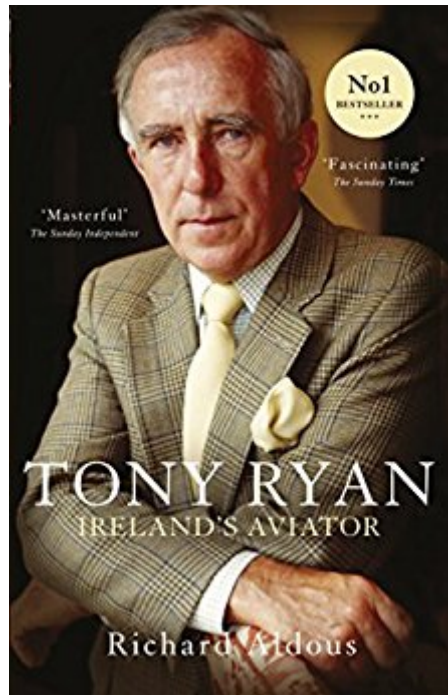




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# Tony Ryan: Ireland's Aviator



## Synopsis

In this authorised biography of one of the most remarkable Irishmen of the twentieth century, Richard Aldous is independent in his judgements and frank in his examination of his subject's shortcomings and eccentricities. But most of all, he writes with verve and pace. Tony Ryan was born in a railwayman's cottage and rose to enormous success, overseeing the spectacular making of two business fortunes and the dramatic loss of one. After an early spell in Aer Lingus, he set up an airline leasing company, Guinness Peat Aviation (GPA), which had its headquarters in Shannon and quickly became the largest such enterprise in the world. Ryan was a hard taskmaster and the company reflected his ferocious work ethic. Yet, despite a stellar board of directors, a botched and poorly timed Initial Public Offering in the 1990s saw GPA crash and burn. Ryan lost almost everything. All that remained was a little airline running massive deficits. Ryan set about turning Ryanair around, putting in one of his assistants, Michael O'Leary, to help knock it into shape. The rest is history. Ryan remade his fortune, lived lavishly and elegantly, was a generous patron of the arts, and in every respect larger than life. His spirit is one that Ireland needs more than ever today. As the nation strives for its own recovery, it can find inspiration in the story of how one of its most famous sons rose and fell, and then rose again. Not one to stand still or lament mistakes, Tony Ryan's determination never to give up is the real lesson of this story. He was in so many ways Ireland's Aviator.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

+ Was surprised I didn't know about TAR before reading this book and it was extremely interesting to explore the history of commercial aviation leasing business as well as first Ryanair decades.+/- It felt sometimes hard to follow the story as author jumped between years too often

I learned a lot about Tony Ryan and the energy and enthusiasm he brought to his projects. It was amazing how he kept going in the face of defeat and won out in the end. The research and detail in the book were very worthwhile and helped to bring an understanding of Ryan's world. All things come to an end and all lives do too but Tony Ryan did a lot with his life. imagine if he had applied his talents full time to humanitarian issues.

A fantastic read and a really good business biography with many ups and downs.

Excellent read. A guy from humble origins put Shannon Airport and Ireland on the map. Its a very interesting read and gives a good insight into the world of aviation, airline leasing and high finance.

So much resonance, I will read again, The Art of War reference for entrepreneurs , Irish ones at least, although it pans the globe. Anything is possible if you decide you are the one, not some other guy.

Excellent book - well written, and a good accounting of a man I knew well - at one point!

Excellent account of what was an extraordinary life. I was always an admirer & the book brought back a lot if memories.

Good insight into the world,of aviation in Ireland and the ups and downs if GPA & Ryan Air.  
Interesting insight into Ireland 1970s to modern day

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