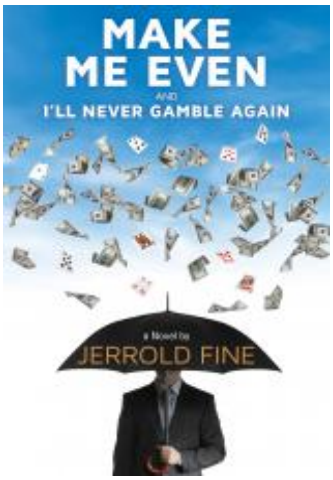
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Make Me Even and I'll Never Gamble Again

by Jerrold Fine



About the Book

Drawing from his own experiences in the turbulent '70s and '80s, hedge fund pioneer Jerrold Fine blends a heartfelt story of a young man fiercely intent on achieving independence with a fascinating insider?s look at the perks and pitfalls of a high-stakes life in the world of financial markets in his debut novel.

Rogers Stout has the gambler?s gifts --- a titanic brain, an uncanny ability to read people, and a risk-taker?s daring. As an apathetic high school student who loves baseball but lacks a 90-mph fastball, he knows that the game does not begin until the ball leaves the pitcher?s hand. But his life needs direction.

Everything changes the summer he is invited into the boisterous environment of an investment bank?s trading room, and to a gambling hall dive where he immediately wins big at poker, capturing the attention of his co-workers with his card-playing skills. Intrigued by trading markets, Rogers? intellectual curiosity takes him to Wharton and then Wall Street, where he faces challenges as an outsider who thinks and acts differently from the white-shoe establishment. With his intuition and prowess, he?s ready to rewrite the rules and tackle markets with a flair that leaves his employers flabbergasted.

Rogers senses opportunity and willingly accepts the challenge that awaits him. He leans heavily on his gut instincts and the unusual cadre of friendships he cultivates, but learns the hard way to be alert to the perils that await him. He longs to prove himself and achieve his goals, yet is torn between the thrill of trading and investing, and pursuing a higher purpose in life. And through it all, he still feels the loss of his mother, who died when he was too young to remember her --- an open wound that refuses to heal.

As Rogers plays his career hand, life plays another. Should he follow the temptress Elsbeth and her ravishing beauty, or Charlotte, his high-spirited first love?

An intriguing look at human aspiration and the interplay of honor, greed, fear and individuality, MAKE ME EVEN AND I'LL NEVER GAMBLE AGAIN reveals a time when a new generation upended the status quo on Wall Street and forever changed investing.

Discussion Guide

1. MAKE ME EVEN AND I?LL NEVER GAMBLE AGAIN is about one man?s coming of age, from the Midwest to the Ivy League, Wall Street and beyond. How does the clever protagonist Rogers Stout incorporate his love of poker and baseball to his advantage in the financial world?

2. In the first few pages, Rogers? dad, Dr. Stout, sits him down to have the ?talk? about his future. Do you remember a time in your life when you had a serious talk like this with a parent? If so, what about that talk stuck with you?

3. An alternate title for this novel could well have been ?A Young Man and His Mentors.? Of the many people in Rogers? life who mentored him, who do you think was the most influential and why?

4. Why do you think Rogers returns again and again to seek out advice from Ronnie Davis? Did you ever sense competition between the two friends?

5. What do you think of the relationship between Rogers and his father? What impact did his mother?s death have on their family?

6. Financial whiz and influential professor Bates MacNeer lectures his students that the one crucial thing necessary to succeed is ?judgment.? Do you agree? How does Rogers prove this point?

7. Rogers goes out on a limb for his assignment concerning the Gulf-Pecos merger. What about his handling of this demonstrates his ability to be successful on Wall Street?

8. During college and his early days on Wall Street, Rogers has romantic relationships with Charlotte and Elsbeth. What do you think he gains from each relationship?

9. Did you ever have a teacher like Bates MacNeer or mentors like Ambrose Burr or Ezra? If so, what part did they play in your life?

10. Were you surprised at Rogers? review at BAM toward the end of the book? What was the ?life lesson? he gleaned from that experience?

11. Do you follow the stock market at all, or was MAKE ME EVEN AND I?LL NEVER GAMBLE AGAIN a learning experience for you? After reading the book, are you curious to learn more about the financial world?

Author Bio

Jerrold Fine was a pioneer in the hedge fund industry. At age 24, along with two Wharton colleagues, he started one of the first hedge funds in 1967. Nine years later, he founded a private investment firm which he managed until he converted it into a family office in 2014. Throughout these years, he survived and thrived during a multitude of market ups and downs. When the character Rogers Stout entered his consciousness and refused to leave, he launched his career as a novelist.

A graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, he has served multiple terms on its Undergraduate Executive Board and Board of Overseers. Running his family?s investments, Jerry has conveniently forgotten his baseball batting averages but still relishes memories of winning poker hands. He lives in Connecticut with his artist wife and a ridiculously spoiled Portuguese Water Dog.

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