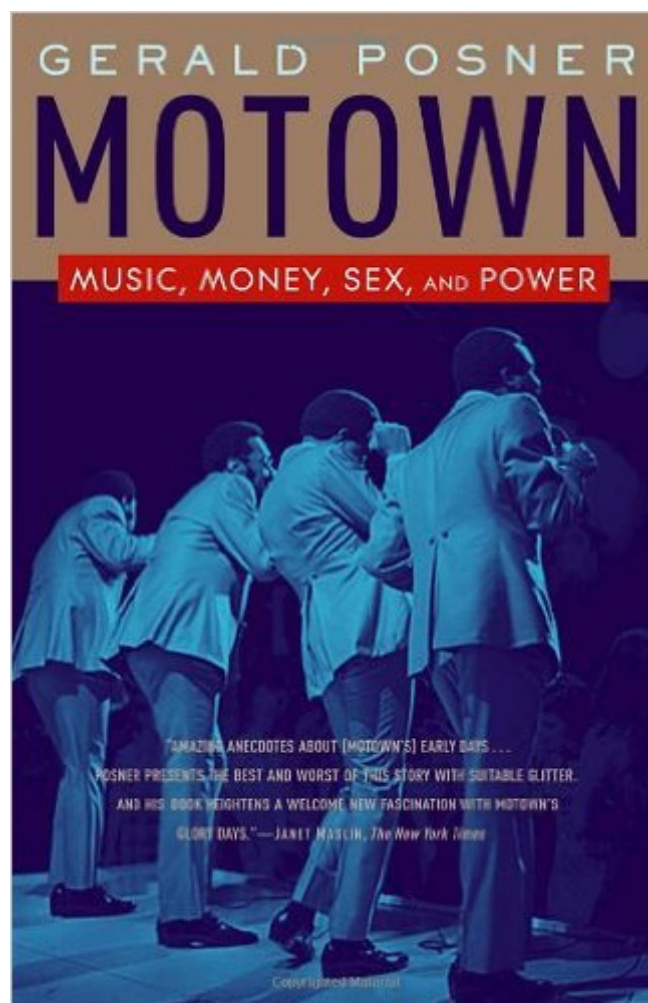


The book was found

Motown: Music, Money, Sex, And Power



Synopsis

In 1959, twenty-nine-year-old Berry Gordy, who had already given up on his dream to be a champion boxer, borrowed eight hundred dollars from his family and started a record company. A run-down bungalow sandwiched between a funeral home and a beauty shop in a poor Detroit neighborhood served as his headquarters. The building's entrance was adorned with a large sign that improbably boasted "Hitsville U.S.A." • The kitchen served as the control room, the garage became the two-track studio, the living room was reserved for bookkeeping, and sales were handled in the dining room. Soon word spread that any youngster with a streak of talent should visit the only record label that Detroit had seen in years. The company's name was Motown. Motown cuts through decades of unsubstantiated rumors and speculation to tell the true behind-the-scenes narrative of America's most exciting musical dynasty. It follows the company and its amazing roster of stars from the tumultuous growth years in Detroit, to the drama and intrigue of Hollywood in the 1970s, to resurgence in 2002. Set against the civil rights movement, the decay of America's northern industrial cities, and the social upheaval of the 1960s, Motown is a tale of the incredible entrepreneurship of Berry Gordy. But it also features the moving stories of kids from Detroit's inner-city projects who achieved remarkable success and then, in many cases, found themselves fighting the demons that so often come with stardom—drugs, jealousy, sexual indulgence, greed, and uncontrollable ambition. Motown features an extraordinary cast of characters, including Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson, and Stevie Wonder. They are presented as they lived and worked: a clan of friends, lovers, competitors, and sometimes vicious foes. Motown reveals how the hopes and dreams of each affected the lives of the others and illustrates why this singular story is a made-in-America Greek tragedy, the rise and fall of a supremely talented yet completely dysfunctional extended family. Based on numerous original interviews and extensive documentation, Motown benefits particularly from the thousands of pages of files crammed into the basement of downtown Detroit's Wayne County Courthouse. Those court records provide the unofficial—and hitherto largely untold—history of Motown and its stars, since almost every relationship between departing singers, songwriters, producers, and the label ended up in litigation. From its peaks in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Motown controlled the pop charts and its stars were sought after even by the Beatles, through the inexorable slide caused by their failure to handle their stardom, Motown is a riveting and troubling look inside a music label that provided the unofficial soundtrack to an entire generation. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (October 11, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812974689

ISBN-13: 978-0812974683

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (55 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #228,716 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Soul](#) #147 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music >](#)

[Business](#) #173 in [Books > Business & Money > Industries > Media & Communications](#)

Customer Reviews

Motown Records is either a) a hallowed sanctuary of soul music best left to be adored from afar, or b) an empire built on dirty dealing and abuse (both emotional and monetary) best exposed as an example of exploitation. Or maybe it is both. Gerald Posner has a hard time making that decision, despite a well researched and historically well documented survey of Berry Gordy (and family's) legendary contribution to the music business. Posner has crafted a study of Motown that presents its founders, and stars as less-than-perfect (though most often well-likable) pioneers in business and entertainment, working together, though often butting heads with each other, in defining a company built on a legendary sound. Everyone is familiar with most of the players - The Gordy Family (this book delves into the family more so than most other Motown studies, and makes clear that Berry was the head, though not the sole talent of the family), Marvin Gaye (who is painted as a head case through much of the book), Diana Ross (Posner adds some new "legends" to this diva's conduct file, none of them pretty or flattering), Stevie Wonder (both respected and severely exploited, given his youth), Smokey Robinson (probably the smartest businessman in the Motown stable), and others. Posner shoots down the legendary "mob-connection" tale, but fills his book with court records, verified statements from insiders, and previously published facts to present a company where competition between artists fueled the hit pipeline, but with severe cost to artists (Florence Ballard's story is still painful to read) and creativity. This book is a great, enjoyable read in many parts, but it fails to capture any of the joy of Motown.

This book is the most intelligent and best-written opus on Motown currently available but why

couldn't the distinguished and experienced Gerald Posner get his FACTS right? I can't believe prominent authors working with prominent publishers and I assume capable editors are stumbling all over the place these days. "Georgeanna Dobbins Tillman" as she's referred to is TWO people, Mr. Posner. Georgeanna Dobbins was one of the five original Marvelettes and cowrote "Please, Mr. Postman." She was replaced by Wanda Young before the group began recording for Motown. Georgeanna Tillman was a different person, also one of the original five. Also: Gladys Horton was not replaced as lead singer in the Marvelettes by Anne Bogan. Well before Horton left Wanda Young has assumed the lead on records, though in person both ladies alternately led. Bogan came into the group as a background singer, only recording leads on two album tracks, one of which was pulled for a single. The final Marvelettes album was a Young solo project; Young never refused to move to L.A. nor did the Marvelettes ever make a decision to break up. They just found themselves in Detroit with no record company. Much worse: Martha Reeves not even being told the company had moved. Also: Lynda Laurence and Scherrie Payne were not in the Supremes the same time; Laurence sang with the Jean Terrell-led group, Payne replaced Terrell. Also: Diana Ross, Mary Wilson and Cindy Birdsong did not decide to do the "Return to Love" tour. Diana Ross got the original offer, then called Mary Wilson, who wasn't in the mood to get low pay, no profits from merchandise sales and work as an employee of Miss Ross, with all the attendant disrespect implied (when Ross complained that all Wilson would have had to do is "show up" that really inflamed Wilson.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Sex Pictures: Sex Positions: How to Improve Your Sex Life with Creative Sex Positions and Techniques! (Sex Positions, Sex Pictures, Sex, Kama Sutra) Money: Saving Money: The Top 100 Best Ways To Make Money & Save Money: 2 books in 1: Making Money & Saving Money (Personal Finance, Making Money, Save Money, Wealth Building, Money) Motown: Music, Money, Sex, and Power Erotic Adult Sex Picture Book 5 (Uncensored Hot Sex Pics of Sexy & Horny Girls, 300+ College Sex Photos): full nudity adult sex. Sweet Tits.: Photography ... of Full Nudity Adult Sex Pics Series) Uncensored Sex Pictures: Sex Photos of College Girls & College Sex Pictures (Full nudity sex entertainment pictures book for adults only 2) Personal Finance: Budgeting and Saving Money (FREE Bonuses Included) (Finance, Personal Finance, Budget, Budgeting, Budgeting Money, Save Money, Saving Money, Money) Money: Saving Money: Success: Get More Money & Success In Your Life Now!: 3 in 1 Box Set: Money Making Strategies, Saving Money Strategies & World's Best ... Tips for Personal Finance & Life Success) Money: How to earn money with : Earn \$5000 per Week Part Time using the power of Arbitrage with Liquidation Products on (How to make money ...

on , How to make money with) Beginning Power BI with Excel 2013: Self-Service Business Intelligence Using Power Pivot, Power View, Power Query, and Power Map Power Pivot and Power BI: The Excel User's Guide to DAX, Power Query, Power BI & Power Pivot in Excel 2010-2016 How to Talk Dirty : Dirty Talk Examples, Secrets for Women and Men, Straight, Gay and Bi, Spice Up Your Sex Life and Have Mindblowing Sex: Great Sex Book, Series 1 Sex and Marriage: How to Guide for Sex and Passion and Desire for Married Couples: Discover the 10 Ways to Turn Your Sex Life From Routine to Lustful Desire Big Boobs Sex! Adult Sex Pictures (Photo Book 2 of 250 hot erotic nude pics = UNCENSORED full nudity) of a hot naked MILF woman with big tits and sexy ... Collection Album Series of Sex Pics) Big Boobs Sex! Adult Sex Pictures (photo book 2 of 50 hot erotic nude pics = UNCENSORED full nudity) of a hot naked woman with big tits and sexy butts: ... album series with Beautiful Sex Pictures) Big Boobs Sex! Adult Sex Pictures (Photo Book 7 of 300+ hot erotic nude pics = UNCENSORED full nudity) of hot naked MILF women with big tits and sexy ass: ... Collection Album Series of Sex Pics) Big Boobs Sex! Adult Sex Pictures (photo book 1 of 50 hot erotic nude pics = UNCENSORED full nudity) of a hot naked woman with big tits and sexy butts: ... album series with Beautiful Sex Pictures) Uncensored Adult Sex Pictures - Photo Book 3 - Hot Erotic Photography of Sexy Girls and Women with not so Big Boobs: Adult Sex Pictures Vol. 3 (Wayne's ... Collection Album Series of Sex Pics) Big Boobs Sex! Adult Sex Pictures (Photo Book 9 of 600 hot erotic nude pics = UNCENSORED full nudity) of hot naked MILF women with big tits and sexy ass: ... Collection Album Series of Sex Pics) Full Nudity Uncensored Sex Pictures of Horny Girls with small tits & hot pussy. Full nudity private striptease pics: Uncensored adult sex photo book of ... models). (Jubilee Sex Pictures Books 2) Uncensored Adult Sex Pictures (300 pics, Photo Book 2) of Hot Sexy Girls, Nude & Horny, College Sex Pick-ups: full nudity! Big Boobs!: Photography of Amateur ... Adult Sex Pictures Collection Series)

[Dmca](#)