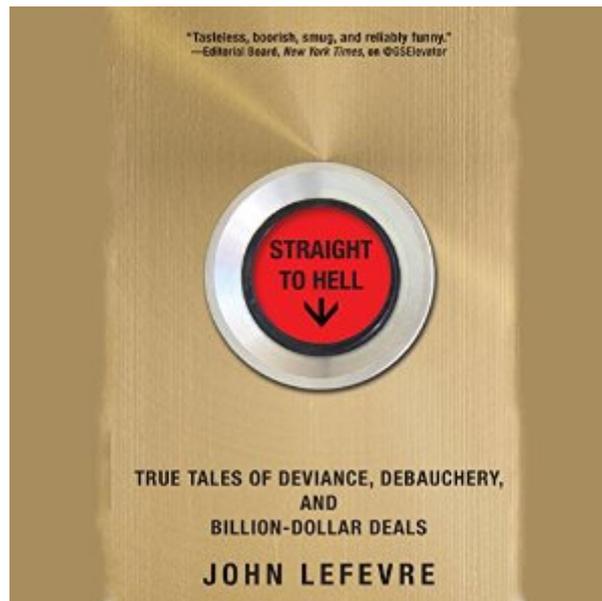


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Straight To Hell: True Tales Of Deviance, Debauchery, And Billion-Dollar Deals



Synopsis

"Some chick asked me what I would do with 10 million bucks. I told her I'd wonder where the rest of my money went." (@GSElevator) Over the past three years, the notorious @GSElevator Twitter feed has offered a hilarious, shamelessly voyeuristic look into the real world of international finance. Hundreds of thousands followed the account, Goldman Sachs launched an internal investigation, and when the true identity of the man behind it all was revealed, it created a national media sensation - but that's only part of the story. Where @GSElevator captured the essence of the banking elite with curated jokes and submissions overheard by readers, Straight to Hell adds John LeFevre's own story - an unapologetic and darkly funny account of a career as a globe-conquering investment banker spanning New York, London, and Hong Kong. Straight to Hell pulls back the curtain on a world that is both hated and envied, taking listeners from the trading floors and roadshows to private planes and after-hours overindulgence. Full of shocking lawlessness, boyish antics, and win-at-all-costs schemes, this is the definitive take on the deviant, dysfunctional, and absolutely excessive world of finance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

4 1/2 stars. This book is great entertainment. It provides you with a rare opportunity to see the world of elite-level banking. The stories of deviance and debauchery are interesting. The persons involved are depicted in a very realistic and above all funny way. But this can be considered mere fun and trivia. As the author said in an interview, the real outrage comes from seeing how the bankers do

business: they are all utterly corrupt. I have recently read Ice-T's autobiography. There is a revealing quote in it: "One thing I've learned from straddling two worlds: Hollywood is way more gangster than the streets. It comes down to this. The higher you go up the mountain, the colder it gets. I've been around some of the most ruthless gangsters in the streets of South Central L.A., but I've never seen anything like Hollywood's gangsterism. When cats are dealing with billions of dollars, anybody -- I mean, anybody -- is expendable." Now imagine that multiplied by a billion. The world of banking is corrupt to the bone. The difference is that the 'collateral damage' are whole states, millions of people who aren't even aware why the system works the way it does and why the bailouts always cost the common man and not the bankers themselves.

LeFevre's book makes for breezy beach reading. There are a few nuggets of information here, but most of his stories merely confirm what we already know: investment bankers are greedy, amoral narcissists who focus their life upon making a lot of money. Many if not most of them are sociopaths who indulge their own squalid pleasures instead of attempting to lead a virtuous life. In fact, they resemble politicians and entertainers ... um, and a few academics whom I have known. Whether it is worth the money and time a reader invests in it probably depends upon one's available wealth and leisure as well as upon one's interests. For my time and money, "Straight to Hell" is worth a quick laugh or two. In terms of abstract political-economic thought, Keynes and Hayek -- and their mutually respectful disputations -- remain unsurpassed in recent literature. The most valuable description of how The Money Power works today, IMHO, is still Doug Henwood's "Wall Street", to which I frequently return despite its age (1998).

If you're looking for one possible road to hell, among the many that exist, this could be an option. Wonderful, incredible, almost unbelievable stories of deceit, greed and corruption. Lefevre has a knack for storytelling and making it hilarious in the process. This is in line with stories from other people's experience in the industry, and considering Lefevre's reputation I doubt there is little, if any, embellishment. Great read, must have been one wild ride.

Let's be real. This isn't a classic. This isn't literature. It's entertainment. But is it ever entertaining! I read this book quickly on a trip and couldn't help but laughing throughout out loud. Don't believe half of it, but the likely embellished stories are definitely a riot and worth the read.

Way too much bluster!

Fun book- sort of like an update of liar's poker. Lots of frat-boy-like antics, and with an emphasis on Asia. I like the coarse humour but some may be offended. Also a stinging critique of how finance is done.

Twitter account is funny as hell. The book is not funny or interesting. You have heard all these stories before from your narcissist drunk friend. Most chapters can be paraphrased in to that story we all hate... Bra, Once I was so wasted that I acted like a fool. Name drop, place drop bragging. All the girls were 10s and wanted me. That night after I passed out someone gave me a handy. I think it was that hot chick but it could have been my bro Chad or I might have even given it to myself.

Pretty funny book. If you were a regular reader of the overheard on Goldman Sachs elevator site you will find it amusing. Others may find it a bit over the top with very repetitive type of stories. Interesting behind the scenes stories of a trading desk though.

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