melia | publishing | services

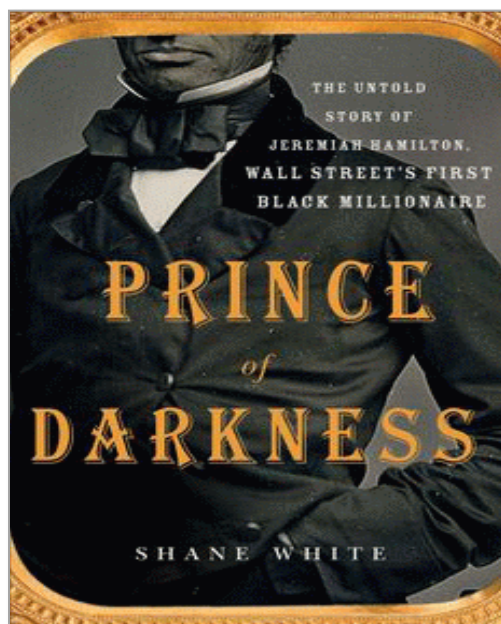## Advance Information

Prince of Darkness
The Untold Story of Jeremiah G. Hamilton, Wall Street?s First Black Millionaire

Author:	Shane White
ISBN:	9781250070562
Imprint:	Palgrave Macmillan Trade
BIC Category:	20th century history: c 1900 to c 2000
Dimensions:	236 x 155 x 28
Binding/PP:	Hardback, 320 pp
Rights Countries:	United Kingdom & Ireland
Pub. Date	01 Nov 2015
Price:	GBP18.99

Selling Points:

 The amazing and forgotten story of Wall Street's first black millionaire in pre-Civil War New York.

Description:

In the middle decades of the nineteenth century Jeremiah G. Hamilton was a well-known figure on Wall Street. Cornelius Vanderbilt, America's first tycoon, came to respect, grudgingly, his one-time opponent. The day after Vanderbilt's death on January 4, 1877, an almost full-page obituary on the front of the National Republican acknowledged that, in the context of his Wall Street share transactions, "There was only one man who ever fought the Commodore to the end, and that was Jeremiah Hamilton."What Vanderbilt's obituary failed to mention, perhaps as contemporaries already knew it well, was that Hamilton was African American. Hamilton, although his origins were lowly, possibly slave, was reportedly the richest colored man in the United States, possessing a fortune of $2 million, or in excess of $250 million in today's currency.In this groundbreaking and vivid account, eminent historian Shane White reveals the larger than life story of a man who defied every convention of his time. He wheeled and dealed in the lily white business world, he married a white woman, he bought a mansion in rural New Jersey, he owned railroad stock on trains he was not legally allowed to ride and generally set his white contemporaries teeth on edge when he wasn't just plain outsmarting them. An important contribution to American history, the Hamilton's life offers a way into considering, from the unusual perspective of a black man.

melia | publishing | services