# **Unveiling the Opulent Legacy: Too Rich: The Family Secrets of Doris Duke**

In the annals of American wealth and eccentricity, the name Doris Duke stands tall. The heiress to a vast tobacco fortune, Duke's life was a captivating tapestry of privilege, scandal, and enigmatic secrets. "Too Rich: The Family Secrets of Doris Duke," a riveting biography by Kitty Kelley, delves into the hidden world of this enigmatic heiress, shedding light on the opulent lifestyle, family dramas, and tragic events that shaped her destiny.



#### Too Rich: The Family Secrets of Doris Duke by Jason Thomas

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.2 out of 5 Language : English File size : 1474 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled X-Ray : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 197 pages Lending : Enabled



#### The Fortune and the Feud

Doris Duke, born in 1912, inherited a staggering fortune from her tobacco tycoon father, James Buchanan Duke. With an estimated worth of \$250 million at the time, she became one of the world's wealthiest women. However, her inheritance also brought with it a bitter feud with her stepmother, Nanaline Duke. The rift between the two women reached its

peak in 1966 when Doris Duke accused her stepmother of stealing from her.

Kelley's book provides a detailed account of this tumultuous family dynamic, revealing the behind-the-scenes power struggles and personal betrayals that plagued Doris Duke's life.

#### The Eccentric Heiress

Beyond the fortune and the feud, Doris Duke was a woman of remarkable eccentricity. She was a passionate art collector, amassing an impressive collection spanning various eras and cultures. Duke also had a lavish lifestyle, indulging in extravagant parties, exotic travels, and a succession of pet animals.

Kelley's biography vividly captures the allure and excess that characterized Doris Duke's life. She delves into Duke's fascination with astrology, her pursuit of exotic romances, and her controversies with the authorities.

### The Love Affairs and Marriages

Doris Duke's personal life was as tumultuous as it was opulent. She married twice, but both unions ended in divorce. Her first husband, James Cromwell, was a Russian prince, while her second husband, Porfirio Rubirosa, was a Dominican playboy.

Kelley's book provides a fascinating account of these marriages, uncovering the power dynamics, infidelity, and heartbreak that plagued Duke's relationships.

### The Mysterious Death and the Inheritance Battle

In 1993, Doris Duke passed away under mysterious circumstances, her fortune estimated at \$1.3 billion. Her death sparked a fierce inheritance battle that captivated the nation.

Kelley's biography delves into the legal proceedings and family disputes that ensued after Duke's passing, revealing the complexities of her will and the motivations of those vying for her fortune.

### **Legacy and Impact**

Doris Duke's legacy is a complex one. She was both admired for her philanthropy and criticized for her eccentricities. Her art collection, now housed in the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, continues to inspire and educate.

Kelley's book provides a comprehensive and thought-provoking examination of Duke's life and its impact on American society. It is an essential read for anyone interested in the history of wealth, family dynasties, and the human search for meaning.

"Too Rich: The Family Secrets of Doris Duke" is an immersive and unforgettable biography that transports readers into the opulent and enigmatic world of one of America's most fascinating heiresses. Kitty Kelley's deft writing captures the allure, excess, and tragedy that defined Doris Duke's life, providing a riveting account that will captivate and provoke readers for years to come.

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