidence to support their claims, and we should be skeptical of any claims that seem too good to be true.



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