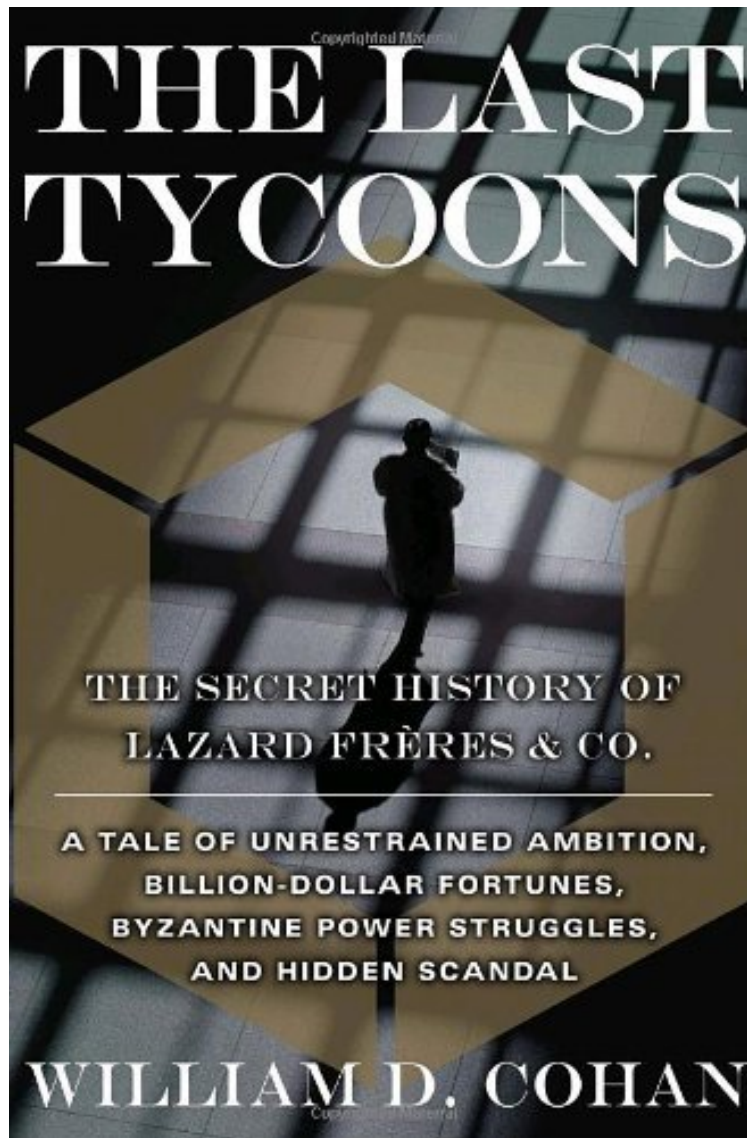


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The Last Tycoons: The Secret History of Lazard Freres Co.

William D. Cohan

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William D. Cohan : The Last Tycoons: The Secret History of Lazard Freres Co. before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Tycoons: The Secret History of Lazard Freres Co.:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Upon recommendation from a senior work colleague of "the best book about Wall Street" he had ever read By PoirotLives Upon recommendation from a senior work colleague of "the best book about Wall Street" he had ever read, I bought a copy of "The Last Tycoons" a few months ago and really enjoyed it. It's an overall amazing story and might be the most consummate Wall Street narrative that I've ever read. After finishing the book, I purchased three more copies to gift to friends I know would appreciate it. Moreover, after

reaching out to the author, he very graciously agreed to meet with me to discuss his book and to sign my copy - simply extraordinary. The book is not only a must-read business story, but it is also an phenomenal historical narrative about the relationship between powerful people, business, and geo-political historical events out of any person's control. I would HIGHLY recommend it! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I have ever read in my life. It is long and some times too detailed, but you can learn a lot about the back stage of the financial markets and about people inside this market. The different stories keeps you entertained as each one looks like a new story. I really recomend it for everyone, specially for those who work in the financial markets. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Marvin Hefti Item received as expected

A grand and revelatory portrait of Wall Street's most storied investment bank. Wall Street investment banks move trillions of dollars a year, make billions in fees, pay their executives in the tens of millions of dollars. But even among the most powerful firms, Lazard Freres Co. stood apart. Discretion, secrecy, and subtle strategy were its weapons of choice. For more than a century, the mystique and reputation of the "Great Men" who worked there allowed the firm to garner unimaginable profits, social cachet, and outsized influence in the halls of power. But in the mid-1980s, their titanic egos started getting in the way, and the Great Men of Lazard jeopardized all they had built. William D. Cohan, himself a former high-level Wall Street banker, takes the reader into the mysterious and secretive world of Lazard and presents a compelling portrait of Wall Street through a tumultuous history of this exalted and fascinating company. Cohan deconstructs the explosive feuds between Felix Rohatyn and Steve Rattner, superstar investment bankers and pillars of New York society, and between the man who controlled Lazard, the inscrutable French billionaire Michel David-Weill, and his chosen successor, Bruce Wasserstein. Cohan follows Felix, the consummate adviser, as he reshapes corporate America in the 1970s and 1980s, saves New York City from bankruptcy, and positions himself in New York society and in Washington. Felix's dreams are dashed after the arrival of Steve, a formidable and ambitious former newspaper reporter. By the mid-1990s, as Lazard neared its 150th anniversary, Steve and Felix were feuding openly. The internal strife caused by their arguments could not be solved by the imperious Michel, whose manipulative tendencies served only to exacerbate the trouble within the firm. Increasingly desperate, Michel took the unprecedented step of relinquishing operational control of Lazard to one of the few Great Men still around, Bruce Wasserstein, then fresh from selling his own MA boutique, for \$1.4 billion. Bruce's take: more than \$600 million. But it turned out Great Man Bruce had snookered Great Man Michel when the Frenchman was at his most vulnerable. The Last Tycoon is a tale of vaulting ambitions, whispered advice, worldly mistresses, fabulous art collections, and enormous wealth—a story of high drama in the world of high finance. From the Trade Paperback edition.