

ben mezrich bringing down the house

Ben Mezrich Bringing Down the House: The Story Behind the Blackjack Heist

ben mezrich bringing down the house is a phrase that immediately conjures images of high-stakes blackjack games, brilliant minds, and the allure of Las Vegas casinos. This captivating story, penned by Ben Mezrich, dives deep into the true events of a group of MIT students who used their mathematical prowess to beat the casinos at their own game. The story not only inspired a popular film but also sparked a fascination with card counting and casino culture worldwide. Let's explore the background of Ben Mezrich's Bringing Down the House, its impact, and what makes this tale so compelling.

Who is Ben Mezrich and What is Bringing Down the House?

Ben Mezrich is an American author known for his gripping nonfiction books that often read like thrilling novels. His writing style combines detailed research with engaging storytelling, making complex subjects accessible and exciting. Bringing Down the House, published in 2002, is one of his most famous works. It tells the true story of the MIT Blackjack Team, a group of students who mastered card counting techniques to win millions from casinos.

The MIT Blackjack Team: The Real Story

The heart of Bringing Down the House lies in the MIT Blackjack Team's exploits during the 1980s and 1990s. These students weren't professional gamblers; they were bright, mathematically gifted individuals who applied probability theory and card counting strategies to blackjack. Card counting involves tracking the ratio of high to low cards left in the deck to make smarter betting decisions, giving players a statistical edge over the house.

What made the MIT team unique was their organization and teamwork. Instead of acting alone, they formed a coordinated group where "spotters" would count cards at one table and signal "big players" to join and place large bets when the odds were in their favor. This strategy allowed them to maximize profits while minimizing their exposure and suspicion from casino security.

Why Bringing Down the House Resonated with Readers

Mezrich's Bringing Down the House struck a chord because it combined elements of true crime, intellectual challenge, and the allure of beating a seemingly unbeatable system. The narrative is fast-paced, with vivid character portrayals and intense casino scenes that make readers feel like they are part of the action.

Breaking Down the Appeal

- ****True Story with a Twist:**** Readers love stories based on true events, especially when they involve cleverness and defiance of the odds.
- ****Mathematics Meets Adventure:**** The use of math in real-world applications, especially gambling, adds a layer of intrigue.
- ****David vs. Goliath Theme:**** The MIT students represent the underdog taking on the powerful casino industry.
- ****High Stakes Drama:**** The tension of potential exposure and huge financial wins keeps readers hooked.

The Impact of Bringing Down the House on Popular Culture

The influence of Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* extends beyond the pages of the book. In 2008, the story was adapted into the Hollywood film "21," starring Kevin Spacey and Jim Sturgess. The movie amplified the story's reach and brought card counting into mainstream awareness.

Card Counting and Casinos Post-Bringing Down the House

Casinos are famously wary of card counters, and the exposure from *Bringing Down the House* made them even more vigilant. Many casinos increased their use of multiple decks, continuous shuffling machines, and aggressive countermeasures to deter card counting. Interestingly, the book also sparked curiosity among gamblers, leading many to study card counting themselves.

Lessons from Bringing Down the House: What We Can Learn

While the story is thrilling, it also offers valuable insights into strategy, risk management, and critical thinking.

Understanding Probability and Risk

One of the key takeaways is how understanding probability and statistics can provide an edge in uncertain situations. The MIT team didn't rely on luck alone; they used math to tilt the odds in their favor. This principle can apply to various fields, from investing to decision-making in everyday life.

Teamwork and Discipline

The success of the MIT Blackjack Team hinged on their strict adherence to strategy, communication, and discipline. They trained extensively, followed precise betting systems, and managed emotions—a recipe for success in any high-pressure environment.

Ethics and Boundaries

Although card counting is legal, it often sits in a grey area regarding casino policies. *Bringing Down the House* prompts readers to think about ethics in competitive environments and where lines should be drawn.

Ben Mezrich's Writing Style and Why It Works

Ben Mezrich has a knack for turning complex, niche topics into compelling narratives. His writing in *Bringing Down the House* is characterized by:

- **Vivid Characterization:** He brings the MIT team members to life, making readers care about their journey.
- **Pacing:** The narrative moves swiftly, balancing technical explanations with storytelling.
- **Accessibility:** Complex concepts like card counting are explained clearly without jargon.
- **Suspense:** The constant threat of getting caught adds tension.

This blend makes *Bringing Down the House* not just a book about gambling, but a story about ingenuity, risk, and ambition.

Exploring Further: Related Topics and Cultural Phenomena

For those fascinated by Ben Mezrich bringing down the house, there are several related areas worth exploring:

The Mathematics of Gambling

Understanding the math behind games like blackjack can deepen appreciation for the story. Concepts like expected value, variance, and probability are central to card counting.

Casino Security Measures

Casinos invest heavily in surveillance and behavioral analysis to detect advantage players. Learning about these tactics reveals the high-stakes cat-and-mouse game between casinos and skilled gamblers.

Other Works by Ben Mezrich

If you enjoyed *Bringing Down the House*, you might also like Mezrich's other books such as "The Accidental Billionaires," which inspired the movie *The Social Network*, showcasing his talent for uncovering fascinating true stories.

How to Approach Card Counting Ethically and Legally

While the MIT Blackjack Team's exploits are legendary, it's important to approach card counting with awareness of legal and ethical boundaries.

- **Know the Law:** Card counting is not illegal, but casinos reserve the right to refuse service to players suspected of it.
- **Respect Casino Rules:** Aggressive or deceptive behavior can lead to bans or legal trouble.
- **Practice Discipline:** Successful card counting requires rigorous practice and emotional control.
- **Consider the Risks:** Casinos are vigilant, and getting caught can lead to being blacklisted.

By understanding these factors, enthusiasts can appreciate the skill involved without crossing lines.

Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* opened a window into a fascinating intersection of math, psychology, and high-stakes gaming. Whether you're intrigued by blackjack strategy, captivated by true stories of clever underdogs, or simply love a good thriller, this tale offers something memorable. It reminds us that sometimes, knowledge and teamwork can indeed tip the scales in the most unlikely places.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Bringing Down the House' by Ben Mezrich about?

'Bringing Down the House' is a non-fiction book by Ben Mezrich that tells the story of a group of MIT students who used card counting techniques to beat casinos in blackjack.

Who are the main characters in 'Bringing Down the House'?

The main characters are the MIT Blackjack Team members, including Jeff Ma, who is one of the key figures in the story.

Is 'Bringing Down the House' based on a true story?

Yes, 'Bringing Down the House' is based on true events involving the MIT Blackjack Team's exploits in casinos during the 1990s.

What impact did 'Bringing Down the House' have on popular culture?

The book popularized the story of the MIT Blackjack Team and inspired the 2008 movie '21,' bringing wider attention to card counting and casino gambling strategies.

How accurate is Ben Mezrich's 'Bringing Down the House'?

While based on true events, the book takes creative liberties for dramatic effect, so some details and characters have been fictionalized or exaggerated.

What techniques did the MIT Blackjack Team use in 'Bringing Down the House'?

The team used card counting and team-based strategies to gain an advantage over casinos in blackjack games.

Has Ben Mezrich written other books similar to 'Bringing Down the House'?

Yes, Ben Mezrich has written other non-fiction books about real-life high-stakes or tech-related stories, such as 'The Accidental Billionaires,' which inspired the movie 'The Social Network.'

Where can I watch the movie adaptation of 'Bringing Down the House'?

The movie adaptation, titled '21,' was released in 2008 and can be found on various streaming platforms or for purchase on DVD and digital stores.

Additional Resources

Ben Mezrich Bringing Down the House: An Investigative Look at the Book and Its Impact

ben mezrich bringing down the house is a phrase that resonates strongly within both literary and gambling communities, referring to the bestselling book that chronicles the true story of a group of MIT students who used mathematical strategies to beat casinos at blackjack. Written by Ben Mezrich,

the book has not only popularized the concept of card counting but also sparked debates about ethics, legality, and the glamorization of gambling. This article delves into the intricacies of Mezrich's work, its cultural significance, and the broader implications surrounding the narrative.

Understanding the Context of Ben Mezrich Bringing Down the House

At its core, Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* is a detailed account of the exploits of the MIT Blackjack Team, a group of students who applied advanced mathematics and card counting techniques to win millions from casinos across the United States. The book was published in 2002 and quickly gained traction due to its thrilling storytelling and insight into the high-stakes world of casino gambling.

Card counting, while not illegal, is frowned upon by casinos, and the team's success led to increased casino surveillance and tighter security measures. Mezrich's portrayal of this saga brought the subject into mainstream awareness, highlighting both the brilliance and risks involved in their endeavors.

The Narrative Style and Storytelling Techniques

Ben Mezrich employs a fast-paced, narrative non-fiction style that reads almost like a thriller. His approach to storytelling emphasizes dramatic tension, the personalities involved, and the psychological aspects of gambling. This style made *Bringing Down the House* accessible to a wide audience, appealing to readers who might not otherwise be interested in blackjack or mathematics.

However, some critics have pointed out that Mezrich's dramatization sometimes borders on embellishment, raising questions about the accuracy of certain scenes or dialogues. Nonetheless, the book's engaging style has been pivotal in its commercial success and enduring popularity.

LSI Keywords and Their Integration in the Book's Context

To understand the impact of Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House*, it is essential to consider related keywords and themes such as "MIT Blackjack Team," "card counting techniques," "casino gambling," "blackjack strategy," and "gambling ethics." These terms frequently appear in discussions surrounding the book and have contributed to its SEO relevance.

The MIT Blackjack Team's story exemplifies the application of probability theory and statistical analysis in real-world scenarios, a key point that Mezrich emphasizes. The team's sophisticated methods included not only counting cards but also coordinating signals and managing bankrolls, thereby increasing their edge significantly over the casinos.

The Real-Life Implications of the MIT Blackjack Team's Methods

While *Bringing Down the House* focuses on the excitement and ingenuity of the team's approach, it also touches upon the consequences faced by the players. Casinos, wary of losing substantial sums, began blacklisting suspected counters and employing countermeasures such as shuffling machines and surveillance technology.

Legality and Ethical Considerations

One of the most debated aspects of Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* is the ethical and legal gray area surrounding card counting. Although card counting is not illegal under U.S. law, casinos retain the right to ban players who are suspected of employing these techniques. This raises questions about fairness and the balance of power between gamblers and the house.

From an ethical standpoint, the story invites readers to consider whether exploiting a game's mathematical vulnerabilities constitutes cheating or simply smart play. Mezrich's narrative tends to glamorize the team's success, which has both inspired aspiring gamblers and drawn criticism for potentially encouraging risky behavior.

Comparisons with Other Gambling Literature

Bringing Down the House stands alongside other seminal works such as Edward O. Thorp's "Beat the Dealer" and "The Biggest Game in Town" by Al Alvarez. While Thorp's book offers a more technical, instructional approach to card counting, Mezrich's work is more narrative-driven, focusing on the human element.

Compared to other gambling literature, Mezrich's book is notable for its widespread appeal and influence on popular culture, including a 2008 film adaptation titled "21." This crossover into film further solidified the story's place in the public imagination.

The Cultural Impact and Legacy of Bringing Down the House

Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* has had a lasting influence beyond literature. It sparked renewed interest in blackjack and card counting, leading to increased public fascination with casino strategies. The narrative has also influenced how gambling is portrayed in media — often romanticizing the idea of beating the system through intellect and teamwork.

The Film Adaptation and Its Influence

The 2008 movie "21," based on Mezrich's book, brought the story to an even wider audience. While the film took creative liberties, it retained the core premise of the MIT students' exploits. The movie's success emphasized the allure of the underdog narrative and reinforced the book's themes of risk, reward, and the thin line between genius and recklessness.

Critiques and Controversies Surrounding the Book

Despite its popularity, *Bringing Down the House* has faced scrutiny regarding factual accuracy. Some former team members have expressed dissatisfaction with Mezrich's portrayal, claiming it sensationalizes events and misrepresents personalities. Such controversies highlight the challenges inherent in balancing storytelling with journalistic integrity.

Additionally, the book's depiction of gambling as a glamorous pursuit has drawn criticism from those concerned about promoting potentially addictive behaviors. The conversation surrounding the ethics of such narratives remains ongoing, reflecting the complex relationship society has with gambling.

Ben Mezrich Bringing Down the House: A Balanced Perspective

Examining Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* through a professional lens reveals a multifaceted work that combines entertainment with real-world insights into mathematics, psychology, and risk management. The book serves as both a cautionary tale and a celebration of human ingenuity.

- **Pros:** Engaging storytelling, popularized card counting, highlighted mathematical applications, inspired adaptations and further research.
- **Cons:** Potential factual inaccuracies, glamorization of gambling, ethical debates around promotion of risky behaviors.

Through this balance, the book continues to spark discussion among readers, gamblers, mathematicians, and ethicists alike.

As Ben Mezrich's *Bringing Down the House* remains a significant cultural artifact, it encourages ongoing inquiry into how chance, skill, and human ambition intersect. Whether viewed as a thrilling narrative or a subject of critical analysis, the story invites readers to explore deeper questions about the nature of risk and reward in modern society.

Ben Mezrich Bringing Down The House

ben mezrich bringing down the house: 21: Bringing Down the House Ben Mezrich, 2012-02-29 Real-life all too rarely offers stories that are quite as satisfying as fiction. Bringing Down the House is one of the exceptions. Cheating in casinos is illegal; card-counting - making a record of what cards have so far been dealt to enable the player to make some prediction of what cards remain in the deck - is not. But casinos understandably dislike the practice and make every effort to keep card-counters out of their premises. Bringing Down the House tells the true story of the most successful scam ever, in which teams of brilliant young mathematicians and physicists won millions of dollars from the casinos of Las Vegas, being drawn in the process into the high-life of drugs, high-spending and sex. Bringing Down the House is as readable and as fascinating as Liar's Poker or Barbarians At the Gate, an insight into a closed, excessive and utterly corrupt world.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: The Big Gamble Jose D. Roncal, Jose N. Abbo, 2009 The Big Gamble takes you on an armchair journey from the tulip fields of 17th century Holland and the South Seas to the gaming tables in Las Vegas. Discover how economic bubbles form, and learn about an early warning system you can use to either avoid the next one or wisely capitalize on it. In plain English, without jargon or blue-sky economic theory, discover: Why you're not really playing it safe when you invest conservatively, even in U.S. Treasury bills or mutual funds. Nine financial risks you need to watch out for when building a portfolio or allocating investments in your 401(k) plan. The twelve cardinal rules of speculating that are critical to successfully making your assets grow. Why you should think twice before sinking your life savings into economic icons like General Motors or Wal-Mart. Three surefire economic signals that will show you the next big thing and identify potential bubbles when they are beginning.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Games of Greed Torsten Dennin, 2023-02-19 Nach dem internationalen Erfolg von Von Tulpen zu Bitcoins über die größten Finanzblasen der Geschichte, wendet sich Torsen Dennin nun den Themen Gier und Betrug zu. Er versammelt in seinem Buch die spannendsten, außergewöhnlichsten und absurdesten Fälle die ihresgleichen suchen und beleuchtet auf unterhaltsame Weise den Wahnsinn um die Enthüllungen der Pandora- und Panama-Papers, den Skandal um Enron, Worldcom, Wirecard und die aberwitzigen Börsengeschäfte von Jordan Belfort, dem Wolf of Wallstreet. Von Schneeballsystemen und Cryptoscams, bis hin zuden größten Kunstdiebstählen und ausgewachsene Kleptokratien - die Geschichte der Finanzskandale ist reich an schillernden Gestalten, vermeintlich gottgleichen Aufstiegen und mindestens so spektakulären Abstürzen. Faszinierende und unterhaltsame Geschichten die die Abgründe der menschlichen Seele dokumentieren und als abschreckendes Beispiel für unsere Gesellschaft dienen können, in der die Gier Menschen immer wieder den Kopf verlieren lässt.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: The Big Con Nate Hendley, 2016-09-06 This book examines a broad range of infamous scams, cons, swindles, and hoaxes throughout American history—and considers why human gullibility continues in an age of easy access to information. Covering American cons and hoaxes past and present, including the Great Moon Hoax of 1835, the controversy over subliminal messaging (do bands, filmmakers, and advertisers really put secret messages in their works?), the panic about satanic daycare operators in the 1980s, and recent Internet scams, this book provides a fascinating, fact-based look at infamous frauds across the centuries. Offering an engaging mix of history, sociology, and psychology, author Nate Hendley gives readers an appreciation of how prominent scams, cons, confidence men, and hoaxes have impacted American society, past and present. Each entry details the scheme or hoax and the pertinent con artist/schemer involved, examining the sociological, cultural, political, and/or economic effect of the scams. Each topic is accompanied by a short bibliography of further reading selections. As the old saying goes, There is a sucker born every minute—and there has always been a keen-eyed swindler to take advantage of the situation. The Big Con: Great Hoaxes, Frauds, Gifts,

and Swindles in American History explores this sordid underbelly of American civilization and invites readers to revel in the felonious experience.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: One Of The Family John Pearson, 2011-06-01

At Ronnie Kray's funeral, London crime expert John Pearson saw a man he didn't recognise - but who all the notorious criminals present deferred to. This is the remarkable true story of that man: 'the Englishman'. Investigations revealed that the Englishman was never mentioned in any of the previous books on organised crime, not because he wasn't involved, but because everyone was too scared to speak his name. Moreover, he was as legendary a figure on the streets of New York as on the streets of London. Pearson persuaded the mysterious criminal leader to talk to him - and the result was a story even more extraordinary than that of the Kray twins. Here Pearson reveals the true story of the Englishman who became the adopted son of Joey Pagano, the head of one of the major New York crime families. Here the Englishman tells the story that no-one else dared to tell. John Pearson's *The Profession of Violence* created the myth of the Kray twins, and remains a classic of true crime and the principal work on East London criminals.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: 1001 Ways to Make Money If You Dare Trent Hamm, 2009-03-18 Everyone's in search of a quick buck, and now they know where to find it—if they dare. Whether it's becoming a living, breathing billboard, or selling bootleg concert t-shirts in the arena's parking lot, there's plenty of ways to rake in the dough on daring ventures and ballsy entrepreneurial moves. This book documents hundreds of these potential money-making schemes, ploys, and backyard startups, including: Print [fashion]-on-demand. Have a witty turn of phrase? Stick a pop culture zinger on a t-shirt and sell it through cafepress.com Give your body to science. They're always looking for guinea pigs for an array of tests. All you have to do is sign up—and be mindful of the side effects Become Trump 2.0: build an empire in the digital world (try Second Life) and then sell it for some major loot Rated by the endeavor's risk level and potential return, this book offers up plenty of possible wallet-filling stunts. Employed or unemployed, young or old, daring or really daring, if you're looking to make some scratch—this book's for you.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: A Gambling Guide Nicolae Sfetcu, 2014-05-03

Gambling as a betting action - wagering money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money or material goods. A guide about what is gambling (with a special section for online gambling), casino games with both beatable casino games (poker, blackjack, video poker with progressive jackpot, pai gow poker, sports betting, horse racing - parimutuel, slot machines and other gambling machines) and unbeatable casino games (baccarat, craps, roulette, keno, casino war, faro, pachinko, sic bo, let it ride, 3-card poker, 4-card poker, red dog, Caribbean stud poker, etc.), and non-casino gambling games (bingo, lottery, mahjong, backgammon, bridge, etc.). Fixed-odds gambling in sports is also present in this book with horse racing, greyhound racing, football (particularly association football, American football and rugby), golf, tennis, cricket, baseball, basketball, ice hockey, snooker, motor sports, boxing, darts, cross-country skiing and biathlon. Please, don't forget to take a look to the legality of the gambling and online gambling, as well as to the articles, warnings and links dedicated to the gambling addiction. Extreme cases of problem gambling may cross over into the realm of mental disorders.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Don't Bet the Farm Liam O'Brien, 2014-09-01 The most comprehensive reference book on betting and gambling on the market with over 1200 cross referenced entries. It explores the history, systems, theory, law, word origins and slang as well the scandals, scams and the huge array of unforgettable characters and audacious coups.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Christians in the Movies Peter E. Dans, 2009-05-16 Christians in the Movies traces the arc of the portrayal in film of Christians from 1905 to the present. For most of the first six decades, the portrayals were favorable and even reverential. By contrast, from 1970 on, Christians have often been treated with hostility and often outright ridicule. This book explores this shift through in-depth reviews and commentaries on 100 important films, as well as briefer discussions of about 75 additional Christian-themed films. Peter E. Dans examines

various causative factors for this change such as the abolition of the Hays Motion Picture Production Code, the demise of the Catholic Legion of Decency, and the associated profound societal and cultural changes. From a look at the real story behind the Scopes trial to portraits of actors, directors and writers most prominently associated with films involving Christians and Christianity, *Christians in the Movies* provides a great resource for those who wish to select films for showing at churches, universities or for personal viewing and critical examination of the recent cultural movements and thought.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Now I Know Dan Lewis, 2013-10-18 Covering 100 outrageous topics, *Now I Know* is the ultimate challenge for any know-it-all who thinks they have nothing left to learn. Praise for the Webby Award-winning newsletter: "I eagerly read *Now I Know* every day. It's always fresh, always a surprise, and always interesting!" —Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia and Wikia Did you know that there are actually twenty-seven letters in the alphabet, or that the US had a plan to invade Canada? And what actually happened to the flags left on the moon? Even if you think you have a handle on all things trivia, you're guaranteed a big surprise with *Now I Know*. From uncovering what happens to lost luggage to New York City's plan to crack down on crime by banning pinball, this book will challenge your knowledge of the fascinating stories behind the world's greatest facts.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: The Intelligent Guide to Casino Gaming Sylvester Suzuki, 2011-03 A comprehensive guide to casino gaming that explains how to play the popular table games: baccarat, blackjack, craps, roulette, pai gow poker, Caribbean Stud, Let It Ride, Three Card Poker, and Texas Hold'em. Also includes instructions and essential strategies for betting on keno, slot machines, horse races, and sporting events.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Profits David S. Nassar, 2006-04-20 David Nassar delivers a complete and proven system for aggressively and successfully trading in today's markets in *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Profits*. He explains the fundamentals of technical analysis and risk management, giving you a solid foundation to approach the market, and then describes a variety of trading strategies that will help you make consistently large profits without undue risk. Unlike other trading advisors who advocate a single approach to trading, Nassar provides a variety of strategies you can choose. In addition, he explains how to use new trading instruments such as E-Mini contracts, options, and exchange-traded funds. If you're looking for a complete, proven system for aggressively trading the stock market, this book is an ideal guide.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: World Film Locations: Boston Marcelline Block, 2014-01-01 Founded by the Puritans in 1630 and the site of many of the American Revolution's major precursors and events (including the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party and Paul Revere's midnight ride, among others), Boston has played - and continues to play - an influential role in the shaping of the historic, intellectual, cultural and political landscapes of the United States. And Boston has a significantly rich tradition of cinematic representation. While Harvard is central to many of the films set in the Greater Boston area, *World Film Locations: Boston* considers the full spectrum of Boston's abundant aesthetic potential, reviewing films located within as well as far beyond Harvard's hallowed halls and ivy-covered gates. Many iconic American classics, blockbusters, romantic comedies and legal thrillers, as well as films examining Boston's criminal under-side, particularly in juxtaposition to the city's elitist high society, were filmed on location in the city's streets and back lots. *World Film Locations: Boston* looks in depth into a highly select group of forty-six films such as *Love Story*, *Good Will Hunting*, *The Friends of Eddy Coyle*, and *The Social Network*, among many others, presented at the intersection of critical analysis and stunning visual critique (with material from the films themselves as well as photographs of the contemporary city locations). Featuring articles and film scene reviews written by a variety of leading contemporary film writers, critics and scholars, this book is a multimedia resource that will find a welcome audience in movie lovers in Beantown and beyond.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Las Vegas For Dummies Rick Garman, 2010-10-26

Fun in Las Vegas is a sure bet! Get set for a winning vacation in Vegas. Stroll by the Eiffel Tower, meander down the canals of Venice, gaze at an Egyptian pyramid, or cross the Brooklyn Bridge. Take in a show, experience the Strip, hit the casinos, enjoy fine cuisine, power shop, or even explore nearby natural wonders. Whether you want exciting action or relaxing luxury, with this friendly guide you've hit the jackpot. Open the book and find: Down-to-earth trip-planning advice What you shouldn't miss —and what you can skip The best hotels and restaurants for every budget Lots of detailed maps

ben mezrich bringing down the house: The Success Equation Michael J. Mauboussin, 2012 In this provocative book, Michael Mauboussin offers the structure needed to analyze the relative importance of skill and luck, offering concrete suggestions for making these insights work to your advantage by making better decisions.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: The Upgrade Paul Carr, 2011-05-12 The incredible true story of living as a modern-day nomad. Bored, broke and struggling to survive in one of the most expensive cities on earth, Paul Carr realises that it would actually be cheaper to live in a hotel in Manhattan than in his one-bedroom London flat. Inspired by that possibility, he decides to sell most of his possessions, abandon his old life and spend a year living entirely without commitments. Thanks to Paul's highly developed blagging skills, what begins as a one-year experiment soon becomes a permanent lifestyle - a life lived in luxury hotels and mountain-top villas. A life of fast cars, Hollywood actresses and Icelandic rock stars. And, most bizarrely of all, a life that still costs less than surviving on cold pizza in London. Yet, as word of Paul's exploits starts to spread - first online, then through a newspaper column and a book deal - he finds himself forced to up the stakes in order to keep things interesting. With his behaviour spiralling to dangerous levels, he is forced to ask the question: is there such a thing as too much freedom?

ben mezrich bringing down the house: You Are What You Choose Scott de Marchi, James T. Hamilton, 2009-11-12 The hidden patterns behind the way we make decisions Several recent books, from *Blink* to *Freakonomics* to *Predictably Irrational*, have examined how people make choices. But none explain why different people have such different styles of decision making—and why those styles seem consistent across many contexts. For instance, why is a gambler always a gambler, whether at work, on the highway, or in a voting booth? Scott de Marchi and James T. Hamilton present a new theory about how we decide, based on an extensive survey of more than thirty thousand subjects. They show that each of us possesses six core traits that shape every decision, from what to have for lunch to where to invest. We go with “the usual” way of deciding whenever there’s a trade-off between current and future happiness, when facing the risk of a bad outcome, or when a choice might hurt other people. We’re also consistent about how much information we want and how much we care about the opinions of others. Readers can determine their own decision-making profile with a test in the book. Once they understand the six core traits, they’ll have a big advantage in their marketing campaigns, management strategies, investments, and many other contexts.

ben mezrich bringing down the house: Spend 'Til the End Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Scott Burns, 2008-06-10 Rich or poor, young or old, high school or college grad, this book, written by economist Laurence J. Kotlikoff and syndicated financial columnist Scott Burns, can change your life for the better! If you follow the advice in this book, it will raise your living standard (possibly by a lot), improve your lifestyle, and help you spend 'til the end. And it will completely transform your financial thinking, turning every bit of conventional financial wisdom on its head. If this sounds like a revolution in financial planning, you got it. So do *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Time*, *Consumer Reports*, and other top publications that have been featuring the authors' economics-based consumption smoothing approach to financial planning. *Spend 'Til the End* substitutes economic wisdom for the rules of dumb that currently pass for financial advice. In the process it indicts the investment and financial-planning industry for giving most people saving and insurance targets that are much too high and then convincing them to invest in risky mutual funds and expensive insurance policies. The result is that most people are scrimping

and saving during the years when they could be spending and enjoying their money -- and with no sure payoff. Easy to read, this book is packed with practical and often shocking advice on whether to work, how to pick a career, which job to take, where to live, what sort of house to buy, how much to save, when to retire, which kind of retirement account to use, whether to have kids, whether to divorce, when to take Social Security, how fast to spend down your assets in retirement, and how to invest.

ben mezhich bringing down the house: *Comrade Rockstar* Reggie Nadelson, 2010-10-31 Dean Reed was an American and the biggest rock star in the history of the Soviet Union. He was so famous his icons were sold alongside those of Josef Stalin. Reggie Nadelson first saw him in 1986 on a TV chat show. Few people in the West had ever heard of him. Six weeks later Reed was found dead in a lake in East Berlin. Was he murdered by the CIA? The KGB? A jealous husband? Nobody knew. Commissioned to write a film about him, she chased the mystery of his life and death across America and Eastern Europe, her own journey mirroring his. For a quarter of a century, from 1961 to 1986, Dean Reed, his guitar on his back, took the music with him. He played 32 countries: his albums went gold from Bulgaria to Berlin. The Russians gave him a Lenin Prize. He was their American. *Comrade Rockstar* is not just the story of Dean Reed's progress from Hollywood starlet to Cold War Cowboy, but an account of the search that took Reggie Nadelson from Denver to Berlin, and from Hawaii to Moscow. As she travelled, the Berlin Wall was breached and Dean Reed became an increasingly alluring figure, his life an unrepeatable tale from the Cold War. Encountering the characters who peopled Dean Reed's world, she was caught in the seedy, sometimes moving, often hilarious subculture, of sex, politics and rock 'n' roll.

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