



Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich Future for You and Your Partner

David Bach

Download now

Read Online [➔](#)

Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich Future for You and Your Partner

David Bach

Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich Future for You and Your Partner David Bach
From first-time newlyweds to people on their second or third marriage, couples face an overwhelming task when it comes to money management. Nationally renowned financial advisor and bestselling author David Bach knows that it doesn't have to be this way. In *Smart Couples Finish Rich*, he provides couples with easy-to-use tools that cover everything from credit card management, to investment advice, to long-term care. You and your partner will learn how to work together as a team to identify your core values and dreams, creating a financial plan that will allow you to achieve security, provide for your family's future financial needs, and increase your income. Together, you'll learn why couples that plan their finances together, stay together!

Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich Future for You and Your Partner Details

Date : Published January 8th 2002 by Crown Business (first published March 6th 2001)

ISBN : 9780767904841

Author : David Bach

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Economics, Finance, Personal Finance, Business, Nonfiction, Self Help

 [Download Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich F ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich Future for You and Your Partner David Bach

From Reader Review Smart Couples Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Creating a Rich Future for You and Your Partner for online ebook

Claire says

Everyone knows that senselessly accumulating wealth is pointless, so one of Bach's first steps is to have you really think about what you (as a couple) want to accomplish in life, then think about what kind of money is needed to be able to accomplish those things. This sparks vital conversation, allows you to think about how your goals could be accomplished with less moolah, and gives you something to work towards that is much more important than money itself. It stresses that money is a tool to be used for the things you want to do in/with your life, then goes into how to make your money work for you.

I learned a lot about how to make your money work for you and thought this a useful resource. (I should note that I'm a personal finance novice.)

That said, Bach is annoying. He's so freakin' bubbly and pulls you along as though you haven't got a motivated bone in your body. He really wants you to act out each of the 9 steps as you read about it and will make you feel bad if you move on to read about the next step without finishing the preceding one... which I guess is fine, because that way once you've read the book you've done the steps so you're set on a pretty good path, and won't have to think about your money plan until something life-changing happens. But he's still annoying. It's no surprise that he's been on Oprah.

I'd recommend at least the first two chapters to everyone.

Matt says

This helped my wife and I reach up and make the sacrifices and smart moves to get our finances and retirement on track. Worth reading- especially if you are a young couple trying to figure out how to fund things like college, retirement, and how not to be eating Ramen noodles for the rest of your life.

Dea Minnick says

I listened to this book, then took out the physical copy from the library.

I felt like David Bach is not condescending and doesn't make you feel stupid for not having your money perfectly under control. Although this is actually the first financial book I have listened to, I've seen other financial advisors on TV or YouTube and they seem scary and like they're yelling.

I like that this book has steps and that the steps start out with values. It makes saving money not so impossible and in a way that works for each individual, based on their priorities, not someone else's.

The only issue with the book is it was published in the early 2000s when the economy was better. So I had to tweak some of his suggestions for the current economy. Also, he doesn't really talk about debt. Which I need to conquer my debt before saving the amounts he suggests.

I plan to read his book on conquering debt next.

Allison says

Wow, I'm amazed at all of the things that this book is forcing me to do. I thought I knew 'enough' about our finances, investing, saving, etc but I really wasn't getting anywhere or making progress. I didn't know what I didn't know! The opening section on first determining your values as a starting point was eye-opening. Then, I totally failed the quiz. Yikes! After submitting to the fact that I wasn't being a very good financial partner, I decided to take it seriously and do all of the little exercises throughout the book (and I have now officially annoyed my husband in doing so). The filing system exercise was amazingly informational and getting our Will completed felt like a huge accomplishment. I would have never considered a 'long-term care' plan but now realize how much cheaper it is to buy one now rather than to wait. Next up is experimenting with DRIP investing - should be interesting! The quote that affected me most in the book was "Failing to plan together is the same as planning to fail together". Before reading this book, I really didn't think it was possible to make financial planning an enjoyable aspect of a marriage. Now I understand how much fun dreaming together is and setting up plans to actually make them happen.

Adam Moore says

Although I gave this book 4 stars I must say I was somewhat disappointed in the content of this book .The first few chapters I found very informative with applicable advice for discussing finance issues with your partner. The majority of the rest of the book seemed to give advice that did not appear considerably different from advice in David Bach's "automatic millionaire" or other books such as "I can Teach you to be rich" and "The Wealthy Barber".

Having said that, all of the above books including "Smart Couples Finish Rich" give great advice on saving, investing, taxation and insurance. David Bach's the Latte Factor is such an eye opener and demonstrates how little changes in a person's life can go a long way.

In conclusion, I still managed to give "Smart Couples Finish Rich" four stars due the fact if this was the only financial book someone was to read, they would be infinitely better of than before reading it.

Melissa says

I liked his approach. He emphasizes values and relationships, not just accumulating wealth. He also had a lot of good ideas and information. I have a better understanding of investing, mutual funds, retirement, and insurance than I had before I read this book. I found this to be a great supplement to Dave Ramsey's Total Money Makeover. Now I am off to make a value chart and get my financial stuff organized!

Vivian Adram says

Precise, concise and informative as ever.

Jodi says

The Automatic Millionaire, by David Bach, was such an easy read and so motivational, I thought I'd see what he has to say in this book for couples. It gave really great information, but was almost identical to Smart Women Finish Rich, so you don't need to read both. I really had a hard time noticing much difference at all between the two.

But this was a great source on how to easily save money regularly and invest for retirement, focusing on pre-tax contributions. A lot of the information is rather obvious, like paying yourself first, watching even the little purchases you make, and the power of compounding interest. But it also gave very helpful advice on choosing good insurance plans (health, life, disability, etc.) There was also a good chapter on how to increase your salary by 10% in 9 weeks. Overall, very good and basic information for people who might not understand much about investing.

Megan says

Yes, it's self-help. Yes, the writing is mediocre-- it's spattered with exclamation points, rhetorical questions, and incorrect uses of the word "literally." But who cares! The advice is invaluable, and thanks to this book I know with certainty that Adam and I will be more than comfortable in retirement. Hell, we might even be able to retire much earlier. Here are two of the choicest nuggets of wisdom I picked up:

1. Start a retirement plan. Now. There's a reason that the phrase "compound interest" is usually preceded by the participial phrase "the miracle of." It's miraculous. If you start saving \$2,000 a year when you're 30 and STOP saving when you're 40 but leave the balance untouched in an IRA, you will STILL have over a \$100,000 more in retirement than if you start saving when you're 40 and continue to save until you are 65. The terrible paradox is that it's always harder to save when you're young. But seriously, everyone needs to do it anyway-- especially if your employer matches your contributions (in that case, contribute the maximum! You're getting free money!!). People think it is impossible to save a few bucks a day, but as Bach points out, most Americans spend around \$600 a year on Starbucks anyway.

2. Pay off your mortgage early. Again, it doesn't sound so easy, but think about it: you will pay much more than DOUBLE the total cost of your house in interest if you take the full 30 years to pay it off. 30 year plans are scams. Much better to rent until you can pay off your home in 15 or 20 years. Adam and I did some calculations and we realized that if we cut our payment schedule in half we'll save \$87,000. Wow. Banks are getting rich off us. And, people who pay off their mortgages in 15 years retire an average of seven to ten years earlier than they would normally. Sign me up.

There are all sorts of other pointers in here that I'd never thought of: important kinds of insurance to have, the importance of making a will, the different kinds of investing available. I'm not going to follow every little tidbit of advice right now, but I figure if I can get a few of the biggies under my belt-- save for retirement, save for emergencies, pay off the house-- then I'll be miles and miles ahead. I'd recommend this book to anyone who wants the same for themselves.

Caitlin Stark says

This book has some good, basic information on financial planning. But it really needs to be updated.

Brian Egge says

This book focuses much on the mechanics of individual finance and doesn't spend much time and working together as a couple. Most of his advice is sound, but I think he has lost touch with much of the general population. In each chapter, he has a new suggestion to store away 5-10% of your income. I don't think giving up latte's is going to work for the household making the US median of \$62,175. Yes, it's good to max out your tax advantaged retirement accounts, having income reserves, college savings accounts, maximum health coverage, 15 year mortgage, etc., but I don't think you can do all this if you are making what most Americans make.

Tara says

Tyler said that since I read so much, I should try reading something that would benefit us both every now and then (Bill Simmons, apparently, doesn't count). Fair enough, so I looked up the most popular book on finances and put in a hold for it at the library. In the meantime, I went to the money section and picked this one up randomly. It was written in a MUCH more financially stable time. The author mocks people who would let their money waste away in a CD with an annual return of a measly 5-7% and I punched him in my head because show me those numbers now! and then I cried into my terrible interest rates. But there is some valuable advice regardless of the economic climate, like taking full advantage of my company's pretty decent 401(k) program and creating savings "baskets" for retirement, security, and dreams (to use his phraseology) and getting organized.

A lot of the advice needs to be tailored to suit individual circumstances, though. For example, since one of us is still in school, we obviously have that whole "tuition" thing to deal with. The silver lining is that Tyler can draft our will when he's done with law school, so GOOD THING he's getting a 6-figure education to cover a one-time expense. Phew, really dodged a bullet there.

Ashley says

Adam and I read this book chapter by chapter, finishing a chapter and then speaking about the steps asked of us by David Bach. There were two big things we took out of the book. First, obviously, talking about money with your spouse is the most important thing in a relationship. As two people who have been talking about money together since, honestly, the first month we met, this was nothing new for us. But, we did enjoy the exercises that asked us to talk about our long term goals, and how we would actively plan, save, and execute them. The second big thing we took away from the book was I finally signed up for my 401k. I know, I know, it's something you're just supposed to do, especially since I work for a company where they offer a

401k AND even contribute! But, I simply couldn't see the value in taking money away from what always felt like a too small paycheck to begin with. But Bach did a great job of explaining the benefits of putting away 10% of my income into a 401k that I finally grasped the importance. And after my first 401k payment went out of my paycheck, simple math showed that I was still coming out way, way on top. I think if nothing else, reading this book with your significant other, and talking about it together is a right step. Even if it inspires you to do nothing else but talk frequently about your financial future. So thanks Bach, and here's to Adam and my future as early retired millionaires....

Kerry & naomi says

I had read (and reviewed) *Smart Women Finish Rich* and found it very useful as a single woman navigating the financial world on her own. Once I was married, I found it fortuitous that David Bach published *Smart Couples Finish Rich*.

Bach's general approach has remained the same: he discusses the building blocks for financial fitness and prosperity in an engaging, easy-to-read manner without throwing in confusing jargon with which the reader might not be familiar. However, in this book, Bach definitely specializes his approach to appeal to both partners (I guess he got nasty phone calls and emails from husbands and boyfriends after publishing his first book, geared toward women taking control of their finances). He cites statistics that money and financial problems are a leading cause of friction in marriages and can lead to divorce and he's right: it's not always easy for two people with differing spending habits, credit histories, upbringing, etc., to combine their finances (or not) in ways with which they are comfortable and will optimize their use of money. Throughout the book Bach gives accounts from his own experiences as a financial advisor and as half of a couple who had differing views on how their money should be handled. One of the major tenets of the book is that couples need to work as a *team* toward their financial goals; it's not enough to just finish rich.

Bach outlines how couples can become fiscally solvent and independently wealthy by retirement in nine steps, divided into chapters. As I summarize the chapters below, I will also note information that differs from *Smart Women Finish Rich* where applicable.

Step One: Learn the Facts and Myths About Couples and Money

A portion of the information presented in this chapter, such as "everyone makes enough money to invest," mirrors Bach's first book. However, the bulk of information was new, such as the myth that "if we love each other, we won't fight about money." This chapter has several activities for couples to do, singly or together, to facilitate discussions about money. I liked the quiz because it demonstrated to me that I, the financial manager in my (first) marriage, did not have as good a grasp on where all our money was as I should have, and if something were to happen to me, my (ex-)husband would not have all the information he would need (oh well).

Step Two: Determine the True Purpose of Money in Your Life

While the goal of this chapter resembles the same concepts of *Smart Women Finish Rich*, the method is different. For this book Bach revised the ladder method for determining one's values and changed it to a value circle. I like the value circle much better because it does not privilege one value over another and I do have several values that determine how I spend, save, and invest money. Couples are encouraged to make individual value circles instead of trying to compromise on one set. From values, the activities move on to

establishing goals (i.e., marriage or independence are values, to be debt-free or retire early are goals).

Step Three: Plan Together...Win Together

In this chapter, Bach demonstrates how couples create a Purpose-Focused Financial Plan, a plan that respects their values and helps them meet their goals. He updated and simplified the plan used in *Smart Women Finish Rich* and included extra worksheets in the back of the book. Bach encourages couples to start by figuring out what assets they have and where everything is and provides a filing system for getting the finances in order and keeping them that way. I already had a filing system in place, but I adopted Bach's method since it cleared up some ambiguous categories for me.

Step Four: The Couples' Latté Factor

This chapter, very similar to the first book, details how couples spend money frivolously and amply demonstrates how middle class couples have enough money to start investing. He adds a new activity to this chapter for couples to track their spending called "The Seven-Day Financial Challenge." The real challenge is trying to remember to write down everything, every day.

Steps Five-Seven: Building Your Baskets

Bach believes that everyone should have three baskets: one for retirement, one for security, and one for dreams. The retirement chapter discusses 401k accounts and how to invest the funds, IRAs (all kinds), tax deferrals, and even a section for the self-employed. The security chapter discusses not only funding the basket but other measures for protecting one's family like having a will or living trust, and various kinds of insurance. The dream chapter has an activity for figuring out what one's dreams are and then implementing them. This chapter also discusses more of the short-term kinds of investments like bonds, mutual funds, etc. All of these chapters have information similar to the first book, but expand upon the topics a great deal. Bach also includes telephone and website information for some of the top companies (investment, insurance, etc.) and encourages couples to do their homework before placing their money with any bank or firm.

Step Eight: Learn to Avoid the Ten Biggest Financial Mistakes Couples Make

In the first book, Bach listed nine mistakes, in this book, he lists ten, but not all the mistakes are the same. This section addresses college funds and teaching one's children about money as well as day-trading and pre-nuptial agreements. Bach also includes rules for choosing a financial advisor, scaled back to eight from ten rules in the previous book.

Step Nine: Increase Your Income by 10 Percent in Nine Weeks

I found this chapter nearly useless because it's about how to ask for a raise. While other people can benefit from this information, I'm a government employee and there's no such thing as asking for a raise; if an employee has a certain number of years of service and is in a certain grade, the salary is set. The only piece of information in this chapter of use to me was about cleaning out and organizing one's workspace, but I already try to practice that.

Appendices

Bach also includes, besides the worksheets mentioned above, an income-expense worksheet, an inventory planner for determining net worth, and a contract for increasing one's salary 10%.

Overall

Smart Couples Finish Rich expands on some of the ideas and information from *Smart Women Finish Rich* and presents it all in a friendly, couples-focused fashion. This book details the tools couples, or singles, need to secure their financial independence for their retirement. And, it encourages us to finish rich for all the right reasons, consistent with our values, not just to have money for the sake of having money.

Abby says

This book was written in 2001. As such, I think SOME of the specific investment advice might be a bit off given the state of the economy. However, there is lots of good information here to take away.

I appreciate the emphasis on creating a relationship between money management and one's core values. Identifying those core values and standing for them even when they don't align with ideas forwarded in media culture can be a challenge. However, according to Bach, doing so is key to creating the smart and healthy relationship with money that will allow one to create the life they want for themselves.

I also appreciated the emphasis on planning and patience in building wealth. As a high school teacher, I see the perception of wealth in the eyes of my students. The belief that rich is something that happens quickly or not at all is common. Even as an adult, it's hard to avoid the hope for a financial windfall of some sort. However, the reality is that wealth is grown over years; and it takes discipline and planning to make it happen. This is the key component of Bach's advice.
