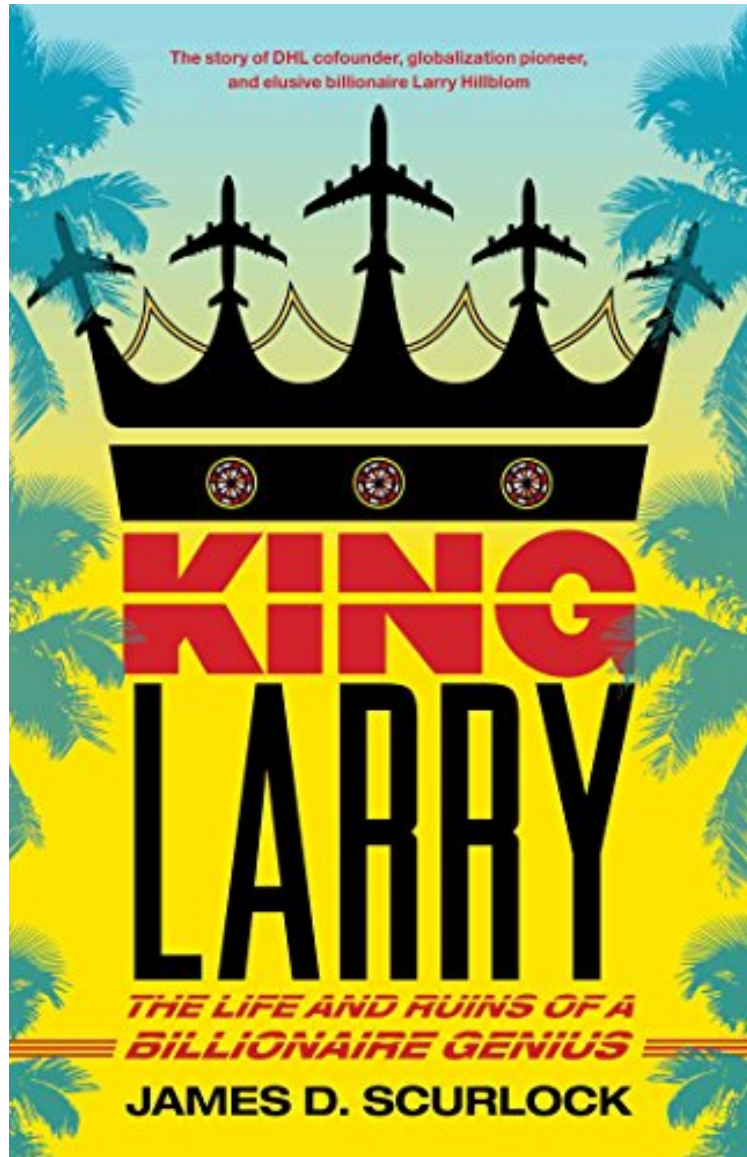


(Library ebook) King Larry: The Life and Ruins of a Billionaire Genius

King Larry: The Life and Ruins of a Billionaire Genius

James D. Scurlock

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James D. Scurlock : King Larry: The Life and Ruins of a Billionaire Genius before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King Larry: The Life and Ruins of a Billionaire Genius:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. I wish had 4 1/2 stars!By NonFictionOnlySeems like the other reviewers have kind of beat me to the punch, so I'll try to be pithy. That the life of Larry Hillblom is only now being chronicled will amaze anyone who reads this book. Hillblom was both a revolting creep, and a brilliant businessman. His ability to outwit and outmaneuver virtually every adversary almost reads like the stuff of cheesy fiction until you

realize it's all based on really well researched facts. Hillblom was also a pedophile who wasted much of his wealth fueling the (often underage) sex industry in SE Asia, an unfortunate and glaring footnote in this business biography. Larry's pedophilia aside, the book is indeed gripping, and almost reads like a movie just aching to be made. Yes, the legal details were a bit much at times, but the minutiae nearly always seemed to have a purpose. And yes, the pedophilia and sex did seem to be more of a footnote than you'd expect from an enlightened, western author. But if Scurlock's purpose was to make a book that told a more complete story about Hillblom without becoming a rant on his many imperfections (which include abhorrent, immoral behavior), then Scurlock succeeded. Hillblom was clearly a flawed, perverse, even depraved sex addict who also happened to be a visionary who transformed an entire industry almost single-handedly. Not many biographies (including that of Jobs) can make such a claim on their subject. King Larry isn't perfect, but for a non-fiction biography, it's damn close. Couldn't recommend it more highly! 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Founder By Nona King Larry is a little gem of a book. It describes the rise and fall of Larry Hillblom, the founder of DHL. Hillblom's success as a businessman stands in stark contrast to his failings as a person. He created a great company, but cheated on his taxes and chased, and caught, young virgins across Oceania. Scurlock does a great job describing the details of just how Hillblom pushed the limits in creating his main business and his later investments; and how he continued to push the line in his personal life. Scurlock creates a uniform picture of Hillblom the man. At the same time, however, Scurlock, acknowledges the mystery of Hillblom's life and death and intentionally makes us wonder if the picture that he paints is complete. It is hard to believe a man as smart as Hillblom, who actually wrote a legal opinion on the rights of unacknowledged heirs, never anticipated that his many children would surface after his death. Maybe the Hillblom will litigation was a gift to his kids, or maybe he just never got around to dealing with issue. We will never know. The book is a quick read and would be good companion on a plane. It is an interesting detour from the usual airport escapism and actually makes the reader think about the how the same qualities that led to success in business, may have led to personal disaster. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a book for those who enjoy probates, not for those looking to learn about entrepreneurship. By Yu-Hua Yang When you buy a book, usually you have an objective of what you want to get out of it. In my case, with this book, I mainly wanted to learn about how Larry built his DHL empire and accounts of his pedophilia and taking advantage of poor Asian women. While the book covered the 2 objectives that I wanted to learn about Larry, it could have done it in a lot less pages. Yes the first quarter or so of the book was indeed about how Larry built DHL from the ground up, and I do enjoy reading that it was so challenging and at times it seemed DHL was doomed to fail. It's great to learn about successful entrepreneurs facing such challenges that they almost gave up but eventually through perseverance and luck, they succeeded. You almost never hear about the failures of success stories and how they almost never made it. The pedophilia was mentioned here and there without any real detailed accounts. I guess the author did not want to touch the subject too much, as he himself would have to investigate these things. So, nothing really on the pedo. The rest and majority of the book was entirely about Larry's probate and how so many people wanted a piece of his wealth that he had when he died. I am not a probate lawyer and so I really did not enjoy the on and on and on about how many lawyers try to get a piece of the pie for their clients. This is really a book for lawyers and who enjoy interesting probate cases. I finished it because I never leave a book unfinished, but gez, I really did not need to know so much about Larry's probate.

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About the Author James D. Scurlock studied at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania before dropping out to pursue an entrepreneurial venture and later a documentary film career. His first film, *Parents of the Year*, won numerous awards and was an official selection of more than twenty-five film festivals. His first feature-length documentary, *Maxed Out*, explored our culture of debt and won the Special Jury Prize at South by Southwest. His first book, a companion to the award-winning documentary, was nominated for the National MS Society's "Books for a Better Life" Award. He has written, primarily about the impending (and now realized) financial crisis, for *Slate*, *Newsweek*, *The Huffington Post*, and *AARP Magazine*, among others. He has also appeared on numerous programs, including *Nightline*, *The Today Show*, and *CNBC's Power Lunch*. Scurlock lives in Santa Monica, California.