

[Ebook free] The blackjack hijack

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Charles Einstein

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Charles Einstein : The blackjack hijack before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The blackjack hijack:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. NostalgiaBy Barry H. MarshI've read this book about 20 years ago and found it on ...really enjoyed it and I would reccommend it highly..4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Goofy funBy Dave SchwartzThe Blackjack Hijack is a definite genre mixer, combining "math whiz beats Vegas" with 1970s disaster movie (the eponymous "hijack." But the book doesn't stop there: it throws in a bit of everything: a faked suicide, apartment living in Las Vegas, and of course the obligatory love interest. There are even musings on comparative civil engineering and subway construction in San Francisco, New York, and Montreal.But what truly sets this novel apart from others of its ilk is its improbable linkge of the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy with one man's plan to strike it rich through blackjack. The cover image shows the expected blackjack hand, rather amusingly retouched. The top half of the jack is a mustachioed gunman, visibly irate at his bad 1970s big hair, while the bottom is "Jack" Kennedy himself. I ususally say that the truth is stupider than fiction, but this might be exception that proves the rule.The plot isn't much: Harry Allen, structural engineer, finds the perfect betting system, which involves multiply his base bet by ten at set intervals. Though he is in communication with the book's narrator, a newspaper columnist who has published a book on card counting, he "doesn't have to count cards for the system to work." You read that right. The great secret to winning at blackjack isn't card counting, which actually has solid math behind it, but getting the right betting system.Don't ask me why, but Allen is motivated by the Kennedy assassination to develop this system, create a dual identity, and then, years later, "commit suicide," only to reemerge in

Las Vegas. Interesting cultural history stuff here, as we see what Las Vegas casinos were like in the early 1970s (at least in the author's perception), and what it was like to move to a small apartment back then. Apparently it was no problem at all to pick up soon-to-be divorced hotties before you even got your TV hooked up. By the time the book gets around to the hijack, there's something like 40 pages left, and it seems like something of an anti-climax. It's interesting, though, to see how calm everyone is about the hijacking, and how the hijackers have simple demands--a definite artifact of the world before 9/11.