

BOOK REVIEW

Prescription for Success The life and values of Ewing Marion Kauffman

By Anne Morgan
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a native Kansas Citian I have first hand knowledge of the impact this amazing man and his wife had and continues to have on the Kansas City community and the world. Having grown up in Kansas City I am very familiar with the areas in which Mr. K grew up, the locations of various Marion Laboratories building sites, the impact of his purchase of the Royals baseball team and his foundations. In fact I grew up within miles of Marion Park, and in 1997 I had the privilege of working for the company Mr. K built. Although Mr. K had long since passed away and Marion Laboratories had since merged to become Hoechst Marion Roussel the culture he defined was still present during the early years of my tenure there. The experiences I had while working there had a tremendous impact on my life. I had never worked at a company that I felt so apart of a team. A place where everyone worked for a common purpose and shared in the successes, a place where continued education and team building was the norm, a place where you felt like you were apart of something special. Although I never got to meet Mr. K personally, the stories from co-workers who had been there while he was still living confirmed his reputation for taking the time to personally let his employee's know that he cared about them. Sadly, over the years and subsequent mergers and outsourcing the company culture and values that Mr. K installed would slowly fade away, but I feel honored to have personally experienced, at least in a small way, Mr. K's legacy. His life and values continue to have an indelible impact on my life.

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This is a very well written book about the life of Mr. Ewing Marion Kauffman. It is a complete biography of Mr. Kauffman from his early years growing up, the founding and evolution of his company - Marion Laboratories, the ownership of the Royals baseball team and his legacy of Philanthropy through the Kauffman foundations. The author also allows you to discover Mr. Kauffman on a personal level through the relationships and interviews from his closest friends, associates and people who were impacted by his many endeavors. It also touches on the special relationship he had with his wife Muriel, and the impact she had in shaping his life and who he would become.

The book helps us to understand that Mr. Kauffman was so much more than a just successful entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist. His intellectual curiosity and willingness to learn new things, desire to become the best at whatever he pursued, intrinsic values for treating people like you want to be treated and sharing success with those who made success possible are just a sample of what made this complex yet simple man so extraordinary. To this day, the impact of Mr. Kauffman's life and values continues to inspire the lives of so many people and his legacy remains undisputed.

This book is a must read for any aspiring entrepreneur who can learn what it truly means, to be "successful", not only in business, but in life, and among other things that it does not always take a college degree or lots of money to be successful in business, but a willingness to work hard, believe in yourself, hold true to your convictions and never give up learning from your failures.