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Bringing Home the Birkin: My Life in Hot Pursuit of the World's Most Coveted Handbag

Michael Tonello

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Michael Tonello : Bringing Home the Birkin: My Life in Hot Pursuit of the World's Most Coveted Handbag
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bringing Home the Birkin: My Life in Hot Pursuit of the World's Most Coveted Handbag:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is the best book I've read in a long timeBy D. HatfieldThis is the best book I've read in a long time. Mr. Tonello has such a gift of story telling, he makes purse buying exciting and

entertaining! His descriptions of all the cool places he traveled truly made me feel like I was seeing all the things he saw. I came to this evening because I just finished the book and was really hoping he had written more books, but sadly he has not. I've grown to care about the author like I would an old friend and now I will miss him. Hopefully he will write another book in the near future. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This guy is awesome! By C. Bass I loved reading this book about Michael's new career. He decides almost spontaneously that Provincetown was not where he wanted to be after a trip to Barcelona. So off to Barcelona he moved, with a job prospect, no less. When that fell through, he started selling some of his fabulous things on eBay and a business was born. He quickly (with the help of some new found friends) got into the business of selling authentic Birkins from Hermes at a profit which is not easy since there is a two year waiting list. Michael perfected the "formula" and was able to procure almost as many as he wanted. This book details that process, how he built up the business, his travels through many continents to get the bags and his ultimate decision to bag the Birkin business. Through all this he finds love, has a lot of laughs, negotiates a "hostage" situation and loses someone that means everything to him. His writing is easy and fun to read. He is funny, descriptive (I felt like it was me on Capri) and thoroughly entertaining! He is an awesome guy who seems to be thrown for a loop but always lands on his feet. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Birkin Fashionista's Bible and humorous handbook. By CustomerGreat reading for the Birkin fashionista fanatic. Full of funny moments, unbelievable stories, insightful and rather surreal facts from the Hermes world, not to mention lots of laughter. It is a light and well written book I enjoyed reading aloud to my husband as we made our way down the Autobahn to Baden-Baden in Southern Germany where we were picking up my first Birkin bag! We laughed until we cried in the "kidnap for ransom" chapter and the descriptions of Sales Assistants were fabulous.

An insider's hilarious, whirlwind account of his years spent globe-trotting in search of the holy grail of handbags: the Birkin. For more than twenty years, the Hermès Birkin bag has been the iconic symbol of fashion, luxury, and wealth. Though the bag is often seen dangling from the arms of celebrities, there is a fabled waiting list of more than two years to buy one from Hermès, and the average fashionista has a better chance of climbing Mount Everest in Prada pumps than of possessing one of these coveted carryalls. Unless, of course, she happens to know Michael Tonello . . . Michael's newfound career started with an impulsive move to Barcelona, a vanished job assignment, no work visa, and an Hermès scarf sold on eBay to generate some quick cash. But soon the resourceful Michael discovered the truth about the waiting list and figured out the secret to getting Hermès to part with one of these precious bags. Millions of dollars worth of Birkins later, Michael had become one of eBay's most successful entrepreneurs—and a Robin Hood to thousands of desperate rich women. With down-to-earth wit, Michael chronicles the unusual ventures that took him to nearly every continent, from eBay to Paris auction house and into the lives of celebrities and poseurs. Flirting with danger, Michael recounts the heady rush of hand delivering his first big score to famed songwriter Carole Bayer Sager in Paris; how he had to hire thugs to rescue a bag that one of his "shoppers" held for ransom; and the story of the Oscar-worthy performances that allowed him to snag "reserved" bags from other, less dogged Birkin seekers. Whether he's relating his wining and dining, buying and selling, dodging and weaving, laughing and crying, or schmoozing and stammering, Michael is a master raconteur who weaves together tales of hunting Birkins in the world's most posh locales, memories of meals that would make any gastronome salivate, anecdotes of obsessed collectors with insatiable desires, and sweetly intimate stories about his family, friends, and finding true love. The result is a memoir that is distinctive, fun, page-turning, and as addictive as its namesake.