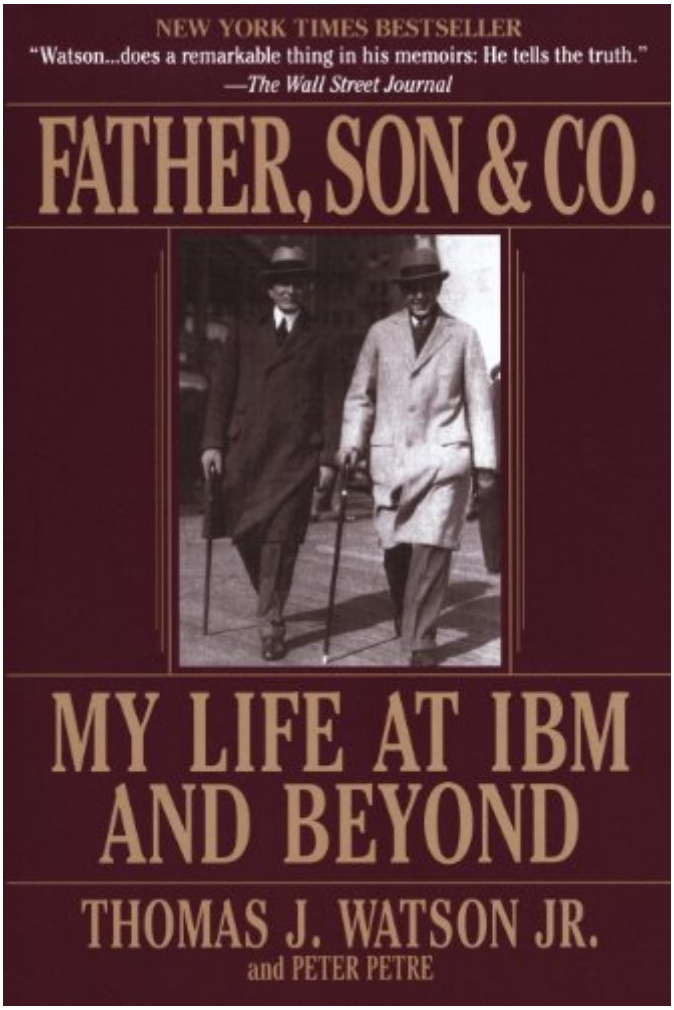
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Father, Son & Co.: My Life At IBM And Beyond



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Synopsis

In this eloquent first-person account of a family drama that changed the face of American business, the man who transformed IBM into the world's largest computer company reflects on his lifelong partnership with his father--and how their management style and shared dedication to excellence united to create a unique corporate culture that became the blueprint for the entire technology boom.In the course of sixty years Thomas J. Watson Sr. and his son, Thomas J. Watson Jr., together built the international colossus that is IBM. This is their story: a riveting and revealing account of two men who loved each other--and fought each other--with a terrible fierceness.But along with the story of a father and son, this is IBM's story too. It chronicles the management insights that shaped its course and its unique corporate culture, the style that made Thomas Watson Sr. one of America's most charismatic bosses, and the daring decisions by Thomas Watson Jr. that transformed IBM into the world's largest computing company. One of the greatest business-success stories of all time, Father, Son & Co. is a moving lesson for fathers who dream for their children, as well as a testament to American ingenuity and values, told in a disarmingly frank and eloquent voice.Promising to remain an important business reference as we move into the next century, FATHER, SON & CO. takes a look at the management insight that helped to shape IBM's course and unique corporate culture.Ã Â Ã Â It looks at Watson, Sr., one of America's most charismatic bosses, and Watson, Jr., who spurred IBM into the computer age.Ten years after its original publication, FATHER, SON & CO. remains a uniquely honest book. Watson's willingness to write about the loving but ferociously combative relationship he had with his father and the turbulent battles behind some of IBM's most far-reaching decisions gives readers rare insights into the realities of leadership. -->

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book on the strong recommendation of a friend who referred me in to IBM for a job. It had been recommended to him as a means for better understanding IBM's philosophies, culture and business practices during his long tenure as the manager of another technology company's business alliance with IBM. Tom Watson, Jr spent more than half of his life deeply enmeshed in IBM, from boyhood through a significant portion of his professional adult life. It is, in fact, a deeply revealing look inside IBM and did fulfill my primary goal of better understanding my new employer.What I wasn't expecting was the rich, fascinating story of an incredibly interesting life. Tom gives us a compelling recount of an historic journey, in and out of IBM, that includes a close look at the under-told story of America's WWII relationship with the Soviet Union, how IBM evolved from a somewhat stodgy business machine manufacturer to an innovative technology leader, and his post-IBM adventures in business and government. As I turned the last page and closed the book, what struck with me, and has stayed with me, was how honest and authentic his story had been. Tom didn't gloss over things that were unpleasant or didn't show him in a favorable light -- he shined a bright light on them and made at least part of his story a cathartic confession of his failings as well as a celebration of his (many more) successes.Just a terrific read about an extraordinary American. More than worth the time!

Going into this I was expecting a ton of business talk and technical info. Only to learn that it was not just that but quite possibly one of the best books I ever read. I grew up and still live in the region where IBM built its great factories and world headquarters in the tristate area in the US so almost all the places and sites he describes are familiar to me. Incredibly revealing and surprising information is freely given by Watson which is uncommon for someone of his generation. I won't reveal much details about the book itself but I truly hope that someone in Hollywood has the ambition to make a

movie about it.

Wow, what a lovely book. A great book to begin the journey of learning about IBM. Who better to tell the story than Tom Watson.No, it’s not all about the computers and tabulators, though Tom has much to say about the hardware and software as well as the goings on in "Big Blue", the IBM’ers of the time and his own family and their friends.Tom was no angel but his the book explains much of what was going on in his head and shows that the family cared very much for the company and it’s staff. Makes ya’ THINK!

Loved the book but I got a part time job attending college running punch card machines. They were electro mechanical machines that were engineering wonders for what they did. In today’s world, not that much, but they were all we had. I had a knack for wiring them and fortunately that carried into stored program computers. Like getting out of a bi-wing airplane and into a jet. Yes, that much, a whole different world. You could read the data in a punch card but it disappeared on a mag tape or disk. Some guys couldn’t handle that and dropped out.

An open and honest review of a life. Thomas J. Watson continued where his father stoped and made his life and the company great ones.Well-written, easy to grasp.I think that there is a mistake at chapter 33.: a mansion built for the Czarist sugar magnate is probably built before WW I, not WW II.

What is the difference between a widely successful company and a mediocre one? What was the difference between IBM and, say, the makers of UNIVAC? The difference was not in the technology or in being at the right place at the right time. The difference was IBM’s leadership and in particular Thomas J. Watson Jr’s leadership. There are exceedingly few examples in the history of business when a very successful company risks everything to climb to an even higher level. That is what IBM did with project 360 and it is possible that no other person except Watson Jr. was in a position to implement such a daring undertaking. He had courage, vision, and, yes, credibility. IMHO, Tomas J. Watson Jr. is the manager of the century (20th)and through this book you can gain some insights into his leadership style.

The IBM 702 was the first commercially available modular computer second only the ENIAC Tom Watson Jr. Guided IBM out of the mechanical Hollerith machine era into the modern computer age

this is his story.

a little dated, however it is a good analysis of real life family business challenges

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