

*The*  
BIOGRAPHY  
of BILL  
GATES

Secrets Behind  
the Success of  
the Microsoft  
Billionaire



The Biography of Bill Gates

Secrets Behind the Success of the  
Microsoft Billionaire

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# Table Of Contents

**Chapter 1 – Early Life**

**Chapter 2 – Microsoft’s Beginnings**

**Chapter 3 – The Rise of Microsoft**

**Chapter 4 – Microsoft Windows**

**Chapter 5 – From Millionaire to Billionaire**

**Chapter 6 – Personal Life**

**Chapter 7 – Gates’ Philanthropy**

**Bonus Chapter – Bill Gates’ Famous Quotes**

**Conclusion**

**Preview of The Biography of Steve Jobs: Secrets behind the Success of the Apple Billionaire**

**Biographies of Famous Personalities**



# Bill Gates

American business magnate, investor, programmer, inventor and philanthropist

## Chapter 1 –

### Early Life

Bill Gates. We have all heard of the name. We have all heard of the company and of the billions of dollars attached to the great man. But how much do we really know about the story behind his tremendous success? What was so special about this man that he, who started off as a simple boy raised by a simple family, rose to the top and continues to dominate? How did he get to become one of the most famous, most influential and richest men this world has ever seen?

#### The Young Bill Gates and His Family

Bill Gates, whose real name is William Henry Gates III, was born on October 28, 1955 in Seattle, Washington to William H. Gates Sr. and Mary M. Gates.

The Gates was an upper middle-class family of five. Bill had two sisters: Kristianne, who is the eldest, and Libby, the youngest. William Sr. was a promising law student at the University of Washington, where he met Mary Maxwell, who was, at the time, an athletic and outgoing student actively involved in extra-curricular affairs and leadership. The Gates family had a generally warm and close atmosphere. In fact, Bill was very close to his mother. Mary would often take young Bill along with her when she went to different schools and organizations to help raise children and take part in civic affairs and charities.

Because of their parents' achievements, all three children felt encouraged and motivated to excel and compete in their schools, as well. Bill grew up to inherit his mother's enthusiasm for athletics as he showed early signs of competitiveness every time his family went to their summer house in Puget Sound, where he organized athletic games for the whole family. He was also often seen playing different board games as a child, especially Risk, which was his favorite. He was also an excellent player of Monopoly, where he usually got to beat his sisters and even his parents.

Bill loved reading. Even as a child, he would spend hours poring over encyclopedias and other reference books. He was doing very well in school.

At the age of 11, however, his parents started becoming worried about his behavior. They were concerned when they saw signs that Bill was often bored and seemed withdrawn at times. They feared that Bill might grow up as a loner and would not develop social skills.

As he turned 13, his parents decided to move him to an exclusive preparatory school even though they strongly preferred public education. They weren't disappointed with their decision when they saw Bill's improvement at Seattle's Lakeside School. He excelled in nearly all his subjects, and even did well in Drama.

### Bill Gates' Introduction to Computer Programming

It was at Lakeside School that Bill first developed an interest in computer programming. When a Seattle computer company offered computer time to the students, Lakeside School's Mother's Club purchased a teletype terminal using the proceeds of a rummage sale they organized in school. Bill was immediately fascinated with the things that computers could do and started learning everything he could about them. He spent much of his free time studying and working on the teletype terminal at school. Later on, he wrote his very first computer program in BASIC computer language. It was a tic-tac-toe program that one could use to play against the computer.

It was also at Lakeside School that Bill met Paul Allen, who would later on become his business partner. Although Paul was two years his senior, the two immediately became close friends. The two had very different personalities; Bill was often described to be aggressive and competitive, while Paul was more on the shy and reserved side. Because of their shared interest in computers though, they spent most of their free time together studying more about computers and working on their own programs. There had been one instance that the two were banned from the computer lab when they were caught taking advantage of software glitches that they discovered could help them get more free time from the company that provide Lakeside School with computers. After their probation, they offered to debug the program and were then allowed in the computer lab again. Gates then designed a program that the company used for their payroll, and another program for the school's scheduling system.

At the young age of 15, Gates went into business with Paul Allen. They developed a program for monitoring Seattle's traffic patterns, called Traf-o-Data, which earned them around \$20,000. Although he already wanted to start a company by that time, his parents persuaded him to go on to college first, and hopefully become a lawyer.

In 1973, Bill graduated from Lakeside School, with an SAT score of 1590 out of 1600. He later enrolled at Harvard University that autumn, where he was originally going to pursue a career in law. However, Bill didn't really have a study plan while he was at Harvard. He would usually be in the computer lab more often than in class, and would only spend little time sleeping or studying for tests that he passed with reasonable, but unremarkable grades. It was here that Gates realized little by little what he really wanted to do.



## Chapter 2 – Microsoft's Beginnings

### MITS and the Start of Microsoft

Bill Gates was separated from Paul Allen when they entered college. While Gates was in Harvard, Allen studied at the Washington State University for two years before dropping out and moving to Boston to work for Honeywell. Bill Gates kept in contact with Paul and later joined him to work at Honeywell in the summer of 1974, much to his parents' dismay.

Because of an article on the Popular Electronics magazine that Allen showed him that time, the two boys got fascinated with the Altair 8800 mini-computer kit. They believed that this computer, created by the Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry System (MITS) Company in New Mexico, holds a lot of possibilities in personal computing. They contacted the company and said that they had a BASIC software program that could run the computer, even though, in fact, they neither had an Altair to work on, nor the code to run it. When MITS president Ed Roberts responded that the company was interested in the software and wanted a demonstration, the duo scrambled and crammed for the next two months to write the software at Harvard's computer lab.

Allen then went to Albuquerque, New Mexico to do the demo at MITS. Even though they have never tried the program on an Altair computer, it worked perfectly. Allen was immediately hired at MITS and Gates left Harvard to work with him. From there, the two formed a partnership in 1975 and called it "Micro-Soft", which came from the words "micro-computer" and "software." In less than a year, they dropped the hyphen and used the now popular name "Microsoft." The trade name "Microsoft" was officially registered with the Office of the Secretary of New Mexico in November 26, 1976.

### Gates versus Free Distribution of Software

Microsoft started off on a shaky foot. Their BASIC software program for Altair earned them a fee, and was immediately popular with computer hobbyists. Unfortunately, most of those who were using BASIC in the Altair

computers, 90% of them according to Gates, only obtained the software from other hobbyists who reproduced and distributed them for free. Although this was the practice of computer enthusiasts at the time, Gates felt that freely distributing software that was created to be sold was comparable to piracy and stealing.

In February of 1976, Gates released an open letter to all personal computer enthusiasts and explained his beliefs that the free reproduction and distribution of software would “prevent good software from being written.” He said that pirating them would discourage software programmers and developers from creating quality software, which they invested time and money in. Although he received a lot of negative feedback from other computer hobbyists, Gates stuck to his belief even when he was faced with the threat of charges of unfair business practices.

### The Independence of Microsoft

Gates didn't really have a healthy business relationship with MITS president Ed Roberts. They were even reported to engage in shouting matches at times that they disagreed in certain matters. Gates would often clash with Roberts' software development ideas and views on the business' direction; Roberts described Gates as spoiled and obnoxious.

In 1977, Roberts decided to go back to Georgia and enter medical school to become a country doctor. He sold MITS to another computer company, leaving Gates and Allen to battle the new owner on their own. They had to shut the new owner, so that they could retain the rights over the software they had developed for the Altair computers. Later that same year, Microsoft became independent of MITS.

Microsoft, which had only 25 employees during that time, continued to develop programming language software in different formats for various systems and different computer companies. Last January 1 of 1979, Gates moved the company from Albuquerque to Bellevue, Washington.

## Chapter 3 – The Rise of Microsoft

Happy to be near home again, Gates threw himself into his work, writing codes himself and personally reviewing every line of code that the company ships, often rewriting them when necessary. All of the employees had broad responsibilities—for operation, product and business development, and marketing. Gates still oversaw all the business details, making sure that everything was working well according to his plans, and would make changes where he saw fit.

He placed himself as head of Microsoft and also represented it as its spokesperson. Because of his keen business sense and his gift for software development, the company grossed \$2.5 M in 1978. He was only 23 years old that time, when he first became a millionaire.

### Microsoft and IBM

The computer industry continued to grow with hardware and component developers such as Apple, Intel and IBM. Gates was constantly on the road to advertise Microsoft. He would often take his mother with him, knowing that Mary was highly respected and had good connections with several corporate boards. It was through her that Bill finally got to meet the CEO of IBM.

In November of 1980, IBM approached Microsoft for a software that could operate on a personal computer they were planning to release. There were rumors that on their first meeting, someone from IBM mistook Bill for an office assistant and had him serve coffee. Even though he didn't look as young as the other programmers and demonstrators that IBM has met, Bill quickly impressed IBM and convinced them that Microsoft could provide them what they need.

IBM's representative then mentioned that they also needed an operating system, but Microsoft did not have one yet that would run on the new computers from IBM. Gates first referred them to Digital Research (DIR), the company that developed the CP/M operating system. When IBM and (DIR) did not reach an agreement, Gates went to Tim Paterson of Seattle Computer Products (SCP). Microsoft made a deal with SCP and bought 86-DOS

(QDOS), an operating system SCP developed for hardware that was similar to the IBM PCs. Microsoft was made exclusive licensing agent and full owner of 86-DOS, which Gates adapted to work for the IBM PC. He then delivered the operating system to IBM as PC DOS for \$50,000, the same amount they bought it from SCP. Microsoft was later sued by SCP for being uninformed of the deal with IBM. Microsoft settled out of court for an amount they did not disclose, but Gates and Microsoft never admitted to any wrongdoing.

### Microsoft Rises to the Top

After purchasing PC DOS, IBM tried to negotiate with Microsoft to be allowed to buy the source code and copyright for the operating system. Gates refused, knowing that soon enough, other companies would develop hardware that shared IBM's system. Instead, he sold copies of the software to IBM, allowing Microsoft to license and sell the software they now called MS-DOS to other PC manufacturers. Although IBM had its name on the operating system, Microsoft was identified by the press, and the PC Magazine even dubbed Gates as "The Man Behind the Machine." Microsoft later released the software called Softcard, which allowed Apple II machines to operate on Microsoft BASIC.

In a span of only 3 years, Microsoft's growth exploded. The company's staff increased more than 5 times its original size and revenue shot up to 4 times its original earnings, from \$4 million to \$16 million. In mid-1981, Gates oversaw the company restructuring of Microsoft. The company was re-incorporated in Washington on June 25, 1981, and Gates was appointed President and Chairman of the Board of Microsoft. Paul Allen, who remained his business partner the whole time, was appointed Executive Vice-President.

Only seven years after it began, Microsoft went global. It put up offices in Japan and Great Britain. By 1983, it was reported that 30% of all the computers throughout the world were running on Microsoft's software. Unfortunately, it was also this year that Paul Allen was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. He then resigned from the company and started investing his time in other opportunities.

## Chapter 4 – Microsoft Windows

Although known rivals today, Microsoft and Apple once collaborated and shared a number of their early innovations together. In 1981, Microsoft helped develop software for Apple's Macintosh computers. It was from this collaboration and exchange of knowledge that Microsoft Windows began.

### The Bluff

VisiCorp, another personal computer software publisher, was developing an operating system that it was about to release. Through the collaboration with Apple, Bill Gates found out about the new system and immediately knew that it would be a great threat to MS-DOS and to Microsoft overall. VisiCorp's system could display texts and images on the screen, and would use a mouse to drive its graphic interface. On the other hand, MS-DOS was only text and keyboard driven and text formatting appeared on the screen as codes, and not how it would look like after formatting. Bill knew that VisiCorp's system would be a lot more user-friendly, and would be preferred by the majority of the buying public, who were mostly unsophisticated users.

In 1983, Bill Gates announced that Microsoft is about to develop an operating system with a graphic interface. The operating system which will be called "Windows," will be compatible with any software products that ran on MS-DOS. In truth, Microsoft had no such program being developed. The bluff, however, was a marketing tactic that he used to make sure that the 30% of the computer market that was already using MS-DOS would rather wait for the release of Windows, so that they would simply have to upgrade instead of migrating to a new system. Even after the VisiCorp system was released, people were unwilling to change formats and software developers were discouraged from writing programs for VisiCorp, which later lost its momentum in 1985.

### The Launch of Windows

Microsoft launched Windows in November 1985—two years after Bill Gates announced that it was under development. By the time Windows was released, Apple Computer Corporation already had an operating system that

looked very similar to what Windows had—the Macintosh system. During the time Macintosh was being developed, Microsoft had full access to Apple’s technology because they were still collaborating to make Apple computers compatible for Microsoft’s software products. During this time, Apple ignored Bill Gates’ advices of licensing their software because they were more focused on their computers than their operating system. Gates then created a software format that resembled Macintosh’s operating system, but had distinctly different individual functions, which gave him the advantage in courts when Apple decided to sue Microsoft.

## Chapter 5 –

### From Millionaire to Billionaire

Although he was already a major competitor in the industry, Bill Gates continued striving to move Microsoft to the top.

#### The Billion-Dollar Move

In 1986, he took the company public. Microsoft had an initial public offering (IPO) of 24.7 million shares at \$21 per share, amounting to around \$520 million. Gates owned 45 percent of the company's shares, holding a stake of \$234 million at the age of 31.

The company's stock value continued to increase and split numerous times. Just a year after Microsoft went public, the company's stock raised to \$90.75 per share, making Bill Gates a billionaire. Since then, Bill Gates never left Forbes' annual list of the America's wealthiest people, at time even landing the top spot. In 1999, the stock market experienced an all-time high and the company's stock split eight-fold. Bill Gates' wealth at the time was approximately \$101 billion dollars.

#### The Billion-Dollar Attitude

Even with Microsoft's success and leading position in the market, Bill Gates was never lax. He made it a point to study his competition's next moves, and tried to do all he could to secure his company's status at the top. He developed a very competitive and aggressive spirit. He also instilled the same drive and dedication to everyone working in his company.

There is one story that tells of one of Gates' assistants coming to work early and being surprised to find a man sleeping under the desk. She was just about to call security or the police when she realized that it was Bill Gates, who must have fallen asleep unintentionally after working too late.

Because of his aptitude in the software industry, Bill Gates overlooked all sides of Microsoft's development—from product development to corporate strategy. Every time a corporate move was proposed, he would consider all possible cases and would run through each of them, making sure that the

company was prepared for anything.

Bill was also well-known for his confrontational management style. He would often challenge his employees and the ideas they present to, according to him, “keep the creative process going.” He would sometimes be heard telling a presenter something along the lines of, “That’s the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard!” The reason for this was that Gates wants to test the presenter’s rigor and passion. He would constantly challenge the people around him to see how convinced and confident they are of their own ideas.

### The Billion-Dollar Ruthlessness

Inside the company, Bill Gates was admired. Outside the company, he was feared.

Microsoft’s rivals saw the man behind the company as a ruthless competitor, which was true. In August 1986, soon after Microsoft released the first retail version of Windows, IBM and Microsoft went into a deal to develop OS/2, a separate operating system for IBM. Because of several mounting differences, the deal eventually ended. IBM started developing OS/2 with other tech companies, with the goal of replacing MS-DOS. Instead of giving in to the pressure, Gates improved Windows and expanded its uses. By 1989, Microsoft launched Microsoft Office, which bundled Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and several other office productivity tools that were compatible with all Microsoft products. Thanks to this development, the new version of Windows sold 100,000 copies in only a matter of two weeks. Since Microsoft Office wasn’t compatible with OS/2, it eventually faded away.

With the end of OS/2 and Apple’s not-as-popular Macintosh, Microsoft virtually monopolized the realm of operating systems for PCs. Because of this, the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department investigated Microsoft throughout the 1990s for allegations of unfair marketing practices. There were allegations that the company went into unfair deals with some computer manufacturers for them to install Windows on the computers they distribute, and that Microsoft forced other manufacturers to sell Microsoft’s Internet Explorer if they were to use Windows on their computers. Microsoft was also threatened of a break up of its operating system division and the software development division.



All throughout the strings of federal investigations and court trials, Gates continued to run the company and still firmly withstand the investigations. He got into a settlement with the government and the company avoided the threat of break up. He fought for Microsoft, going back to his original defense when he wrote the open letter against software piracy, stating that such restrictions would be a threat to innovation. He found some rather inventive ways to deflect the pressure of all the litigations through light-headed commercials and even posing as Star Trek's Mr. Spock during his public appearances at computer trade shows. In the end, Bill Gates and Microsoft weathered the investigations and prevailed in the courts.

## Chapter 6 – Personal Life

### Bill and Melinda Gates

In 1985, Bill Gates was named as one of the “50 Most Eligible Bachelors” by the magazine Good Housekeeping . Four years later, Bill met his wife, then Melinda French. She was working as an executive for Microsoft at the time. Melinda was 28 and Bill was 37. Aside from her good looks, Bill was attracted to Melinda’s bright and organized nature, which perfectly complemented Bill’s personality. Their relationship continued to grow as they developed a more intimate and intellectual connection. Soon after, the two got married in Hawaii on January 1, 1994. Unfortunately, Bill’s mom died June of that year because of breast cancer. Bill was devastated and the couple decided to take some time off.

Bill and Melinda started travelling around the globe in 1995 to gain a wider perspective of life and of the world. In 1996, Melinda gave birth to their first child, Jennifer. A year later, they moved to a house in Medina, which was a very comfortable home for the Gates family, which later on grew as Melinda gave birth to Rory John in 1999 and Phoebe Adele in 2002.

### The Gates Family Wealth

The Gates residence is a \$54 million earth-sheltered house on a hill overlooking the Lake Washington. It is a 66,000 square feet estate with a 60-ft swimming pool that had an underwater music system, a 2,500 sq. ft. gym, and a 1,000 sq. ft. dining room that they often used to host large gatherings. In 2006, the King County public records assessed the property’s total value at \$125 million with an annual property tax of \$991,000.

Forbes listed Bill Gates number one on the Forbes 400 Wealthiest in America list from 1993 to 2007. He was also number one on the Forbes World’s Richest People list from 1995 to 2007 and on 2009. He was called the “centibillionaire” by the media in 1999, when his wealth went over \$101 billion.

Also among Gates’ priced possessions was the “Codex Leicester,” which was a collection of Leonardo da Vinci’s writings that he was able to acquire at a

1994 auction for \$30.8 million. Because he is an avid reader, the ceiling of his home is also engraved with a quotation from “The Great Gatsby.” Up to now, Bill Gates enjoys playing bridge, tennis and golf.

### Leaving Microsoft

Since 2000, Microsoft’s holdings started to decline slowly because of the “dot-com bubble” burst, and because of his billion dollar donations to charity. He left day-to-day operations of Microsoft to his college friend Steve Ballmer, who had also been working in Microsoft since 1980. He still remains Chairman of the Board and positioned himself as the company’s Chief Software Architect, so that he could concentrate on the part of the business that he was more passionate about.

Over the next few years, his time and interest was more focused on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In an interview on May 2006, he said that he disliked the attention of being tagged as the richest man in the world. He announced that he will be leaving full-time work at Microsoft and will devote more of his time to the Foundation. His last day as a full-timer at Microsoft was on June 27, 2008. Even so, he continued being on lists of the world’s richest men alive. Outside Microsoft, Bill Gates had a lot of other investments. He founded a digital imaging company in 1989, which he called Corbis. He also became director of the investment company Berkshire Hathaway, headed by his friend Warren Buffet, in 2004. In 2010, he became second to Carlos Slim, but regained the top position in the 2013 Bloomberg Billionaires List.

## Chapter 7 – Gates' Philanthropy

It was with Melinda's influence that Bill first took interest in continuing his mother's philanthropy. Because his mother devoted most of her time a civic leader after retiring from her job as a teacher, Bill realized that he should be sharing more of his wealth to charity.

Being an excellent student, he studied the philanthropic works of the two men behind the American industrial revolution: Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller. In 1994, he sold some of his stock from Microsoft and, together with Melinda, created the William H. Gates Foundation. The Foundation was dedicated to aid in the development of world health, education, and economic investments for low-income communities.

In 2000, the couple decided to combine several family foundations into one charitable foundation—the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which started out by contributing \$28 billion to set up the foundation. It remains to be the largest charitable foundation in the world that is being operated transparently. Unlike most other charitable organizations, the benefactors of the Gate Foundation are allowed easy access to information on how the foundation's money is being spent.

Aside from being one of the richest and most successful men in the world, Bill Gates received a lot of accolades for his philanthropic efforts. In 2002, the Gates couple received the Jefferson Award for their public service to the disadvantaged. He was part of TIME magazine's list of the 20th century's most influential people. In 2005, he also shared the spot for TIME magazine's Persons of the Year with wife Melinda and Bono, front man of the rock band U2.

He was awarded by Queen Elizabeth II an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. The Gates couple also received an Order of the Aztec Eagle award from the Mexican government in 2006 because of their contributions to world health and education.

By 2007, Bill and Melinda Gates were named as America's second most generous philanthropists because of their large contributions to charitable

works. The couple plans to donate 95% of their wealth to more of these philanthropic efforts eventually.

In 2010, Melinda Gates also used the Salwen family's efforts as an inspiration to urge people to learn from their philanthropic effort. The Salwen family sold their home and gave half of what they earned to charity, as detailed in "The Power of Half." On December 9, 2010, Gates, Warren Buffet and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg signed the "Gates-Buffet Giving Pledge" that holds their promise of donating at least half of their wealth to charitable works over the course of time.

### Other Recognitions

The British Computer Society honored Bill Gates as their twentieth Distinguished Fellow in 1994. In his honor, entomologists named the *Eristalis gatesi* after him as the "Bill Gates' flower fly" in 1997.

Bill also received several honorary doctorates from various universities, namely the [Nyenrode Business Universiteit, Breukelen](#), Netherlands (2000), the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden (2002), the Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan (2005), the Tsinghua University of Beijing, China (2007), Harvard University (2007), the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm (2008), and Cambridge University (2009). The Peking University also made him an honorary trustee in 2007.

In 2010, he was given the Bower Award for Business Leadership by The Franklin Institute. Because of his service to the youth, he was also honored in the same year by the Boy Scouts of America with their highest award for adults, the Silver Buffalo Award.

In 2011, Forbes listed Bill Gates as the world's fifth most powerful person. He moved to the fourth spot on the same list on 2012.

## Bonus Chapter – Bill Gates' Famous Quotes

Aside from his intellect and talent for business, Bill Gates' attitude and drive greatly contributed to the success that he enjoys today. He also serves as an inspiration to many because despite the challenges he faced on his road to success, he still persevered.

Here are some of his most famous quotes that we can learn from.

**On Success:** "Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose."

**On Freedom:** "I'm a big believer that as much as possible, and there's obviously political limitations, freedom of migration is a good thing."

**On Action:** "If you show people the problems and you show people the solutions they will be moved to act."

**On Intellect:** "I've always been an optimist and I suppose that is rooted in my belief that the power of creativity and intelligence can make the world a better place."

"If being a geek means you're willing to take a 400-page book on vaccines and where they work and where they don't, and you go off and study that and you use that to challenge people to learn more, then absolutely. I'm a geek."

"Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one."

**On Technology:** "We are all created equal in the virtual world, and we can use this equality to help address some of the sociological problems that society has yet to solve in the physical world."

"Like almost everyone who uses e-mail, I receive a ton of spam every day."

Much of it offers to help me get out of debt or get rich quick. It would be funny if it weren't so irritating."

"I believe that computers are the most incredible tool we can use to feed our curiosity and inventiveness—to help us solve problems that even the smartest people couldn't solve on their own."

"The technology business has a lot of twists and turns. Probably the reason it's such a fun business is that no business gets to rest on its laurels."

"It's a nice reader, but there's nothing on the iPad I look at and say, 'Oh, I wish Microsoft had done it.'"

## Conclusion

Thank you for downloading this book!

I hope this book was able to help you gain some insight on the life and story of Bill Gates.



If you enjoyed this book or received value from it in any way, then I'd like to ask you for a favor: would you be kind enough to leave a review for this book on Amazon? It'd be greatly appreciated!

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## **Preview of: The Biography of Steve Jobs**

### **Secrets behind the Success of the Apple Billionaire**

Who does not know about Steve Jobs? He was, and still is, Apple's ultimate icon of ingenuity and applied imagination. He believed that in order to produce value in this day and age, someone has to link up creativity and innovation to technology. He established an empire where advancements of the imagination were amalgamated with unbelievable exploits in engineering. His legacy stems from innovation, leadership, character, and values.

Lisa Brennan Jobs is Steve Jobs' eldest daughter. She was his only child with his longtime girlfriend, Chrisann Brennan. Lisa was born in 1978 and her mother was a painter from San Francisco Bay Area. Chrisann took care of Lisa on her own for two years with welfare support. At the time, Jobs was in a lot of pressure for starting up a company he knew had huge potential.

At first, he did not accept the child was his, since he claimed he was anatomically incapable of producing children. But later on, he acknowledged Lisa as his biological daughter. In March 1991, Jobs finally settled down with a brilliant woman, Laurene Powell, a business executive who was responsible for putting up an organization called Emerson Collective, a group that advocates policies for education, social justice, emigration reform, and conserving the environment. Their union was held in Yosemite National Park's Ahwahnee Hotel, presided by a Zen Buddhist monk.

Reed Jobs was their first child. He was born six months after they got married in 1991. Erin, a daughter, was born in 1995 and another in 1998. Her name was Eve. They all lived together in Palo Alto, California.

Joan Baez, a successful singer and song writer dated Jobs for a few years during the eighties. Apart from being a singer, she was also a committed lifelong advocate to political and social activism for the environment, human rights, and nonviolence. It was believed that Jobs intended to marry her but she declined. According to sources, she explained that it was no longer possible for her to conceive because of her age.

Jobs seemed to be very special to her as she mentioned him in her memoir published in 2007. She also sang during his memorial in 2011. Following his death, Baez spoke of him with fondness. She explained that even after they decided to end the relationship, they stayed in touch as close friends. She also disclosed that Jobs visited her shortly before he passed away.

She emphasized that Jobs had a very sweet personality, even though he was popularly known to be unpredictable. According to one of Jobs' friends back from college, Jobs was infatuated with Baez because she had a deep relationship with Bob Dylan; apparently, he was Job's favorite musical artist. Jobs also confided in Joanna Hoffman, a member of the original developer team of Apple Macintosh; he told her about his apprehensions regarding the relationship.

Apparently, Jobs looked at Baez as a very strong-willed woman. He wanted to prove he was the man in the relationship, and he was the one in control. He also disclosed to Hoffman that he wanted to raise a family of his own, but that it would be impossible with Baez.

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