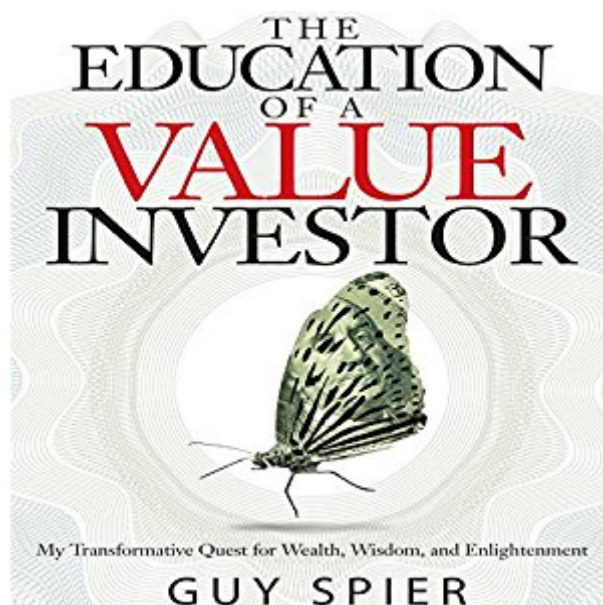


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The Education Of A Value Investor: My Transformative Quest For Wealth, Wisdom And Enlightenment



Synopsis

What happens when a young Wall Street investment banker spends a small fortune to have lunch with Warren Buffett? He becomes a real value investor. In this fascinating inside story, Guy Spier details his career from Harvard MBA to hedge fund manager. But the path was not so straightforward. Spier reveals his transformation from a Gordon Gekko wannabe, driven by greed, to a sophisticated investor who enjoys success without selling his soul to the highest bidder. Spier's journey is similar to the thousands that flock to Wall Street every year with their shiny new diplomas, aiming to be King of Wall Street. Yet what Guy realized just in the nick of time was that the King really lived 1,500 miles away in Omaha, Nebraska. Spier determinedly set out to create a new career in his own way. Along the way he learned some powerful lessons which include: why the right mentors and partners are critical to long term success on Wall Street; why a topnotch education can sometimes get in the way of your success; that real learning doesn't begin until you are on your own; and how the best lessons from Warren Buffett have less to do with investing and more to do with being true to yourself. Spier also reveals some of his own winning investment strategies, detailing deals that were winners but also what he learned from deals that went south. Part memoir, part Wall Street advice, and part how-to, Guy Spier takes readers on a ride through Wall Street but more importantly provides those that want to take a different path with the insight, guidance, and inspiration they need to carve out their own definition of success.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I will definitely read this book again, slowly, considering all the life changes I want to make. This is the most honest and open account of an investor coming of age I have come across. It deals directly with a lot of the in-the-weeds difficulties of staying disciplined, setting up the factors that will prevent known psychological traps and investing boldly as a contrarian. Spier has an extremely insightful perspective on what has led to Buffett's investing prowess. In moulding himself after the legendary investor he shows how it's possible for anyone to similarly set the odds up in their favor. They may not achieve Buffett-status but they stand a good chance of beating 90% of professional investors after fees, an approach that will surely lead to considerable wealth over a lifetime. Similar to Guy, I experienced rapture when I first read the Intelligent Investor as well as Lowenstein's biography on Buffett. While I have implemented much of the teachings in my own investing strategy over the past six years, I now wish I'd been even more fanatical. For instance, Spier has set rules for himself such as always reading primary sources first, only checking stock prices once a week, never reading sell-side research and not talking about current investments. He has also worked hard to surround himself with high-quality likeminded investing peers. Well, I plan to remedy things, starting with attending the Berkshire annual meeting this year...

• Hang out with people better than you, and you cannot help but improve •. This book by one of the most prolific second-generation Buffetteteers is about building the appropriate investment foundation, about setting up the right environment, about the triumphs of an inner scorecard over an outer one (or as Buffett would have put it: "Would you prefer to be considered the best lover in the world and know privately that you are the worst" or the other way around?). First and foremost however, it is about the importance of finding the right role models. Guy Spier has " in collaboration with William Green who has evidently done a masterful job with the prose " written one of the most personal books in the financial arena ever. It can be found in the same corner of the room as Tony Robbins' Awaken The Giant Within, Edwin Lefkowitz's Reminiscences of a Stock Operator and Poor Charlie's Almanack, openly sharing lessons learned and human misjudgements, with curiosity and authenticity. Rarely has a book about investing been more highly touted pre-publication, at least within financial circles. A 2008-lunch with Buffett, stellar investment results over 17 years and a well-read piece in Wall Street Journal by Jason Zweig will do that. A plea to those of you ready to move on to more contrarian pastures: please stay around. Mr. Spier's journey " chaptered in chronological order " is one of rebooting himself from his own version of Dante's Inferno and not only paying lip service to good advice, but also physically enacting them. End result: a truer value investor in every sense of the words. The author writes

about a sea meaning that goes beyond money, professional advancement, or social cachet •.

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