



Rogue Trader

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A real-life thriller - Nick Leeson's own account of how a 'rogue trader' rocked the City to its foundations in 1995.

Rogue Trader Details

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Author : Nick Leeson

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From Reader Review Rogue Trader for online ebook

Arvind says

Worth reading this book (even if you dont understand too much about banking). Amazing how a single man can bring down an almost legendary bank with such ease! Great thing about this book is that Nick Leeson (the culprit and author) doesn't try to defend himself, he just states facts as they are.

Benjy says

Very readable, makes you feel sorry for him, which I guess is the point! He comes across as deceptive but trying to cover up the mistakes of others and ultimately is very hardworking. A great read

Richard Sanger says

I think you will know immediately whether you will enjoy this book by reading the back. I am interested in financial things so I thought it was a very good read

Nico says

Very well written recount of his life. The story as such is unbelievable. If you wouldn't know it actually happened, you could consider it fiction.

Henry says

This is a really really fun read, i was siding with him the whole way. It is astonishing how little the senior management knew or wanted to know about what he was doing, it is called wilful negligence...

SWZIE says

Rogue Trader is quite an exciting book and it reads like a thriller. It's a true account of a well documented crime. Nick Leeson, a young broker with Barings Bank, was sent to work as general-manager at the Singapore International Monetary Exchange. At first he made large profits. His problems began when he covered-up a mistake by one of his colleagues, and hid the financial loss in an error account referred to as 88888. Nick then tried to recoup that loss, only to make losses of his own. In the beginning he was confident he would eventually recover from his devastating bad-luck, but he just got deeper and deeper into the quagmire. Nick continuously requested large amounts of funds from London, hoping that his trading would eventually make profits to balance his losses, but the financial market was against him. Then an earth quake

exacerbated his problems by negatively affecting the flow of financial trading.

The biography is full of jargon, such as futures, options and derivatives, which just went over my head, but there is no need to understand those terms to enjoy the book.

Nick's request for millions of pounds of funding from London was interpreted by the Barings Bank bosses, as having a whiz- kid trader, who was making millions of pounds of profit for them. Therefore, Nick became a legend among his social circle. Nick was dealing in unauthorised speculative trading and he suffered a particularly heavy loss, which he tried to hide. There was evidence of discrepancies that should have been obvious to anyone who compared the figures. When awkward questions arose, Nick just blinded his superiors with jargon, but they were too proud to admit they had no idea what he was talking about. I'm sure readers would find this amusing, because, to me, there was an element of black comedy.

Nick Leeson, although not a polished writer, successfully conveys how his prolonged duplicity culminated in his ever deepening nightmare. I felt his raw emotions: considerable stress, constant anxiety and literally sick with fright. His feeling of solitude was evident, as he hadn't even confided in his wife. I felt it was written with honesty. At first, I really didn't like the impression Nick gave of himself, as a cocky, confident trader, who was arrogant, self-absorbed and prone to boorish behaviour. But I eventually began to empathise with his predicament. The book is an unbelievable page turner.

Anna says

A fascinating insight into another world - a world of money, banking and pressure - so completely removed from my own. Pretty much all of the financial jargon went completely over my head (and I must admit, I made little effort to figure it out because it just doesn't interest me), but it was still easy to see how Nick Leeson got in completely over his head, but how he believed, right to the end, that he could 'trade his way' out of it - I suppose like gambling addicts do. Despite not really understanding a lot of it, this book had me up late at night, reading 'just a few more pages...', because I had to see what happened next. I wonder what he is doing now? I'm going to Google him and see if I can find out!

Louis says

I have read this book multiple times - it gives an accessible but fascinating insight into the dangers of playing the markets, the human decisions/pressures he was under and how when they go wrong, it can bring even the oldest banks down. Reading it now, it shows that we didn't learn as we've seen other banks fall during the 2007-08 crisis much bigger and harder. This is different as one man caused it and his story of being on the run adds to the interest.

Jeroen Van de Crommenacker says

Probably the most fun read of all the books about this subject, because it is written by the protagonist himself. I largely enjoyed it.

Glory Dey says

Excellent Book Depicting The Real Life Story Of Money, Greed, Banking, Financial Markets In The World. There Is A Movie Titled Rogue Trader (1999) Starring Ewan McGregor, Anna Friel Based On This Book Worth Watching. Both The Book And Movie Are Thrilling. Truly Greed And Corruption Have Always Been The Destruction Of The Powerful And Mighty. The Stock Markets Are Nothing But One Big Bad Gamble Fueled By The Greed And Manipulation Of The Super Wealthy Entities. And Common People Fall For The Lure Of Cheap Wealth. All These Scams, Scandals And World Crisis Remind Us The Importance Of values And Integrity In Life! Great Book, Must Read!

John Toffee says

Right from minute one Nick Leeson is unlikeable. Therefore resulting in the reader having no sympathy with any of his constant whining and 'I know I brought the banking system down, caused my employer to loss millions, acted like a complete idiot etc. etc.' but none of it was my fault because they didn't have the proper checks and balances in place.

The book does show that without proper management what can happen and in this respect it is incredibly frightening. But, particularly after reading the book and being someone who worked for 13 years in the banking industry, I have no time for Leeson and feel that his prison sentence was far too lenient.

His arrogance shines throughout and is only surpassed by the yellow streak of cowardice that runs down his back which refuses to allow him to accept responsibility for the pain and misery his actions alone caused. Read out of interest but not if a penny of the proceeds goes to line his pocket or self-inflated ego.

Stephen Andrew says

A really eye opener.

Anne Laing says

Honest untruthful account of a true story

Enjoyed this book very much, why did one man have to endure this punishment alone, others were not doing their job properly

Drew says

Stress from start to finish. If you want to feel better about yourself, read this and be glad you're not him.

Triplebyte says

"Nick Leeson walks us through his career in finance. It explains how he ended up trading without authorisation leading to the collapse of Barings Bank." – Angus C.
