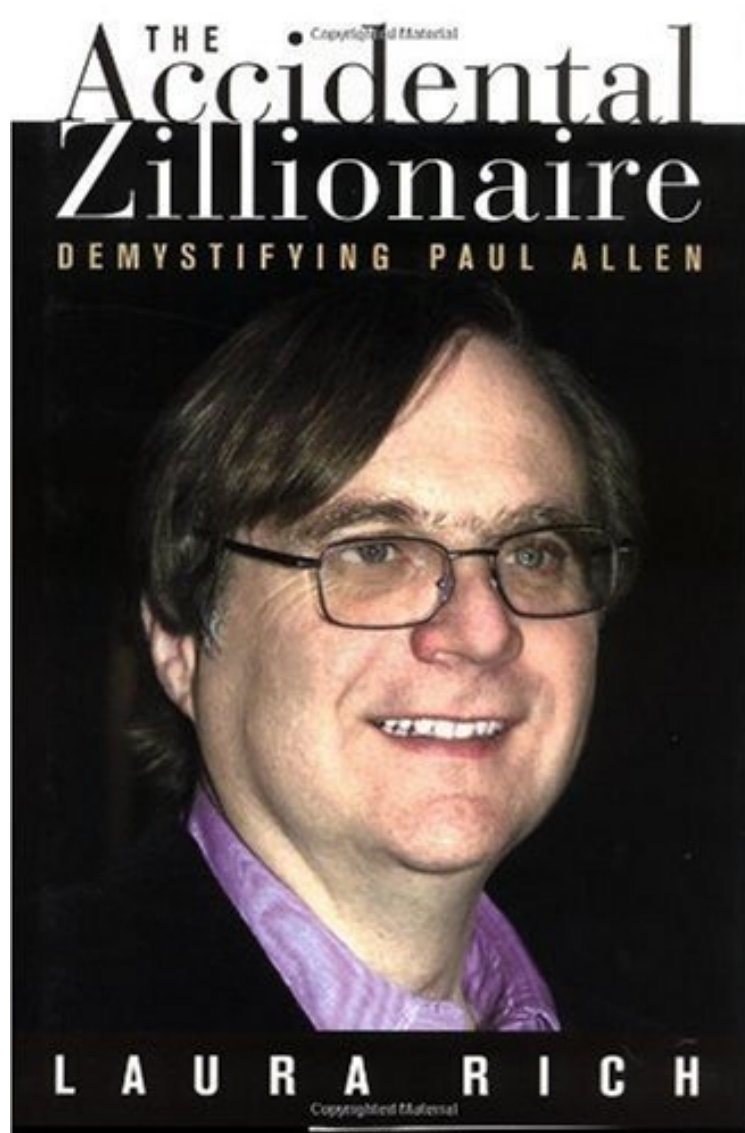


(Download free ebook) The Accidental Zillionaire: Demystifying Paul Allen

The Accidental Zillionaire: Demystifying Paul Allen

Laura Rich

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Laura Rich : The Accidental Zillionaire: Demystifying Paul Allen before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Accidental Zillionaire: Demystifying Paul Allen:

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Who is Paul Allen? By Harvey Motulsky Paul Allen is a fascinating guy, and this is his only biography. So it is worth reading. This is a well written, though a bit repetitive, short book that won't take long to read. The book retells what he has done, but without a lot of perspective. Having finished the book, I have only partial answers to the two key questions: 1. What kind of guy is he? This is an unauthorized biography, so the author never got to know Paul Allen. The book gives plenty of anecdotes that hint at

what he is like. But I still don't have a sense of who he is.² What has he accomplished? The book retells his life, but without perspective. It doesn't really attempt to answer the big question: If Paul Allen had simply kept his Microsoft shares, how would the technology revolution have been different? To what extent is he simply an observer, and to what extent is he a driving force? How accurate is the book? I knew Paul back in high school (haven't seen him since) and the description of those years is fine. I can't judge the accuracy of the rest of the book, but it bothers me that the author says Paul lived off his Microsoft dividends, when in fact Microsoft has never (until very recently) issued dividends. I wonder how many other details are wrong.³ 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. No regard for his feelings. By Debra A. Berry I bought this book because I have admired (in all ways) Paul Allen for a long time. I did not love the title, but wanted to find out more about him. My first thought was "Why does it have to be called The Accidental Zillionaire?" I knew that name came from an article in Wired magazine that I did not particularly care for. Accidental Zillionaire could be applied to anybody who made their fortune from the advent of PCs; Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Charles Simonyi, etc., all were in the right place at the right time, yet nobody makes them sound like their fortune was handed to them. Face it, Paul Allen's vision and genius brought Microsoft to life. My desire to learn more about Paul Allen was tempered by my feelings of regret for reading a book that he clearly wanted no part of. I wish he would have been involved, at least to make sure he wasn't being portrayed inaccurately. Ms. Rich claims she only wanted to tell his story, but I think she unfairly slammed him at every opportunity. Derisive comments about his appearance and clothing were not necessary--frumpy, unattractive, droopy middle, not looking like a billionaire; those phrases tell nothing about him, they only serve to insult. I can't help but wonder why those comments were necessary. I think he's a handsome man with the most amazing looking eyes, eyes I could just get lost in. Stupid Jerry Hall and Monica Seles; they were so lucky to have him in their lives. I doubt they appreciated him beyond his wallet. I don't know, maybe Laura Rich was offended because he would not cooperate with her and that affected the way she wanted to present him. I did enjoy the early parts of the book where she talked about his parents, their hard lives growing up in Oklahoma and their early years in Seattle, but after that it just seemed more like an attempt to drag him through the mud than to tell his story. I started out trying to get past the title and like the book, but I just couldn't.⁰ 0 people found the following review helpful. bad bad bad By Mark D Anderson Poorly written, extremely poorly edited and many factual errors. Too bad as the topic good have been interesting.

The first in-depth look at one of the world's richest-and most secretive-businessmen Though his wealth is certainly no secret, the world's fourth richest man remains an enigma. Paul Allen made his fortune as Bill Gates's partner in Microsoft, supplemented it with questionable, though often profitable, venture capital schemes, and has since invested his wealth in a widely divergent list of interests. He owns the NBA's Portland Trailblazers and the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. Among hundreds of smaller ventures, he is a primary stakeholder in the film production company DreamWorks SKG and formerly held a large piece of the widely despised Ticketmaster monopoly. Dubbed the "Accidental Zillionaire" by Wired magazine, Allen has often appeared to be a bumbler who succeeded primarily through luck and by coopting the visionary ideas of others. In *The Accidental Zillionaire*, Laura Rich, one of the foremost chroniclers of the Internet economy, unravels the secret Paul Allen, his inner motivations, his vision, and his personality. She tells Allen's story from his days as a fledgling computer geek in suburban Washington state, to his role in founding the world's largest software company, to his battle with cancer, to his sycophantic flirtation with Hollywood and its brightest stars. Paul Allen is a man of various interests and passions, but few if any know him well. *The Accidental Zillionaire* for the first time reveals the inner workings of a towering figure in the worlds of technology, business, sports, and entertainment. Laura Rich (Los Angeles, CA) is a former writer for *The Industry Standard*, *Adweek*, and *Inside Media*. She currently covers the world of digital entertainment for *Entertainment Weekly*, *Fortune*, and *The Hollywood Reporter*. She penned *The Standard's* popular "Rich List" report and has reported on Paul Allen for years.

.com Everyone knows about Bill Gates, the boy-wonder founder of Microsoft and the planet's richest citizen. Although less well known, Paul Allen helped make Gates's good fortunes possible, and he's certainly worth study for his mistakes just as much as his many successes. Enter former *Industry Standard* reporter Laura Rich, who does little to demystify Allen the man, but paints a useful portrait all the same. Rich takes readers through Allen's career as an early Gates ally, a technically savvy man who first saw the possibilities of DOS, the operating system that drove a big chunk of the personal computer market, and launched several other software enterprises. Although he left Microsoft owing to illness in 1983 (according to Rich, Gates has behaved badly toward him ever since), Allen is still a major shareholder and has amassed a personal fortune that dwarfs the GNPs of whole nations. As Rich observes, Allen has put this money to good use as "technology's archangel," but has also managed to lose staggering sums in misguided ventures--some too far ahead of their time, some just plain wacky. Those missteps have earned Allen the sobriquet used in Rich's title. Though carelessly written and full of unhelpful asides ("Software is a language, hardware is more technical"), her book provides ample evidence for both why the name fits and why Allen, a visionary and man of action, merits respect. --Gregory McNamee for the first time

reveals the inner workings of a towering figure in the worlds of technology, sports, and entertainment -- Computer Consultant, April/May 2003 questions Allen's patchy business track record since leaving Microsoft and details his billionaire lifestyle -- Business Eye (Northern Ireland), April 2003 "a cutting new biography" (Newsweek, February 3, 2003) "for the first time reveals the inner workings of a towering figure in the worlds of technology, sports, and entertainment" (Computer Consultant, April/May 2003) "questions Allen's patchy business track record since leaving Microsoft and details his billionaire lifestyle" (Business Eye (Northern Ireland), April 2003) "Rich has finally presented a balanced view of Allen's achievements" (M2 Best Books, 3 February 2003) "a cutting new biography" -- Newsweek, February 3, 2003...for the first time reveals the inner workings of a towering figure in the worlds of technology, sports, and entertainment... -- Computer Consultant, April/May 2003...questions Allen's patchy business track record since leaving Microsoft and details his billionaire lifestyle... -- Business Eye (Northern Ireland), April 2003

From the Inside Flap From humble beginnings as the son of a working-class family in suburban Washington state to one of the world's richest men, Paul Allen's life story reads like the American dream come true. But if Allen's story is as familiar to us as any rags-to-riches tale, Allen himself has remained a curious enigma. As cofounder of Microsoft, Allen banked billions while still a young man. Since then, he's invested in a massive array of both high-tech and more traditional interests—he owns the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers and the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and is a primary stakeholder in the film production company DreamWorks SKG, among other investments. Dubbed the "Accidental Zillionaire" by Wired magazine, he's often seen as a quixotic figure who succeeds primarily through luck and by investing in the visionary ideas of others. But even his harshest critics would find it hard to bet against him. Today, Allen's money—if not his personality—casts a long shadow over the intertwined worlds of technology, business, sports, and entertainment. In *The Accidental Zillionaire*, Laura Rich, one of the foremost chroniclers of the Internet economy, unravels the secret Paul Allen, his inner motivations, his vision, and his personality. She follows Allen from his days as a teen computer geek, to his role in founding the world's largest software company, to his battle with Hodgkin's disease, to his odd flirtation with Hollywood. Paul Allen is a man of varied interests and passions, but few, if any, know him well. This book, for the first time, reveals the inner workings of a figure whose significance is often overlooked. The collaboration between Gates and Allen has been well documented. But for all of Microsoft's success—and as big a part as Allen played in that success—his contribution to the software behemoth has often been downplayed. Allen remains a shadowy figure while Gates hogs the limelight. Though their relationship has been examined in detail, Allen himself has received scant attention. Cutting through the mythological tenor of much of what passes for the history of Microsoft and its founders, *The Accidental Zillionaire* reveals Allen as more than merely "Bill Gates's partner," but as a man whose brilliance and subterranean influence has had a profound and far-reaching impact on modern America.