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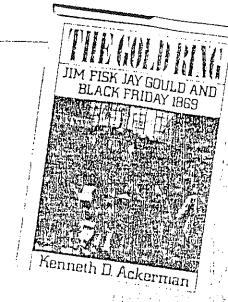
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Greed, gold and gamesmanship

t was one of the most audacious plots in Wall Street 🏝 history. In 1869, Jay Gould and Jim Fisk, Jr., nearly cornered - Fisk and Gould's scheme to New York's gold market, and in the process devastated the nation's economy. This lively history brings back the bizarre; events of more than a century ago when these two wunderkinds! subverted Wall Street; the courts, the press, the U.S. Treasury, the White House and then walked away from the mess they created scot-free.

The author, Kenneth Ackerman, is no stranger to such financial debacles. As an attorney for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Ackernian investigated the alleged silver. market manipulation in 1980 🕛 and the 1985 failure of a key New York gold trading firm. Most recently, he helped devise the CFTC responses to the "Black Monday" stock market: collapse on October 19, 1987. Ackerman's in-depth knowledge: of the market combined with his skill as a writer makes The Gold: Ring irresistible reading:

Fisk and Gould's ploy was brilliant, simple and sure to succeed - if, that is, they could convince President Grant not to dump Federal gold on the market. And even though their partner in greed was the infamous Boss Tweed, not even the long

arm of Tammany Hall graft could reach the White House. Ackerman's lucid unfolding of handcuff,the President. - and their eventual, ruinous failure reads like a high-finance thriller.

More than simply a dramatic retelling of the panic, crash and wholesale bankruptcies caused by Fisk and Gould's wheeling and dealing, Ackerman paints an evocative picture of the days when Wall Street was an untamed frontier and big-money deals resembled bare knuckled brawls. Bribery, double-dealing and out and out lies were an accepted part of the game. In one memorable incident, Fisk and Gould spread rumors that their archenemy Cornelius Vanderbilt had just died in a train wreck. The two weren't particularly looking to make a profit - they simply sat back and laughed as stock in the Commodore's companies fell through the floor.

Crammed full with largerthan-life figures and written from the unique perspective of an insider in today's financial arena, The Gold Ring is an entertaining and revealing history of Wall Street's formative years.

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