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# Busting Vegas A True Story Of Monumental Excess Sex Love Violence And Beating The Odds Ben Mezrich

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The True Story of the Ivy League Cowboys Who Raided the Asian Markets for Millions

Busting Vegas

Once Upon a Time in Russia

A True Story of Monumental Excess, Sex, Love, Violence, and Beating the Odds , from the Morning After

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The Greatest Gambling Story Ever Told

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The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students Who Took Vegas for Millions

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*The True Story of the Ivy League Cowboys Who Raided the Asian Markets for Millions* Crown

Daniel Tzvetkoff was just another Brisbane teenager working for peanuts at Pizza Hut and spending much of his spare time glued to his computer. When he worked out a new method of payment processing, the online poker companies came running to him for help so they could grow their businesses. Soon he was living the American dream, raking in \$3 million a week and revelling in a jet-set lifestyle of fast cars, luxury yachts and VIP nightclubs. His epic rollercoaster ride mirrored the extraordinary world of online poker, where hot-shot college students won millions from the confines of their dorms, and fortunes were won and lost.

However, Tzvetkoff's move to the bright lights of Las Vegas would

soon see him facing the abyss. Owing millions to the poker companies, and with the FBI hot on his trail, the boy wonder needed to pull an ace from his sleeve to keep from busting out. And when he did, it resulted in a day that sent shockwaves through the world of online poker - and saw him take the blame.

**Busting Vegas** Anchor

The hidden history of the FBI and its hundred-year war against terrorists, spies, and anyone it deemed subversive—including even American presidents. **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NOW A SHOWTIME ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY SERIES** “Turns the long history of the FBI into a story that is as compelling, and important, as today’s headlines.”—Jeffrey Toobin, author of *American Heiress* *Enemies* is the first definitive history of the FBI’s secret intelligence operations, from an author whose work on the Pentagon and the CIA won him the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. We think of the FBI as America’s police force. But secret intelligence is the Bureau’s first and foremost

mission. The FBI's secret intelligence and surveillance techniques have created a tug-of-war between national security and civil liberties, a tension that strains the very fabric of a free republic. *Enemies* is the story of how presidents have used the FBI to conduct political warfare—and how it has sometimes been turned against them. And it is the story of how the Bureau became the most powerful intelligence service the United States possesses. Named One of the Best Books of the Year by *The Washington Post*, *New York Daily News*, and *Slate* “Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tim Weiner has written a riveting inside account of the FBI's secret machinations that goes so deep into the Bureau's skulduggery, readers will feel they are tapping the phones along with J. Edgar Hoover. This is a book that every American who cares about civil liberties should read.”—Jane Mayer, author of *Dark Money* “Outstanding.”—*The New York Times* “Absorbing . . . a sweeping narrative that is all the more entertaining because it is so redolent with screw-ups and scandals.”—*Los Angeles Times* “Fascinating.”—*The Wall Street Journal* “Important and disturbing . . . with all the verve and coherence of a good spy thriller.”—*The New York Times Book Review* “Exciting and fast-paced.”—*The Daily Beast*

*Once Upon a Time in Russia* Harper Collins

*The Greatest Gambling Story Ever Told* is an inspiring personal narrative about a filly named *Winning Colors* who broke through the male-dominated world of horseracing, and a trio of gamblers who embark on an unforgettable adventure as epic as the horse's historic victory. It's *Seabiscuit* meets *Narcos*, and the best true-life gambling story ever told

*A True Story of Monumental Excess, Sex, Love, Violence, and Beating the Odds*, from *The Morning After Busting Vegas* A True Story of Monumental Excess, Sex, Love, Violence, and Beating the Odds

After playing 4 quarters of hard-fought football games, the Massillon Tiger football team gathered in a circle at the center of every football field they played on in 2019 to do 15 pushups—a pushup for every game it would take to lead them to the State Championship game. The mantra for the season became: 15 for 15. Each pushup is represented as a chapter in this book and a different piece of the puzzle that explains the football town of Massillon, Ohio. In this dramatic and entertaining book, Author and Tiger running back coach, David Lee Morgan, Jr. shares stories that offer a unique and unequalled perspective into the 2019 season and the Tigers' quest for that elusive state championship. The Massillon Tiger football program isn't a typical high school football program. It's a ministry of football with the first season dating back to 1894. In this small, midwestern Ohio rust belt town, the community has rallied around this team every Friday at the historic Paul Brown Tiger Stadium (capacity 16,000) for decades. The school has produced numerous NFL standouts, including coaching legend and Hall of Famer Paul Brown. The Massillon support, locally and nationwide, is unrivaled and is arguably one of the most recognizable and successful high school football programs in the country. *The Massillon Tigers: 15 for 15* is the next generation's *Friday Night Lights*—the powerful tale of one of the most storied high school football programs anywhere in the country and their magical 2019 season, as told by an award-winning author and journalist who enjoyed unlimited access to the players, coaches, and families through his role as the running backs coach.

*Sex on the Moon* Simon and Schuster

Recounts the story of how a notorious gang of MIT blackjack savants devised and received backing for a system for winning at the world's most sophisticated casinos, an endeavor that earned them more than three million dollars. Originally published as *Bringing Down the House*. Reissue. (A Columbia Pictures film,

written by Peter Steinfeld & Allan Loeb, directed by Robert Luketic, releasing March 2008, starring Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth, Laurence Fishburne, Jim Sturgess, & others) (Current Affairs)

*A History of the FBI* Forge Books

From the bestselling author of *The Accidental Billionaires* and *Bringing Down the House*, this is the incredible true story of how a college student and two female accomplices stole some of the rarest objects on the planet—moon rocks—from an “impregnable” high-tech vault. But breaking into a highly secure laboratory wasn't easy. Thad Roberts, an intern in a prestigious NASA training program, would have to concoct a meticulous plan to get past security checkpoints, an electronically locked door with cipher security codes, and camera-lined hallways even before he could get his hands on the 600-pound safe. And then how was he supposed to get it out? And what does one do with an item so valuable that it's illegal even to own? With his signature high-velocity style, Mezrich reconstructs the outlandish heist and tells a story of genius, love, and duplicity that reads like a Hollywood thrill ride.

**The Rise of the Oligarchs—A True Story of Ambition, Wealth, Betrayal, and Murder** HMH

He played in casinos around the world with a plan to make himself richer than anyone could possibly imagine -- but it would nearly cost him his life. Semyon Dukach was known as the Darling of Las Vegas. A legend at age twenty-one, this cocky hotshot was the biggest high roller to appear in Sin City in decades, a mathematical genius with a system the casinos had never seen before and couldn't stop -- a system that has never been revealed until now; that has nothing to do with card counting, wasn't illegal, and was more powerful than anything that had been tried before. Las Vegas. Atlantic City. Aruba. Barcelona. London. And the jewel of the gambling crown -- Monte Carlo. Dukach and his fellow MIT students hit them all and made millions. They came in hard, with stacks of cash; big, seemingly insane bets; women hanging on their arms; and fake identities. Although they were taking classes and studying for exams during the week, over the weekends they stormed the blackjack tables only to be harassed, banned from casinos, threatened at gunpoint, and beaten in Vegas's notorious back rooms. The stakes were high, the dangers very real, but the players were up to the challenges, consequences be damned. There was Semyon Dukach himself, bored with school and broke; Victor Cassius, the slick, brilliant MIT grad student who galvanized the team; Owen Keller, with stunning ability but a dark past that would catch up to him; and Allie Simpson, bright, clever, and a feast for the eyes. In the classroom, they were geeks. On the casino floor, they were unstoppable. *Busting Vegas* is Dukach's unbelievably true story; a riveting account of monumental greed, excess, hubris, sex, love, violence, fear, and statistics that is high-stakes entertainment at its best.

**The Eudaemonic Pie** Bloomsbury Pub Limited

This is a high-adrenaline, high-stakes romp through the wild world of oil. From the streets of Brooklyn to the hallowed halls of Harvard, from the casino-like trading floor of the Merc Exchange to the exotic, gold- and prostitute-lined streets of Dubai, *Rigged* reveals the never-before-told, true story of the most important commodity on earth. *Rigged* is a real life, rags-to-riches story of a twenty-six-year old kid from the streets of Brooklyn who claws his way through Harvard to take on the world of high stakes oil.

*A Novel* Simon and Schuster

Imagine what it would be like to turn your back on the nine-to-five drudgery of normal working life and risk everything you've ever had on the fate of a horse race or the outcome of a ball

game. In the gambling fraternity, Harry Findlay has earned legendary status. He has been skint dozens of times, won over £20 million and spent just as much. But he will not change. Fearless and formidable, bullish and bombastic, there is no one in the gambling game who can match Harry's style and seismic impact. When he first ran a betting slip through his fingers as a 16-year-old, Harry said he had been handed the keys to the Magic Kingdom. Gambling has taken him all around the globe, enjoying five-star travel and a gourmet indulgence at the world's biggest sporting events. In his much-awaited book, Harry recounts the mind-boggling tales behind the thousand and million pound multi-sport bets that will make ordinary punters shudder including the day he wagered £2.5 million on a rugby match. It is a remarkable life story of ups and downs. Aged 21 years old, he served nearly a year in some of Her Majesty's toughest jails. Who'd have thought he would go on to own Big Fella Thanks, winner of the Derby at Clonmel and the most famous dog to come out of Ireland and be part owner of the legendary racehorse Denman, who carried his colours to Gold Cup glory. Harry's subsequent controversial disqualification from racing destroyed him, despite the ruling being overturned on appeal. Most fascinating of all, Harry tells how he has survived and continues to work his magic in the gambling world, and still believes in his own special talent to read sports events and to continue to stay one step ahead of the internet companies that flood our minds with the temptation to risk so much. Harry Findlay: Gambling For Life reflects one man's extraordinary passion for gambling. How he cannot live without it. And how he knows that, even if he loses all of his money, he can never be a loser.

*Ugly Americans* Simon and Schuster

Recounts the story of how a notorious gang of MIT blackjack savants devised and received backing for a system for winning at the world's most sophisticated casinos, an endeavor that earned them more than three million dollars. Reprint. 100,000 first printing.

**Time Out Las Vegas** Mtl838 Llc

Los Angeles has always been as much a star in film noir as any actor, be it Humphrey Bogart, Barbara Stanwyck, Burt Lancaster, Ava Gardner or Jack Nicholson. In *L.A. Noir: The City as Character* renowned film historians Alain Silver and James Ursini explore the world of noir cinema in the context of Los Angeles. The book features dozens of noir and neo-noir landmark films from *Double Indemnity*, *Criss Cross*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Gun Crazy*, *The Big Heat*, *Kiss Me Deadly*, and *Touch of Evil* in the classic period (1940-1960) to such neo-noir notables as *Chinatown*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Mulholland Drive*, and *Pulp Fiction*. *L.A. Noir* illustrates how these noir films use L.A.'s diverse cityscape and architecture to convey a unique vision of urban corruption and existential fatalism, not only in the ever-changing, chaotic downtown of Bunker Hill, Main Street, and Chinatown, but in its affluent coastal communities (Santa Monica, Malibu) as well as its deceptively sunny suburbs (South Bay, San Fernando Valley). The authors deftly analyze the key films of noir while integrating them into the geography and history of this "dark city" which became such an important icon of noir literature and film. *L.A. Noir* is profusely illustrated with approximately 150 photographs—many of them appearing in print for the very first time—including production stills from the movies discussed, archival photos of the locations from the films and new photographs of the locations today, chronicling the ever-changing cityscape of this noir character—Los Angeles.

*And Now She's Gone* Harper Collins

*Busting Vegas* A True Story of Monumental Excess, Sex, Love, Violence, and Beating the Odds William Morrow Paperbacks  
*The Mortal Sea* Simon and Schuster

From the author who brought you the massive New York Times bestseller *Bringing Down the House*, this is the startling rags-to-riches story of an Italian-American kid from the streets of Brooklyn who claws his way into the wild, frenetic world of the oil exchange. After conquering the hallowed halls of Harvard Business School, he enters the testosterone-laced warrens of the Merc Exchange, the asylumlike oil exchange located in lower Manhattan. A place where billions of dollars trade hands every week, the Merc is like a casino on crack, where former garbagemen become millionaires overnight and where fistfights break out on the trading floor. This ordinary kid has traded Brooklyn for the gold-lined hotel palaces of Dubai. He keeps company on the decks of private yachts in Monte Carlo—teeming with half-naked girls flown in by Saudi sheiks—and makes deals in the dangerous back alleys of Beijing. But the Merc is just a starting place. Taken under the wing of another young gun and partnering with a mysterious young Muslim, the kid embarks on a dangerous adventure to revolutionize the oil trading industry—and, along with it, the world. Rigged is the explicit, exclusive, true story behind the headlines that dominate the world stage.

**The True Story of Six College Friends Who Dealt Their Way to a Billion-Dollar Online Poker Empire--and How It All Came Crashing Down . . .** Simon and Schuster

"Right out of the gate, the entire game was designed to empty the pockets of those rich, celeb-loving LA suckers."—Houston Curtis Leonardo DiCaprio. Alex Rodriguez. Tobey Maguire. Ben Affleck. Matt Damon. John Cassavetes. What do these people have in common? Not just fame and fortune; all these men are also alumni of the ultra-exclusive, high-stakes poker ring that inspired Aaron Sorkin's Oscar-nominated film, *Molly's Game*. But Houston Curtis, the card shark who co-founded the game with Tobey Maguire, knows that Sorkin's is the whitewashed version. In *Billion Dollar Hollywood Heist*, Curtis goes all-in, revealing the true story behind the game. From its origins with Maguire to staking DiCaprio's first game, installing Molly Bloom, avoiding the hookers and blow down the hall, and weathering the FBI investigation that left Curtis with a lien on his house, this is the no-holds-barred account of the world's most exclusive Texas Hold 'Em game from the man who started it—with all the names and salacious details that *Molly's Game* left out. With the insider appeal of *Rounders*, more A-listers than *Ocean's 11*, and the excitement of *The Sting*, *Billion Dollar Hollywood Heist* is the untold, insider's story that makes *Molly's Game* look tame.

*The Greatest Gambling Story Ever Told* Simon and Schuster

NATIONAL BESTSELLER "The Social Network, the much anticipated movie...adapted from Ben Mezrich's book *The Accidental Billionaires*." —The New York Times Best friends Eduardo Saverin and Mark Zuckerberg had spent many lonely nights looking for a way to stand out among Harvard University's elite, competitive, and accomplished student body. Then, in 2003, Zuckerberg hacked into Harvard's computers, crashed the campus network, almost got himself expelled, and was inspired to create Facebook, the social networking site that has since revolutionized communication around the world. With Saverin's funding their tiny start-up went from dorm room to Silicon Valley. But conflicting ideas about Facebook's future transformed the friends into enemies. Soon, the undergraduate exuberance that marked their collaboration turned into out-and-out warfare as it fell prey to the adult world of venture capitalists, big money, and lawyers.

*Sex on the Moon* Random House

Traces the rise and fall of poker champion Stuey Ungar, offering insight into his meteoric career as one of the game's most feared tournament players, the factors behind his tragic change of



circumstances, and his early death at the age of forty-five. Reprint. 35,000 first printing.

*The A-List Kingpin and the Poker Ring that Brought Down Tinseltown* Time Out Guides

Draws on court records, FBI transcripts, NASA documents and first-person interviews to reconstruct NASA fellow Thad Roberts's theft of invaluable moon rocks, offering insight into Roberts's personality, the nature of his accomplices and their sophisticated break-in plan. Reprint.

*Busting Bad Guys* A&C Black

Now a major motion picture, written and directed by Aaron Sorkin and starring Jessica Chastain, Idris Elba, Kevin Costner, and Michael Cera—the true story of "Hollywood's poker princess" who gambled everything, won big, then lost it all. Molly Bloom reveals how she built one of the most exclusive, high-stakes underground poker games in the world—an insider's story of excess and danger, glamour and greed. In the late 2000s, Molly Bloom, a twentysomething petite brunette from Loveland Colorado, ran the highest stakes, most exclusive poker game Hollywood had ever seen—she was its mistress, its lion tamer, its agent, and its oxygen. Everyone wanted in, few were invited to play. Hundreds of millions of dollars were won and lost at her table. Molly's game became the game for those in the know—celebrities, business moguls, and millionaires. Molly staged her games in palatial suites with beautiful views and exquisite amenities. She flew privately, dined at exclusive restaurants, hobnobbed with the heads of Hollywood studios, was courted by handsome leading men, and was privy to the world's most delicious gossip, until it all came crashing down around her. Molly's Game is a behind the scenes look at Molly's game, the life she created, the life she lost, and what she learned in the process.

#### **The True Story of the Undercover Agent Who Infiltrated America's Most Violent Outlaw Motorcycle Gang** Anchor

In 1998, William Queen was a veteran law enforcement agent with a lifelong love of motorcycles and a lack of patience with paperwork. When a "confidential informant" made contact with his boss at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, offering to take an agent inside the San Fernando chapter of the Mongols (the scourge of Southern California, and one of the most dangerous gangs in America), Queen jumped at the chance, not realizing that he was kicking-starting the most extensive undercover operation inside an outlaw motorcycle gang in the history of American law enforcement. Nor did Queen suspect that he would penetrate the gang so successfully that he would become a fully "patched-in" member, eventually rising through their ranks to the office of treasurer, where he had unprecedented access to evidence of their criminal activity. After Queen spent twenty-eight months as "Billy St. John," the bearded, beer-swilling, Harley-riding gang-banger, the truth of his identity became blurry, even to himself. During his initial "prospecting" phase, Queen was at the mercy of crank-fueled criminal psychopaths who sought to have him test his mettle and prove his fealty by any means necessary, from selling (and doing) drugs, to arms trafficking, stealing motorcycles, driving getaway

cars, and, in one shocking instance, stitching up the face of a Mongol "ol' lady" after a particularly brutal beating at the hands of her boyfriend. Yet despite the constant criminality of the gang, for whom planning cop killings and gang rapes were business as usual, Queen also came to see the genuine camaraderie they shared. When his lengthy undercover work totally isolated Queen from family, his friends, and ATF colleagues, the Mongols felt like the only family he had left. "I had no doubt these guys genuinely loved Billy St. John and would have laid down their lives for him. But they wouldn't hesitate to murder Billy Queen." From Queen's first sleight of hand with a line of methamphetamine in front of him and a knife at his throat, to the fearsome face-off with their decades-old enemy, the Hell's Angels (a brawl that left three bikers dead), to the heartbreaking scene of a father ostracized at Parents' Night because his deranged-outlaw appearance precluded any interaction with regular citizens, *Under and Alone* is a breathless, adrenaline-charged read that puts you on the street with some of the most dangerous men in America and with the law enforcement agents who risk everything to bring them in. *The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students Who Took Vegas for Millions* Lennex

A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of 2021 Family secrets emerge as a best-selling author dives into the history of the mob in small-town America. Best-selling author Russell Shorto, praised for his incisive works of narrative history, never thought to write about his own past. He grew up knowing his grandfather and namesake was a small-town mob boss but maintained an unspoken family vow of silence. Then an elderly relative prodded: You're a writer—what are you gonna do about the story? *Smalltime* is a mob story straight out of central casting—but with a difference, for the small-town mob, which stretched from Schenectady to Fresno, is a mostly unknown world. The location is the brawny postwar factory town of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The setting is City Cigar, a storefront next to City Hall, behind which Russ and his brother-in-law, "Little Joe," operate a gambling empire and effectively run the town. *Smalltime* is a riveting American immigrant story that travels back to Risorgimento Sicily, to the ancient, dusty, hill-town home of Antonino Sciotto, the author's great-grandfather, who leaves his wife and children in grinding poverty for a new life—and wife—in a Pennsylvania mining town. It's a tale of Italian Americans living in squalor and prejudice, and of the rise of Russ, who, like thousands of other young men, created a copy of the American establishment that excluded him. *Smalltime* draws an intimate portrait of a mobster and his wife, sudden riches, and the toll a lawless life takes on one family. But *Smalltime* is something more. The author enlists his ailing father—Tony, the mobster's son—as his partner in the search for their troubled patriarch. As secrets are revealed and Tony's health deteriorates, the book becomes an urgent and intimate exploration of three generations of the American immigrant experience. Moving, wryly funny, and richly detailed, *Smalltime* is an irresistible memoir by a masterful writer of historical narrative.

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