

Meet You in Hell: Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership That Changed America

By Les Standiford



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Two founding fathers of American industry. One desire to dominate business at any price.

The author of *Last Train to Paradise* tells the riveting story of Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the bloody steelworkers' strike that transformed their fabled partnership into a furious rivalry. Set against the backdrop of the Gilded Age, *Meet You in Hell* captures the majesty and danger of steel manufacturing, the rough-and-tumble of the business world, and the fraught relationship between "the world's richest man" and the ruthless coke magnate to whom he entrusted his companies. The result is an extraordinary work of popular history.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The relationship between industrialists Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick is an illuminating window on American capitalism as well as a fascinating study of how a strong partnership can give way to vicious acrimony. Les Standiford tells the story of the two men in Meet You in Hell, a book that draws its title from Frick's angry rejoinder to Carnegie's late-in-life attempt at reconciliation. Carnegie and Frick, in Standiford's estimation, represented all that was good and bad in American capitalism. They were self-made men, rising from blue-collar backgrounds to become titans in the burgeoning American steel industry, some of the wealthiest men in the world, and loyal partners, even if they were always somewhat short of being actual friends. But they were also pivotal figures in the infamous Homestead Steel strike, where Frick, acting on implicit orders from Carnegie, dispatched hundreds of private security guards into a testy labor situation, resulting in mayhem and death on all sides and forever casting a pall over the history of American labor relations. While Carnegie and Frick's acumen in getting rich is given due credit, Standiford also tells of the workers who were exploited or killed in that same effort. Standiford presents Carnegie and Frick without prejudice, demonstrating their fierce competitiveness, short tempers, business savvy, and troublesome character flaws. The reader also comes to realize that, although there were some negligible differences, the two men are so similar and so powerful that a falling out was inevitable. Meet You in Hell is a valuable insight into the ideas and personalities that shaped American industrialization as well as an interesting parallel to a contemporary economic reality where American jobs, particularly in the manufacturing sector, are threatened and often lost to overseas labor. -- John Moe

From **Booklist**

As witnessed here, Carnegie and Frick were both born to poverty and both became wealthy and powerful. Carnegie (1835-1919) and Frick (1849-1919) amassed fortunes in the steel industry and donated millions of dollars for the benefit of the public. Their business practices and the principles they embodied not only made them the industrial potentates of their time but continue to influence boardroom and labor relations practices to this day. But the Homestead steel strike in 1892 led to the bloodiest conflict between management and labor in the U.S. history and was the beginning of the end of the legendary Carnegie-Frick alliance. Standiford, the author of 14 previous books, brings his writerly experience to bear on this intriguing account of these two men's lives and of the industrial growth of the U.S. *George Cohen Copyright* © *American Library Association. All rights reserved*

Review

"Masterful . . . Standiford has a way of making the 1890s resonate with a twenty-first-century audience." ---USA Today

"To the list of the signal relationships of American history . . . we can add one more: Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick . . . The tale is deftly set out by Les Standiford." —*Wall Street Journal*

"The narrative is as absorbing as that of any good novel-and as difficult to put down." -Miami Herald

"Standiford tells the story with the skills of a novelist . . . a colloquial style that is mindful of William Manchester's great *The Glory and the Dream*." —*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

"A muscular, enthralling read that takes you back to a time when two titans of industry clashed in a battle of

wills and egos that had seismic ramifications not only for themselves but for anyone living in the United States, then and now." —Dennis Lehane, author of *Mystic River*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dolores Rawson:

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Annie Hiatt:

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