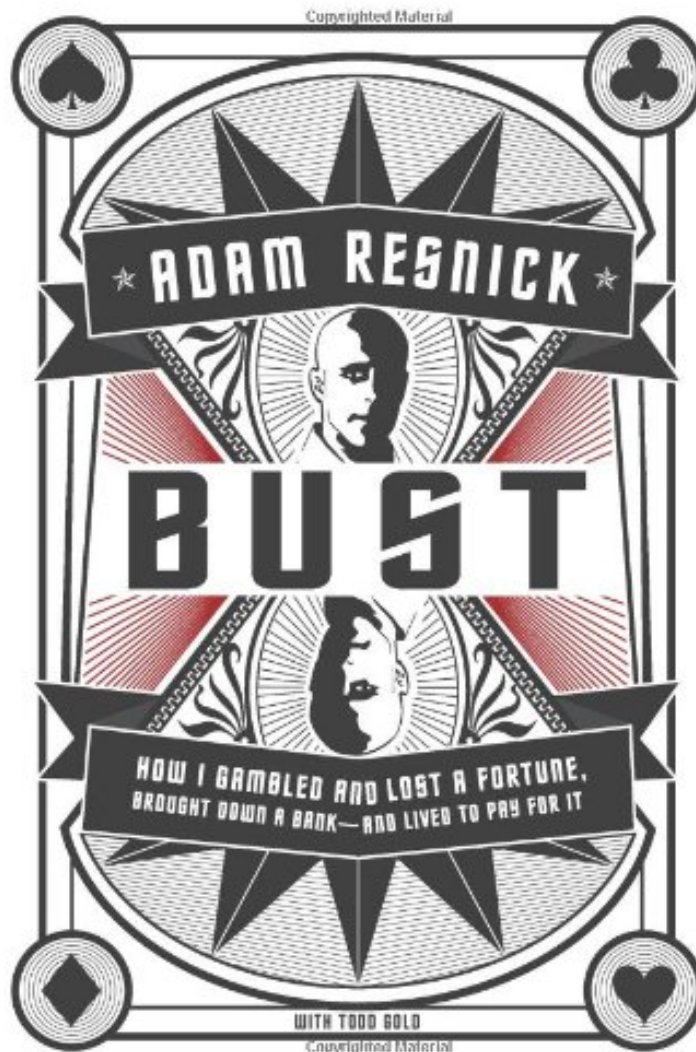


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## Bust: How I Gambled and Lost a Fortune, Brought Down a Bank--and Lived to Pay for It

*Adam B. Resnick*

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**Adam B. Resnick : Bust: How I Gambled and Lost a Fortune, Brought Down a Bank--and Lived to Pay for It** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bust: How I Gambled and Lost a Fortune, Brought Down a Bank--and Lived to Pay for It:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a fun emotional rideBy Greg WojnarowskiWhat a fun emotional ride. As someone who frequented casinos and bet on sports many times in the past, I can relate so much of

my life to this story (without bringing down a bank of course). So I can assure you the details in this story can be very real. I also grew up in the Chicago area so that was an interesting dynamic as well. I'd also recommend a book called *Poker Tilt* by Dutch Boyd for those who have an interest in the pitfalls and perils of a poker player. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Holy. Crap. By jbenjtsn First of all, I will go on record and say that this book is almost impossible to put down once you start reading it. I heard the author on a local Chicago radio show and his life seemed like a total roller-coaster of a ride and I thought I've got to read more about this guy. I bought the book and think I read the entire thing in about 2 days. No doubt the author is a very smart guy in his businesses, but just goes to show you how one's life can get turned upside down within the world of gambling and chance. This book is a MUST READ for anyone who loves stories about ordinary people that defy the odds of survival with the the mob, Las Vegas casinos, the government and various other nefarious characters chomping on your heels. I still can't imagine living this guys life for even one day. Wow. A+++ Outstanding book. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wanna bet on a million little pieces ? By Mark P. McDonald I picked up this book after hearing about it on the radio of all places! The Talk Show host talked about the book with a sense of awe that anyone could do the things that Resnick did to feed his gambling habit. It is the sense of someone who is liable to the flash and celebrity associated with addition rather than the realities of broken families and broken lives. Bust is a good story and while the people are real, I would suggest that readers look at this as a piece of fiction -- really a tribute to the incredible hubris of a person who is addicted to the action. The books prose works at a quick clip, the stories are almost too cute and perfect for the subject. Resnick is an addict and in the book you get the sense that he has mentally internalized his problem, yet psychically he has not. In that regard it is a somewhat tragic tale until you realize that may be exactly what Resnick wants you to think. Recommended as a first person study of the destructive effect of addition and the fact that it is always there even when you recognize you have a problem.

You always drown alone, and there I was. . . . It was 10 AM, and I'd kissed my two small children good-bye, told my wife that I was headed to work, and then sped to the Horseshoe. I had a \$1 million check wadded up in my pocket and I didn't know it. For the past seven months I'd written checks, illegally, off an internal account at Universal Federal Savings and Loan, cycling more than \$200 million in and out of the bank to fuel my gambling. I was on the binge of all binges. I had no idea that in a week I'd be walking into the same casino, at nearly the same time, needing to win at least \$3 million to keep the bank from collapsing and my world from falling apart. I was thirty years old, arguably the biggest gambling addict on the planet, and I was headed for a crash of epic proportions. On the surface, Adam Resnick was your typical guy next door, a dynamic young businessman, a devoted husband and father of two. But Adam spent nearly two decades as an obsessive gambler, chasing his habit from casino to casino, bookie to bookie, winning and losing millions, often in mere hours--until one day he received a phone call that was his moment of reckoning, and that marked his transition from lifelong addiction to awareness and recovery. *Bust* is a white-knuckled cautionary tale of wild risks and desperate measures. Introduced to gambling at the age of six, Adam was a whiz kid who was winning tens of thousands before he was out of his teens. A successful businessman, he won and lost fortunes betting on blackjack and sports--and wrote more than 130 bad checks to cover his losses. His high-rolling lifestyle opened the door to a universe designed to prey on his weaknesses; his life became an endless parade of demanding bookies, enablers who lent him cash at punishing rates, and casino staff who'd do anything to keep him in action. And, finally, he found what seemed like the answer to his prayers: an insider at a community-owned Chicago bank who gave him access to virtually unlimited-- and unauthorized--funds. It all came to a head one fateful morning when a phone call informed him that he had twenty-four hours to deposit \$3 million into a bank account. Faced with financial ruin, he drove to an Indiana casino, won up to \$8 million in one night . . . and then lost it all before he left the table. That frenzied binge--captured on casino videotape--led to the bank's collapse, and to the conviction of Adam and two others on charges of check kiting and bank fraud. A narrative of breakneck highs and crashing lows, *Bust* is one of the most vivid--and sobering--portraits of addiction and redemption ever captured on paper.

About the Author Adam Resnick grew up in a typical middle-class Wisconsin household. From early childhood, he exhibited behavioral patterns that would later define and drive his gambling. Before his indictment in 2005, he had built a successful career as a health care entrepreneur. In January 2007, after pleading guilty to wire fraud, Resnick began a forty-two-month term in federal prison.