

Almost Rich And Famous

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ALMOST RICH AND FAMOUS

? Nineteen-year-old British woman, Rachael Kennedy, found out what it's like to almost have a fortune in 2021. Kennedy had all the right numbers to win the £182/\$237 million pot, but she didn't have the funds in her lottery automatic payment account!

? The quote, "In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes" is often attributed to eccentric American artist Andy Warhol, but its origins are a bit obscure.

? Tracii Guns was one of the founders of the 1980s rock band, Guns N' Roses. He left in 1983, later stating that "it just wasn't fun anymore."

? More than 200 people falsely claimed to be responsible for the Lindbergh baby kidnapping in 1932. Most were fame seekers.

? Texas lawyer and political donor Harry Whittington kept a low profile until February 11, 2006, when US Vice President Dick Cheney shot and wounded him in a hunting accident.

? In 2006, Harvard student Kaavya Viswanathan looked poised for a lucrative career as a writer when her book *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life* was published. It turned out large portions were plagiarized, ending Viswanathan's writing career.

? Money and fame/recognition are cited in many studies as two of the most common motivating factors in people's lives.

? Dik (aka Dick) Evans was one of the founding members of the band, Feedback. The other members thought Evans was too old, so they fired him and changed their name to U2.

? In 1961, little known brothers Richard McDonald and Maurice McDonald sold their small southern California chain of hamburger restaurants they called "McDonalds" to entrepreneur Ray Kroc for \$2.7 million.

? Pete Best was the original drummer for the Beatles but was fired in 1962. The Beatles then invaded America and Best went on to form the long-forgotten 'The Pete Best Four'.

? Filippo Bernardini impersonated A-list literary agents to steal manuscripts from best-selling authors. The case is ongoing, but the authorities still haven't determined a motive.

? In February 2021, Timothy Wilks was shot and killed when he pulled a knife on David Starnes in Nashville, Tennessee as part of a YouTube robbery "prank." Wilks became neither famous nor wealthy.

? A man named Hubert Chang claims he was one of Google's original designers. So far, acknowledged founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page aren't saying much.

? An elementary school teacher named John Mark Karr became famous in 2006 when he confessed to murdering toddler model JonBenet Ramsey in 1996. The confession was proven to be false, likely done by Karr to become famous.

? The Apple computer company was founded in 1976 by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne. Wayne is often forgotten because he sold his share of 10% a few weeks later for \$2,300.

? Career criminal Sante Kimes and her son Kenneth Kimes Jr. often impersonated other people in fraud schemes. Sante often claimed to be Elizabeth Taylor, although she didn't look much like her.

? Thomas Dewey had a successful career as a federal prosecutor and governor of New York from 1943 to 1954, but he's best known for losing the 1948 presidential election to Harry Truman.

? Teen brothers Robert and Michael Bever stabbed and beat to death five members of their family in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma on July 22-23, 2015. Two members of the family, a 2-year-old girl and a 13-year-old girl survived, the latter of whom identified two of her older brothers, 18-year-old Robert Bever and 16-year-old Michael Bever, as the assailants. The motive for their horrific crimes was fame.

? The American TV comedy skit show, Turn-On, only broadcast one complete episode in many markets on February 5, 1969, with the second episode canned. Today, it's difficult to find the complete first episode.

? In 1982 a petty criminal named Michael Fagan snuck into the Queen's bedroom in Buckingham Palace. Fagan's feat was quickly forgotten by the press.

? Everyone knows who Mark Zuckerberg is, but twins Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss are far less famous. The former Olympic rowers are best known for accusing Mark Zuckerberg of stealing their idea for a social network. They used some of their \$65 million legal settlement with the Facebook CEO to start stockpiling Bitcoin. The twins still own an estimated 70,000 Bitcoins, in addition to other digital assets.

? The 17th US President, Andrew Johnson, was impeached in 1868 but staved off conviction by one vote. If he had been convicted, the presidency would've passed to Benjamin Wade.

? Personal trainer Greg Anderson almost became famous for providing steroids to MLB player Barry Bonds. On July 15, 2005, Anderson, in a deal with federal prosecutors, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute steroids and to money laundering. On October 18, 2005, he was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston to three months in prison and three months' home confinement.

? In 2011, a Georgia convenience store sold a Powerball lottery ticket worth \$77 million. No one ever came forward to claim the prize.