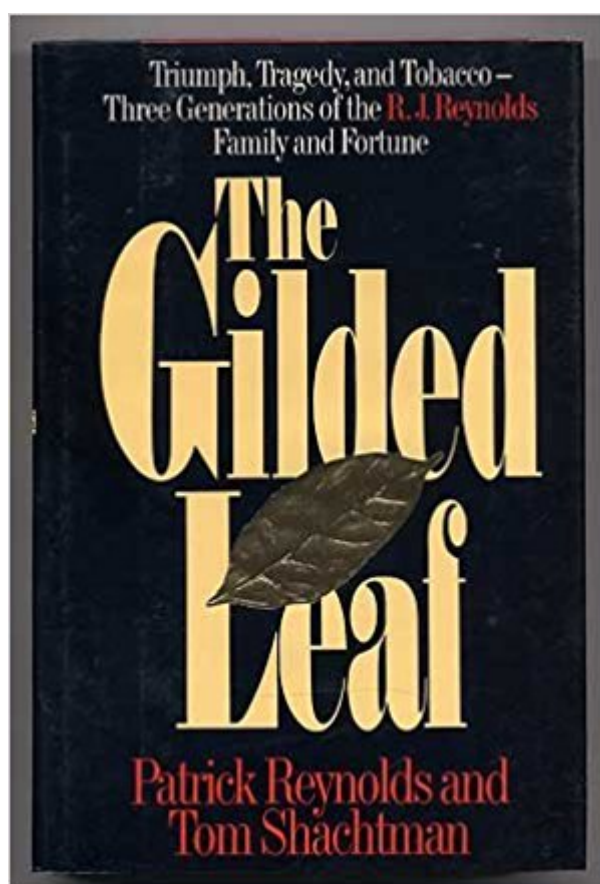


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# Gilded Leaf: Triumph, Tragedy, And Tobacco : Three Generations Of The R J Reynolds Family And Fortune



## Synopsis

This is an account of three generations of the Reynolds tobacco family. R.J.Reynolds was the business genius who founded the company, but his two sons were profligate playboys and his grandsons were all disinherited by their father. The author of the book is one of them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Readers of this captivating account of the R. J. Reynolds tobacco clan may need to remind themselves that it is not fiction. There are colorful characters, a family rising from humble beginnings to attain fabulous wealth and power, scandal and tragedy wrought by excess--and an irony-laden finale. Concentrating on the period from the turn of the century to the present, but going back as far as 1828, Reynolds, grandson of R. J., and Schactman ( *The Phony War* ) explore the workings of a family whose success was a major contributor to the anguish of some of its members. Among these are Dick Reynolds, quintessential Jazz Age playboy who married four times and died of the combined effects of using alcohol and tobacco; Smith Reynolds, daredevil pilot who flew around the world, married twice and died of a gunshot wound--possibly inflicted by his wife--at age 20; and R. J. (Richard Joshua), shrewd, remarkably civic-minded paterfamilias who built the family fortune. Coauthor-descendant Reynolds has put a nice twist on the family history by becoming a crusader for the anti-smoking movement. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Reynolds, one of the disinherited scions of the great tobacco fortune, and Shachtman, a writer, have penned an engrossing narrative of wealth and woe. The lives and times of the Reynolds family are the stuff of which good pulp novels and bad soap operas are made. Their great wealth (the magnitude of which is truly astounding) did not insulate them from misfortune. Most of the book is concerned with founder R.J.'s son Dick (Patrick's father), who died mysteriously in 1964. Dick was a wildly intemperate man, and his relationships with his six sons are fodder for psychoanalysis. Patrick, now a noted antismoking activist, has created a cathartic book for himself. For the rest of us, it is a lurid, well-written book with timeless lessons in between the lines. Recommended.- David M. Turkalo, Social Law Lib . , BostonCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A compelling, true story that reads like fiction. It chronicles the hard work to success to the perils of the excesses that come with family dis-functionality, social status, and wealth without work. I had trouble putting it down. Even when I did, the story continued to echo through my brain, even as I slept. Absolutely fascinating and saddening at the same time. Highly recommended!

This book was very informative about both the birth of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and the family in general. I also found the book a classic in the matters of how children of a wealthy family become so decadent from having millions of which they did nothing to earn that they destroy themselves and the lives of their families. Murder, infidelity, greed, jealousy-----all are twisted together in this very intriguing true story. "One should never have so much money that he should not have to work" ----- the Reynolds heirs are perfect examples of this adage.

This is a very interesting book and story of one of our famous families in the tobacco industry and also the aluminum foil industry. Gives you a good idea of what money can do to a family. A very good read.

A real life story of money, power, sex, politics, and influence. Learn how big time tobacco influenced several industry sectors. Another story that illustrates money doesn't buy happiness. A GREAT read!

Great in-depth look at North Carolina's "royal" tobacco family. Kept me on the edge of my seat through the entire book. Patrick Reynolds really did a great job telling the history of his family. Enjoyed this read very much.

Interesting book. I had the privilege of meeting Patrick Reynolds by chance. I admire what he has had the courage to do with his life.

Was in good condition and met my expectations!

Patrick Reynolds, grandson of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco tycoon, is a wonderful writer and gives compelling insight as a member of this dysfunctional family. This book is excellent!

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