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Autore	Naylor R. T. <1945->
Titolo	Crass struggle [[electronic resource]] : greed, glitz, and gluttony in a wanna-have world / / R.T. Naylor
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal ; ; Ithaca [N.Y.] : McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-7735-8660-1 0-7735-8652-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (494 p.)
Disciplina	178
Soggetti	Wealth - Moral and ethical aspects Wealth - Social aspects Rich people - Conduct of life Consumption (Economics) - Moral and ethical aspects Consumption (Economics) - Social aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preamble: Bacchanalian adventures with the ultra-rich -- The gold-diggers: precious metal, poisoned chalice -- Vulgari: flawed beauty in the gemstones business -- Icecapades: the diamond's darker facets -- Sketchy business: on art connoisseurs and con artists -- The chiselers: from tomb-raider to curator -- The numismaniacs: when big modern money chases little old coins -- The winophiliacs: uncorking the secrets of the wine trade -- Puff artists: behind the smokescreen of high-end cigars -- Afashionados: on fishy business in the fishing business -- Jailbirds: if parrots could really talk ... -- The hunter-gatherer society: from law of the jungle to maw of the market -- Goring the tusk trade: mammoth task, toothless law? -- Coda: from class struggle to crass struggle.
Sommario/riassunto	A critique of the lifestyles of today's ultra rich bolstered by old-fashioned muckraking, <i>Crass Struggle</i> provides a sharp, original, and often humorous commentary on "the bad side of the good life, the underbelly of the potbelly." Taking the reader inside today's luxury trades, R.T. Naylor visits gold mines spewing arsenic and diamond fields spreading human misery, knocks on the doors of purveyors of

luxury seafood as the oceans empty, samples wares of merchants offering top-vintage wines (or at least top-vintage labels), calls on companies running trophy-hunting expeditions and dealers in exotic pets high on endangered lists, and much more. What stands out is that so many high-priced items glitter on the outside, but have more than a spot of rot at the core. Through a series of outrageous but all too true stories, *Crass Struggle* reveals the appalling consequences of consumerism run amok and its links to repetitive financial swindles and the alarming degradation of the biophysical environment.

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