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Hard Money Details

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Al says

Mr. Thomas wrote a chatty tell-all novel in 1985 of Wall Street, greed, shallowness, and wealthy Philistines, all examined from the point of view of a supposedly clear-eyed, cynical but lovable, world-weary journalist who is torn between his loyalty to a charismatic captain of industry and his disdain for the cultural and moral wasteland he inhabits. The book could -- and should -- be a lot shorter than its 450 dense pages if it spent less time gleefully detailing the various famous paintings, huge houses, expensive furniture, obscene dinners and beverages, and moral lapses of Mr. Thomas's characters, and avoided the frequent descriptions of his protagonist's innumerable sexual conquests. It is interesting to read *Hard Money*, though, and try to remember the c. 1985 period of which Mr. Thomas writes. I'm not well-connected enough to know how many thinly veiled real people were included in this book, although Mr. Thomas's political convictions are quite clear. Maybe it would be more fun to read if you were in the know. Unfortunately, since some 30 years have passed, the book has lost whatever dishy spice it may have had at the time. I would say if you're looking for a really strong book of this genre, you can't do better than the great *Bonfire of the Vanities*, in my opinion the standard against which all books of this type should be measured.

Naomi says

Sam Mountcastle, s journalist is summoned to a meeting with an old friend H.H. Monstrance. X as he is known retired from a broadcasting and entertainment empire, leaving it in charge of his son, Abner. X has decided to take his empire back and wants Sam's help to do. This is a richly written book about corporate affairs, money and totally rich people. X decides to take on the President of the United States through his broadcasting empire because he thinks the man is corrupt and wants to prove it. A lot of technical information necessary in this type of book but which can be a little too much information creates the 3 stars instead of 4 for me.
