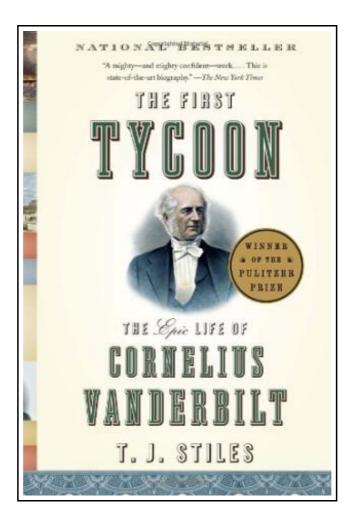
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THE FIRST TYCOON: THE EPIC LIFE OF CORNELIUS VANDERBILT



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 corporationin 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 journalist and the analytical care of a seasoned scholar. And he offers a fruitful way to think about the larger history of American elites as well as the life of one of their most famous members."NYTBR"Though Stiles's admiration for the man who inspired the phrase 'robber baron' shines throughout this extraordinary rags-toriches story, he harbors no illusions about his vindictive and bad-tempered subject. Stiles is quick to set the record straight when the past has condemned Vanderbilt unfairly, but he details his unscrupulous business dealings and troubled relationships with equal aplomb. Filled with fascinating insights into the lives of Vanderbilt...

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