

# RICH MAN POOR MAN

*Rich Man, Poor Man* is a American television miniseries based on the novel of the same name by Irwin Shaw that aired on ABC in one- or two-hour.

Shaw uses Rudolph's even, balanced judgment of Boylan as a counterpoint to the wholly negative, wholly one-sided opinion of him both Gretchen and Thomas, in their own separate ways, cling to. Although the series is more superficial than the book and much less comprehensive, know the main features of Shaw's novel writer Riesner yet easy to follow. Although on one level Rudolph despises Boylan as a petty vindictive rich pervert of an old man, he sees another side of him as well - the financially independent man of the world who wants for nothing. Julie is hopelessly in love with Rudy but marries initially with another. For example, Rudolph is constantly developing positive relationships only with people who can help him - his father, Mr. Division Of Roles[ Edit ]. It was the first time that such programming was used and it proved very successful. In stark contrast to this both Gretchen and Thomas consistently entangle themselves with the kinds of people that modern self-help literature calls "drain people" or "toxic people". Finally Boylan offers to pay for Rudolph to go to college. Although both brothers find their way in life are neither happy. Boylan serves as the macguffin that drives the plot for all three of the Jordache siblings. Plot summary[ edit ] In the early parts of the novel Shaw goes to great lengths to make the point about "Jordache blood" - violent, bitter, resentful. Tom is going through a deep valley and eventually met his great opponent, Falconetti, who will be responsible for his death. The novel is told in the third person omniscient point of view but never wholly objectively, often through the lens of the consciousness of one of the five family members. Her marriage to Willie Abbott collapses under the weight of his alcoholism and her marriage to Colin Burke ends in tragedy when Burke dies in a car accident. Background[ edit ] The novel is a sprawling work, with over pages, and covers many of the themes Shaw returns to again and again in all of his fiction - Americans living as expatriates in Europe, the McCarthy era , children trying to break away from the kind of life lived by their parents, social and political issues of capitalism, the pain of relationships. When caught, the men of the town present Axel Jordache with a choice - send Thomas away or let him and the family face the consequences with the law. Both brothers fall in love with the same woman, the beautiful Julie Prescott. The bulk of the novel concerns the three children of German Americans Mary Pease and Axel Jordache - the eldest, Gretchen, the middle child, Rudolph, and the youngest, Thomas. On the very first page Shaw subtly telegraphs the sad ending of the story, in the same way that the first scene of a film will often quote the last scene. His brother Tom is the rebel who eventually goes to work as a boxer. We cannot imagine him defending either Gretchen or Thomas in this manner. Originally published as a short story in Playboy Magazine , it became an international bestseller when published as a novel.