



Recommended Reading & Resource List

Director Jay Briggs curated the following list of works as companion pieces to The Warehouse Theatre's production of *The Lehman Trilogy*, which runs February 2-18, 2024.

The Lehman Trilogy: A Novel

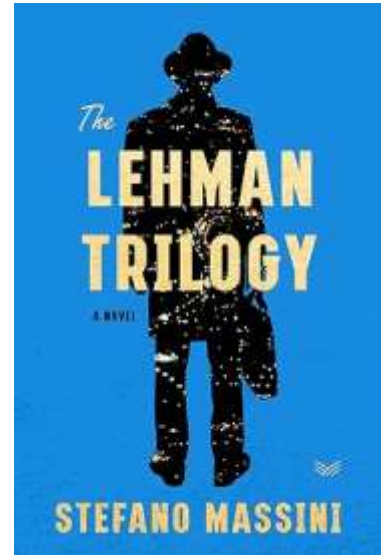
By Stefano Massini

Translated by Richard Dixon

Book Jacket:

After leaving his native Bavaria, Henry Lehman arrives in America determined to make a better life. Sensing opportunity in the Deep South, he opens a textile shop in Alabama, laying the foundation for a dynasty that will come to dominate and define modern capitalism. Emanuel and his brother Mayer begin investing in anything and everything that will turn a profit, from cotton to coal to railroads to oil to airplanes - even at the expense of the very nation that forged them.

Spanning three generations and 150 years, *The Lehman Trilogy* is a moving epic that dares to tell the story of modern capitalism through the saga of the Lehman brothers and their descendants. Surprising and exciting, brilliant and inventive, Stefano Massini's masterpiece - like *Hamilton* - is a story of immigration, ambition, and success; it is the story of America itself from a daring and original perspective.

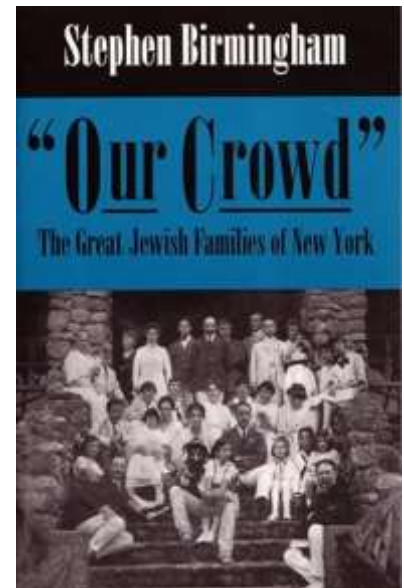


Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York

By Stephen Birmingham

Book Jacket:

They immigrated to America from Germany in the nineteenth century with names like Loeb, Sachs, Seligman, Lehman, Guggenheim, and Goldman. From tenements on the Lower East Side to Park Avenue mansions, this handful of Jewish families turned small businesses into imposing enterprises and amassed spectacular fortunes. But despite possessing breathtaking wealth that rivaled the Astors and Rockefellers, they were barred by the gentile establishment from the lofty realm of "the 400," a register of New York's most elite, because of their religion and humble backgrounds. In response, they created their own elite "100," a privileged society as opulent and exclusive as the one that had refused them entry.



"Our Crowd" is the fascinating story of this rarefied society. Based on letters, documents, diary entries, and intimate personal remembrances of family lore by members of these most illustrious clans, it is an engrossing portrait of upper-class Jewish life over two centuries; a riveting story of the bankers, brokers, financiers, philanthropists, and business tycoons who started with nothing and turned their family names into American institutions.

The Last of the Imperious Rich: Lehman Brothers, 1844-2008 **By Peter Champan**

Book Jacket:

On September 11, 1844, Henry Lehman arrived in New York City on a boat from Germany. Soon after, he moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where he and his brother Emanuel established a modest cotton brokering firm that would come to be called Lehman Brothers.

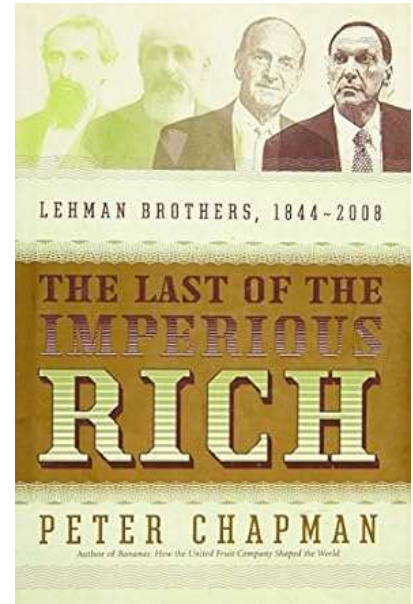
On September 15, 2008, Dick Fuld, the last CEO of Lehman Brothers, filed for corporate bankruptcy amid one of the worst financial crises in American history. After 164 years, one of the largest and most respected investment banks in the world was gone, leaving everyone wondering, "How could this have happened?"

Peter Chapman, an editor and writer for The Financial Times, answers this question by exploring the complete history of Lehman Brothers between those two historic Septembers. He takes us back to its early days as a cotton broker in Alabama, and then to its glory days as one of the leading corporate financiers in America. He also provides an intimate portrait of the people who ran Lehman over the decades—from Henry Lehman, the founder, to Bobbie Lehman, who led the company into the world of radio, motion pictures, and air travel in first part of the 20th century, to Dick Fuld, who allowed it to morph into a dealer of shoddy securities.

Throughout his account of this imperiously rich firm, Chapman examines the impact Lehman Brothers had not only on American finance but also on American life. As a major backer of companies like Pan American Airlines, Macy's, and RKO, Lehman helped lead the country into major new industries and helped support some of its most intrepid entrepreneurs.

He then shows how, starting in the 1980s, Lehman's increased focus on short-term gain investments led the firm down the dangerous path that would eventually lead to its demise.

In the end, the story of Lehman Brothers is not only the story of a truly important American company but a cautionary tale of what happens when leaders lose sight of their core mission in their quest for something too good to be true.



Trust

By Hernan Diaz

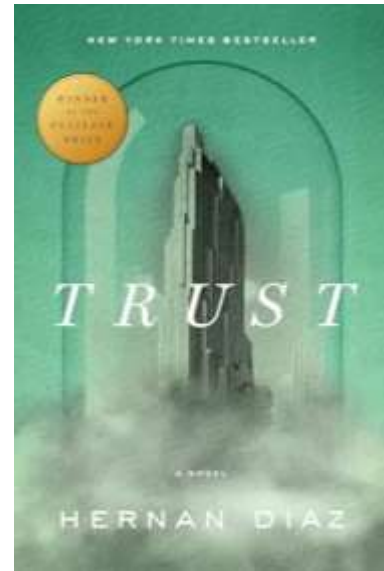
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION
A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES TOP TEN BOOKS OF 2022
ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2022
LONGLISTED FOR THE 2022 BOOKER PRIZE

Book Jacket:

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune? This is the mystery at the center of *Bonds*, a successful 1937 novel that all of New York seems to have read. Yet there are other versions of this tale of privilege and deceit.

Hernan Diaz's *TRUST* elegantly puts these competing narratives into conversation with one another—and in tension with the perspective of one woman bent on disentangling fact from fiction. The result is a novel that spans over a century and becomes more exhilarating with each new revelation.

At once an immersive story and a brilliant literary puzzle, *TRUST* engages the reader in a quest for the truth while confronting the deceptions that often live at the heart of personal relationships, the reality-warping force of capital, and the ease with which power can manipulate facts.



The Collapse of Lehman Brothers

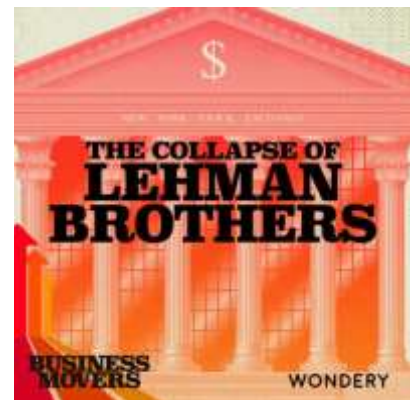
Business Movers

From Wondery

<https://wondery.com/shows/business-movers/season/8/>

Description

This five-episode arc of Wondery's Business Movers podcast explores the events and decisions leading to the catastrophic collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. Each 30-40 minute episode takes a deep dive into the personalities whose ill-fated decision-making helped spur one of the deepest recessions in American history and the oft-forgotten insiders who desperately tried to right the ship before it was too late. Complete with dramatizations and well-researched reporting, this audio mini-series gives even the layperson a better understanding of the technical aspects of The Great Recession and insight into the hubris that made it possible.





ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Jay Briggs is glad to be back in production with The Warehouse Theatre. His previous Warehouse directing credits include WITCH, APPROPRIATE, THE LOTUS PARADOX, PRIDE & PREJUDICE, CLYBOURNE PARK, IMPORTANT HATS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY on the mainstage, 2023's educational touring production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, and FIRE IN THE GARDEN and GERMS as part of the 2020-2021 "Warehouse In Your House" digital season. Other local and regional directing credits include productions at Mill Town Players, Lean Ensemble Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, and HUB BUB Arts Center/Chapman Cultural Center. He is an alum of Actors Theatre of Louisville's professional intern company and a former literary intern with The Civilians. He was an Altvater Artistic Fellow with Cornerstone Theater in Los Angeles, training in their methodology for community-based collaboration. He puts that training to use serving as The Warehouse Theatre's Director of Education and Community Engagement, working to extend the company's work beyond the walls of 37 Augusta Street. He holds a B.F.A. in Acting from Elon University and an M.A. in Theology & Culture with an emphasis in Theology, Imagination, and the Arts from The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology.

