



## The House of Getty (Bloomsbury Reader)

*Russell Miller*

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### **The House of Getty (Bloomsbury Reader)** Russell Miller

The tormented saga of the Getty family reads like the script for *Dynasty*, interweaving boardroom battles, sex, money, drugs, power, crime, tragedy, and family intrigue.

At the center stands the figure of John Paul Getty, the grandfather, an eccentric oil billionaire believed to have been the richest man in the world. Married and divorced five times, he had five sons, and yet was cheated of his dearest ambition—to found an oil dynasty. His angelic youngest son died at age twelve after years of illness. Of the remaining four sons, three proved to be hopeless businessmen and, one by one, dropped out of Getty Oil. Only one had the talent to take the helm of the family business, and he was groomed for the part. And then he killed himself.

With his cherished hopes of a family dynasty crushed, John Paul built a magnificent museum as a monument for all time to his success. But money tainted even his philanthropy; the Getty Museum has become feared for its wealth and ability to pillage the art market. In the maneuvering that followed John Paul's death, Getty Oil was sold; Texaco acquired it for \$9.9 billion, the biggest corporate takeover in history.

Award-winning journalist and writer Russell Miller has broken the embargo of silence that has surrounded the Gettys to bring us the extraordinary and often disturbing story of a unique American family. From the pioneering days in the Oklahoma oil fields to the bitter struggles over Getty Oil, we follow the rise and fall of three generations—all apparently cursed with the Midas touch.

### **The House of Getty (Bloomsbury Reader) Details**

Date : Published September 28th 2011 by Bloomsbury Reader (first published 1985)

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Author : Russell Miller

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## **From Reader Review The House of Getty (Bloomsbury Reader) for online ebook**

### **Misty says**

#### **Good history gripping story**

This book contains much detail and history. Its put together in a factual yet moving, perceptive and gripping way. I enjoyed it. V

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### **valerie ann houghton says**

#### **Brilliant read**

Loved this book all that money and not much happiness just greed. But to start from nothing and be so rich is amazing

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### **Michael Mahoney says**

Great read

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### **Dan Jones says**

#### **Very interesting read**

Fascinating read, well put together. Would recommend, held my interest from the beginning to the end. Author did a great job in writing.

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### **Me says**

This book seemed more accurate than The Great Getty. Includes the most detailed account that I've ever read of the kidnapping of Paul Getty III. I also liked the fact that they interviewed his ex-wife. I think the author sums it up well in his dedication saying, something to the extent of I dedicate this to my loved ones, being ever so thankful our name is not Getty.

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### **Daryl says**

A fascinating look into the private lives of the Getty family members, from the parents of J Paul Getty to the many neglected offspring of the famous oil tycoon. The book covers the beginning of the Getty family

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business until the corporate takeover of Getty Oil by Texaco.

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### **Mary says**

#### **Interesting read**

This is a good book for a rainy day on the couch. A self-absorbed guy makes billions, completely detaches himself emotionally from his series of wives and kids, and fills his days with business and sex. His kids are screwed up, even unto the next generation. And they all sue each other.

Crazy people with more money than brains, and little connection to life as most people live it. Kind of a fun read.

I believe it first came out in 1984. No photos in the Kindle version.

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### **Brian Williams says**

#### **A real page turner!**

This book was extremely well-researched. Kind of changed the narrative style a little bit from the beginning to the end but that was probably due to more available research material as the years progressed. This was written very well and kept my interest through the whole book.

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### **Rex McCulloch says**

Thorough, and interesting, sometimes fascinating, to a point (the minutiae of Getty's deals the family's legal squabbles I couldn't stick with). The e-copy contained no notes or photos.

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### **Jim Bowen says**

The book traces what happens to the Getty family over three generations, as the build up, and then sell, Getty Oil. The book mostly focuses on J Paul Getty but looks at his father, and children too.

It wasn't the greatest book if I'm honest. It was balanced enough, but it felt a little too hagiographic with respect to J Paul Getty, with the only real criticism focusing on how he handled his grandson's kidnapping (which was spectacularly ungracious of him).

The greatest criticism in the book focuses on the grandchildren. Money always brings out the worst in people I suspect, and this book pretty much proves it. If there was ever a more dubious example of people grubbing for money, I've yet to read it.

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