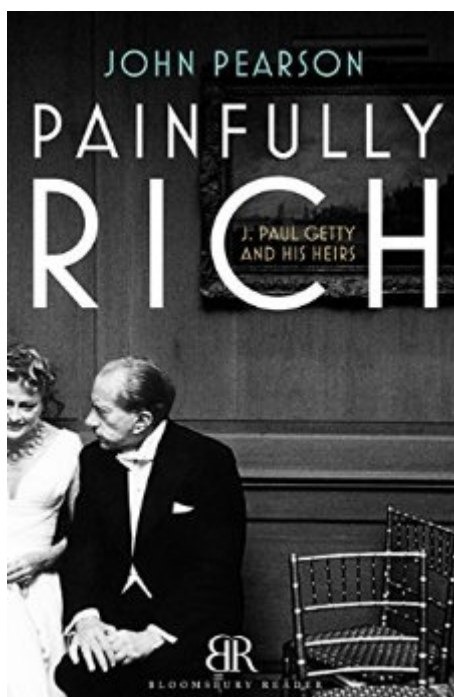


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# Painfully Rich: J. Paul Getty And His Heirs



## Synopsis

Oil tycoon J. Paul Getty created the greatest fortune in America - and came close to destroying his own family in the process. Of his four sons who reached manhood, only one survived relatively unscathed. One killed himself, one became a drug-addicted recluse and the third had to bear the stigma all his life of being disinherited in childhood. The unhappiness continued into the next generation, with the name Getty, as one journalist put it, 'becoming synonymous for family dysfunction'. Getty's once favourite grandson John Paul Getty III was kidnapped by the Italian mafia who cut off his ear to raise a ransom and, after a lifetime of drink and drugs, became a paraplegic. His granddaughter Aileen has AIDS. And the Getty family itself has been torn apart by litigation over their poisoned inheritance. But did the disaster have to happen? John Pearson, who has specialized in biographies of families as varied as the Churchills, the British Royal Family, the Devonshires and the Krays, sets out to find the answer. The result, first published in 1995, is a fascinating saga of an extraordinary dynasty. He traces much of the trouble to the bizarre character of the avaricious, sex-obsessed billionaire, J. Paul Getty himself - and demonstrates how much of his behaviour has been repeated in succeeding generations. He describes the famous kidnapping of his grandson in graphic detail, revealing how the old man's attitude added considerably to the boy's sufferings. And he shows how the family has coped with the latest modern scourges: drugs and AIDS. For Painfully Rich is not a hopeless story. While some of the family have been damaged by the Getty legacy, others have saved themselves from disaster, most notably the cricket-loving philanthropist, J. Paul Getty Jr. Pearson's moving story of his recovery from drugs and deep personal tragedy shows that there is hope for future generations of this stricken family - and demonstrates that money can be used to buy survival and even happiness.

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## Customer Reviews

I really like the way this guy writes. Love his style. He started out so good and gave great info on The Infamous J. Paul Getty. He seemed to spare no truth to let us know who J. Paul really was and what motivated him. The problem came for me towards the end of the book when he really starts getting into who the heirs are today. It read like an advertisement for the heirs. He wants you to know that each and every heir is amazing. The heirs are lovely wonderful responsible adults and anything bad they ever did can all be traced right back to Big Papa, J Paul Getty. All the Blame was placed on J Paul Getty. His kids were his victims. His grand kids were his victims. In fact the author of this book would like you to believe that none of his kids really cares that much about money and would have just rather have had Big Papa's love over any amount of money. If anyone dies it is J. Paul Getty's fault. If anyone does drugs blame that on him too. The second half of the books reads like a promotional piece for the Getty Family. I felt they want to cleanse their image and had this guy write this book for them. He certainly had the families cooperation. What I find interesting is that while the author is polishing Gordon Getty's image, Gordon was out boinking some lady in Los Angeles, some very young, lady. Gordon Getty managed to sire a complete other family in the early 1990's and keep the entire world at bay. Even to this day you see no mention of the 3 girls he fathered outside his marriage. He is still married to his original wife, she never divorced him, but he did manage to have another secret family and keep them hidden. I find it ironic that Big Papa who gets raked over the coals in this book, at least did his dirty family deed in public.

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