Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe

The name Vanderbilt has been, for generations of Americans, synonymous with wealth and power. Beginning with Cornelius Vanderbilt in the 1800s, the Vanderbilt family skyrocketed to the top of wealth and society in the United States, and stayed there for decades.

As so often has been the case, with great wealth also came great scandal and heartache. Elaborately decorated mansions and extended trips around the world were interspersed with affairs, child abandonment, and extensive suffering.

Written by Anderson Cooper, son of Gloria Vanderbilt, this book traces the history of this prestigious family, from their swift rise to their painful fall.