

The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch

By Christopher Winans



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The king of cash

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His net worth is more than \$1 billion. His corporate assets total more than \$40 billion and generate almost \$14 billion in annual revenue. His thrift in the name of cash flow is legendary. He is often compared to Warren Buffett because of his knack for turning struggling companies into hugely profitable ones. He is Larry Tisch, Chairman of CBS.

Written by a former Wall Street Journal editor, this book takes a candid look at the career of a man as admired as he was once despised. In this behind-the-scenes story, you'll come to know the unaffected family man whose best-known accomplishment is the transformation of CBS back to its glory days as the Tiffany Network. You'll find out what friends, family, colleagues, and detractors have to say about him. You'll see him in action as he out-negotiates rivals and protects himself and his stockholders even when situations turn sour. He is, as Christopher Winans describes him in this book, "unfettered by fear."

A self-made man, Tisch transformed a modest family investment in Florida into the mega-empire Loews Corporation that owns, among other things, Bulova and the Lorillard Tobacco Company. In 1986, he staged a successful and closely watched coup of the CBS board, ousting its legendary chairman William Paley. Though he has often been derided for downgrading the fabled Tiffany network into more humble Kmart trappings, Tisch has been at the helm during CBS's elevation from the ratings cellar to become America's most watched network. He is the man who stole David Letterman from NBC.

In this fascinating book, Winans explores Tisch's investment philosophies and business strategies over the course of his career. He assesses Tisch's options in light of recent developments, including the loss of eight prime affiliates to Fox, the foiled QVC merger, and rumors that CBS is on the auction block. You'll meet some of the players in Tisch's high-stakes games, including Barry Diller, Warren

Buffett, Bruce Wasserstein, "60 Minutes" producer Don Hewitt, Martin Lipton, Fay Vincent, Gordon Getty, Arthur Liman, Howard Stringer, and dozens more.

"I actually like him more now than I did then."--Andy Rooney, page 324

Tisch has always had much more fun making money than spending it. He has confessed, "I find business very relaxing." In The King of Cash, you'll get an honest account of the strengths and the flaws of this modern business marvel and get a firsthand peek at the challenges facing Tisch and CBS in the coming years.

"You can learn much of value by studying the life of my friend, Larry Tisch. This book is the way to do it."--Warren E. Buffett, Chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

"As president of a university whose trustees he chairs, I've seen Larry Tisch up close for over a decade. This fascinating book illuminates the life of a brilliant business leader and the most generous of philanthropists."--John Brademas, President Emeritus, New York University

"Larry Tisch is one of the truly great investor-businessmen of our time. This book tells the story and is a great read."--Barton M. Biggs, Chairman, Morgan Stanley Asset Management Inc.

"This book is all about a great success in contemporary business life in the best American tradition. It brings to the fore one man's determination and drive to seek exceptional business opportunities through insights, shrewdness and understanding of the ebbs and flows in business and finance while maintaining personal integrity and dedication to family."--Henry Kaufman, President, Henry Kaufman & Company, Inc.



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The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch By Christopher Winans Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #333874 in Books

• Published on: 1995-04

• Ingredients: Example Ingredients

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.29" h x 1.06" w x 6.22" l, 1.33 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 272 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A former editor with the Wall Street Journal and author of a biography of Malcolm Forbes, Winans traces the rise of investor Tisch from his first investment in hotels in 1946 (at the age of 23) through the failed merger of CBS and QVC in 1994. He portrays Tisch, whose cooperation on this book he enjoyed, as an extraordinary businessman whose main objectives in doing deals were to protect the rights of shareholders and to generate as much cash as possible for himself and his fellow shareholders. Tisch's investment strategy was to identify undervalued assets and then gain a controlling position in the company to improve its profits, a process that often involved asset sales and staff layoffs. While his business style won Tisch admirers on Wall Street, it attracted little public notice until he took control of CBS in 1986. Winans devotes about half his book to Tisch's restructuring efforts at CBS, and while this is a relatively familiar tale, Winans approaches it from a different point of view, namely, one sympathetic to Tisch. Indeed, Winans presents Tisch as CBS's savior, who confounded his many critics by leading the company back to the top of the network competition. Depicting Tisch as a businessman with a conscience, Winans gives readers a solid, if overly flattering, account of the career of one of America's most powerful men. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Tisch is likely to have remained an anonymous self-made millionaire were it not for his purchase of a controlling interest in CBS, which allowed him to replace William Paley as chairman. Tisch's cost-cutting finance background, clearly in conflict with the corporate culture at CBS, caused turmoil that continues to plague the company. Winans, formerly on the editorial staff of the Wall Street Journal and the author of Malcolm Forbes: The Man Who Had Everything (LJ 9/15/90), chronicles Tisch's life spent buying undervalued assets that have positive cash flow and waiting for the market to reward him with higher prices. This biography lacks balance, with Winans giving Tisch at least a moral victory on those rare occasions when his business decisions fail. Buy only for the most complete business collections. *Joseph Barth, U.S. Military Acad. Lib., West Point, N.Y.*

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From the Publisher

A riveting biography of a self-made man who turned a talent for buying hotels and resorts into a megaempire that controls Loews Corporation, Bulova watches, Lorillard and CBS. Tisch took over CBS in 1987 and has captured headlines ever since--first because of his extreme cost-cutting and more recently because of losing eight affiliate stations to Fox and because of the failed merger with QVC. Winans reveals what makes Tisch tick and chronicles his investment philosophy and business strategies.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mamie Wilson:

This The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you

will get. This The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch without we recognize teach the one who studying it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't become worry The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even phone. This The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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Thomas Hayden:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some study before they write to the book. One of them is this The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch.

Tammy Medina:

The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The King of Cash: The Inside Story of Laurence Tisch yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial pondering.

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