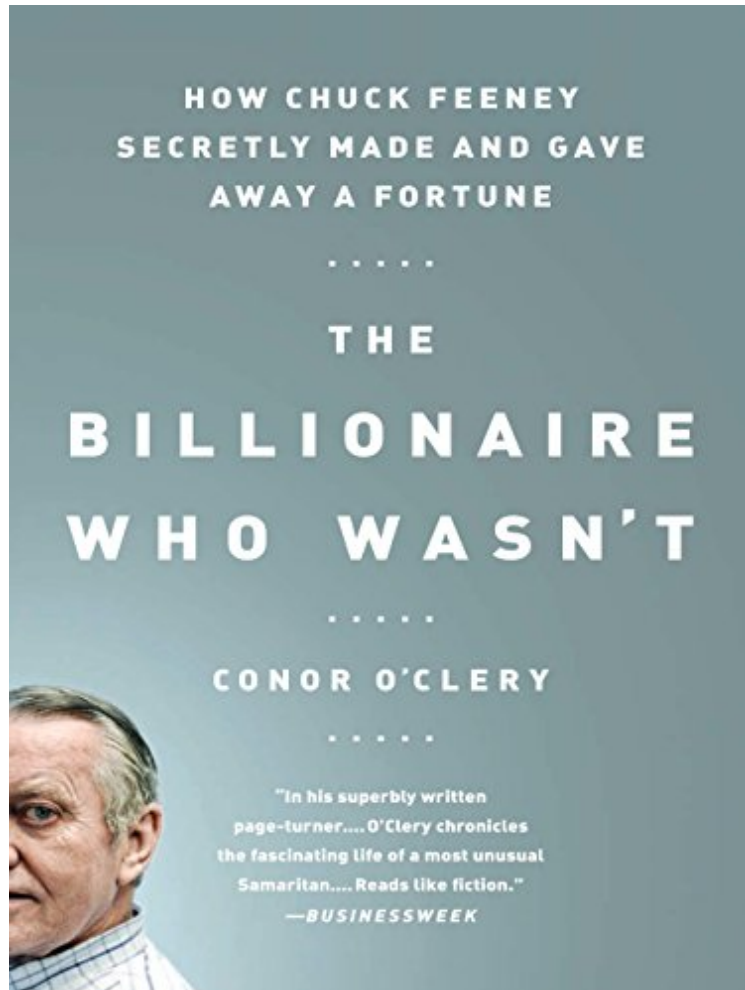


The Billionaire Who Wasn't: How Chuck Feeney Secretly Made and Gave Away a Fortune

Conor O'Clery

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Conor O'Clery : The Billionaire Who Wasn't: How Chuck Feeney Secretly Made and Gave Away a Fortune before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Billionaire Who Wasn't: How Chuck Feeney Secretly Made and Gave Away a Fortune*:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Phenomenal story, less than phenomenal writing
By Amit
The story of Chuck Feeney is both fascinating and inspiring. O'Clery's tells the tale of a scrappy, inventive entrepreneur who does a marvelous amount of good in the world, devoting his life to giving his fortune to high performing philanthropic institutions. The writing, however, is not on par with the best biographies or business tales. We lack the window into Chuck Feeney's soul that some other biographers are able to bring out of their subjects. We never really understand what makes Chuck tick, which is partly due to Chuck's own lack of introspection--he was never able to articulate to anyone else while giving was so important to him so referred them to articles. The book also seems to lack balance,

glossing over Chuck's divorce from his first wife and the angry, depressed outbursts he would have prior to this separation. The book also offers detailed play-by-play reviews of several of DFS's key transactions and tells the story of several philanthropies that Chuck funded, how he selected them, and how they executed. Particularly the DFS stories remind me of *The Barbarians at the Gate* or *Too Big To Fail*, which dramatize business events. Unfortunately, these two analogies are much better written stories than the DFS stories in this book. Even as a professional financial investor I found myself skimming and skipping to avoid the chronological droll that plagues this book. The book is still worth a read given the amazing story of Chuck Feeney, but it will not be the best book you've ever read.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "Giving while living" By bright spark
What a fascinating read. I am so delighted Chuck Feeney allowed us to read his amazing life story. One of the most uplifting reads. It really got me thinking about my own life of abundance and how if we all behaved like him with such compassion, energy and selflessness how great the world would be. If you decide the destiny of your wealth how much further and wiser it is spent - "giving while living" - his mantra!!! EVERYONE should read this amazing life story. What a man what a hero he is DEFINATELY my HERO!!! This book deserves 10 stars.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Seeking information
By C. Laursen I really liked this book and was glad that I read it. Of course, if I had not previously heard of Chuck Feeney, I would probably have never picked up this book. It could easily be called dull, but as I really wanted to know more: it wasn't dull to me.

Chuck Feeney was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to a blue-collar Irish-American family during the Depression. After service in the Korean War, he made a fortune as founder of Duty Free Shoppers, the world's largest duty-free retail chain. By 1988, he was hailed by *Forbes Magazine* as the twenty-fourth richest American alive. But secretly Feeney had already transferred all his wealth to his foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies. Only in 1997 when he sold his duty free interests, was he "outed" as one of the greatest and most mysterious American philanthropists in modern times. After going "underground" again, he emerged in 2005 to cooperate on a biography promoting giving while living. Now in his mid-seventies, Feeney is determined his foundation should spend down the remaining 4 billion in his lifetime.

About the Author
Conor O'Clery is an award-winning journalist and author who served as foreign correspondent for *The Irish Times* in London, Moscow, Beijing, Washington, and New York. He has written books on Russian, Irish, and American politics. He now lives in Dublin, Ireland.