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The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt

By Stiles, T.J.

Vintage. 1 Paperback(s), 2009. soft. Book Condition: New. (Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, as well as a New York Times Notable Book of 2009 and named of the Best Books of the Year by The New Yorker, the Boston Globe, Philadelphia Inquirer, and London's Financial Times) Earning T.J. Stiles his first Pulitzer Prize (preceding Custer's Trials, his second Pulitzer Prize winner), this groundbreaking biography of 18th-century shipping magnate Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt tells the dramatic story of an American icon who, through his vision and force of will, did more than perhaps any other individual to create modern capitalism. Stiles recounts an epic and improbable life, from Vanderbilt's humble birth during the presidency of George Washington to his death as one of the richest men in American history. In between we see how the Commodore helped to launch the transportation revolution, propel the Gold Rush, reshape Manhattan, and invent the modern corporation in many ways reflecting the story of America itself. "Stiles, a superb researcher, has unearthed quantities of new material and crafted them into the illuminating, authoritative portrait of Vanderbilt that has been missing for so long." Washington Post "Stiles writes with both the panache of a fine...



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