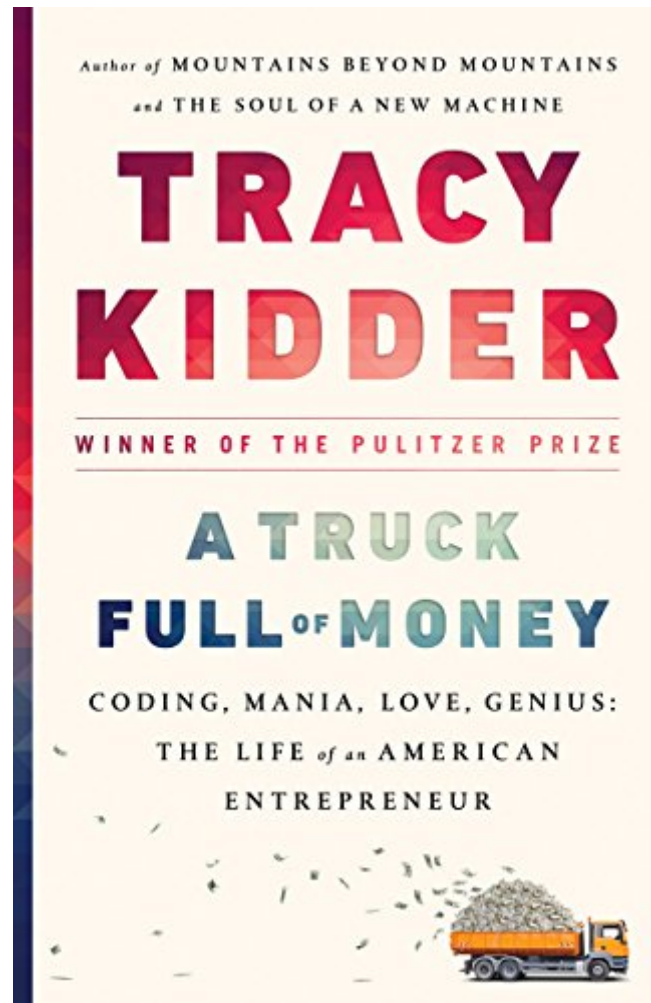




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A Truck Full Of Money



Synopsis

A perfectly executed, exquisitely reported parable of the Internet age and the wild, mad adventure that is start-up culture. "Charles Duhigg Fortune, mania, genius, philanthropy" the bestselling author of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* gives us the inspiring story of Paul English, the founder of Kayak.com and Lola. Tracy Kidder, the "master of the nonfiction narrative" (*The Baltimore Sun*) and author of the bestselling classic *The Soul of a New Machine*, now tells the story of Paul English, a kinetic and unconventional inventor and entrepreneur, who as a boy rebelled against authority. Growing up in working-class Boston, English discovers a medium for his talents the first time he sees a computer. As a young man, despite suffering from what would eventually be diagnosed as bipolar disorder, he begins his pilgrim's journey through the ups and downs in the brave new world of computers. Relating to the Internet as if it's an extension of his own mind, he discovers that he has a talent for conceiving innovative enterprises and building teams that can develop them, becoming "a Pied Piper" of geeks. His innovative management style, success, and innate sense of fair play inspire intense loyalty. Early on, one colleague observes: "Someday this boy's going to get hit by a truck full of money, and I'm going to be standing beside him." Yet when English does indeed make a fortune, when the travel website Kayak is sold for almost two billion dollars "the first thing he thinks about is how to give the money away: 'What else would you do with it?' The second thing he thinks is, 'What's next?' With the power of a consummate storyteller, Tracy Kidder casts a fresh, critical, and often humorous eye on the way new ideas and new money are reshaping our culture and the world. *A Truck Full of Money* is a mesmerizing portrait of an irresistibly endearing man who is indefatigable, original, and as unpredictable as America itself. Praise for *A Truck Full of Money* "Kidder's prose glides with a figure skater's ease, but without the glam. His is a seemingly artless art, like John McPhee's, that conceals itself in sentences that are necessary, economical, and unpretentious." "The Boston Globe "Kidder's portrayal of living with manic depression is as nuanced and intimate as a reader might ever expect to get. . . . You can't help admiring Mr. English and cheering for him." "The New York Times "A powerful and insightful tale that makes the Internet era entertaining, and defines English as an endearing, generous and eccentric geek." "USA Today "At times, the narrative of the young technologist, at least in Kidder's hands, seems the modern equivalent of the story of the godless wayfarer who stumbles into a cathedral in a distant city, only to find that its vaulting arches and organ music bring on exaltations of mind and spirit." "The New York Times Book Review "What kind of entrepreneur talks about making money as if it's, well, kind of a bummer? You'll ask yourself that question about a dozen or

so pages into A Truck Full of Money, Tracy Kidder's expertly reported, deftly written new book that tracks the rise of unconventional software executive and Kayak.com co-founder Paul English. "The San Francisco Chronicle" "Kidder writes beautifully, creating an engaging storyline while avoiding clichés and pretention. . . . Readers are in for a fascinating ride." "The National Book Review" From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Tracy Kidder has a knack for making his readers feel "up close and personal" with his subjects....bigger than life high achievers like Paul English, Paul Farmer, Tom White and even my old travel buddy Joel Cutler via cameo. Vivid portrayal of what real entrepreneurs are...and are not.

Not as compelling as Tracy Kidder's other books. Just "Okay." I actually know Paul English, and his genuine brilliance doesn't come through in the book.

A fascinating look at a successful entrepreneur/venture capitalist fighting his demons! A great read

and a look at the high tech world.

This book was particularly interesting to me because I grew up with Paul and went to high school with him at Boston Latin. In fact, I even started my career at Boston Latin in the same room with the old IBM computer writing Fortran programs on punch cards. I even got to experience some of Paul's obsession with fast cars when he gave me a ride home from a party in high school in his old Camaro, topping 70 mph in a 30 mile-per-hour zone. I think I can say that since that the statute of limitations is now past ;-) I followed Paul's career from a distance and had the opportunity to work with him a little bit when he joined the board of the startup company where I was the head of marketing and product management. The thing that was most surprising about this book was how accurately Mr. Kidder captured Paul's life " or at least the small parts that I experienced firsthand. Like some of the other reviewers, I would have appreciated to hear more about Paul's philanthropic endeavors or his struggle with bipolar disorder. At the same time, going to deep would have felt like an invasion of his privacy. But overall, the thing that was most interesting to me was the description of the elements that made him most successful in his multiple endeavors. I think Paul's formula is pretty simple " he does things he is extremely passionate about and he assembles a team of great people to deliver on his vision. He also does have an uncanny ability for hiring great talent. While I may have a slightly different perspective than others, I would think that anyone who has an interest in entrepreneurial ventures would learn a great deal from this book. And although it doesn't illuminate every facet of Paul's life, I can attest to the fact that the ones I personally experienced were accurately depicted in a very compelling way.

A superb case study of new entrepreneurs. A range from tech smart to bipolar transitions. Beautifully crafted to capture the scope from schemes to startups, and human to the point of gentle irony from a base that makes greed as futile as hate.

Great book!

Well written, as are all of Tracy Kidder's books. But the subject was not a compelling nor particularly interesting life story.

good read and price. interesting story of "paying it forward"/

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