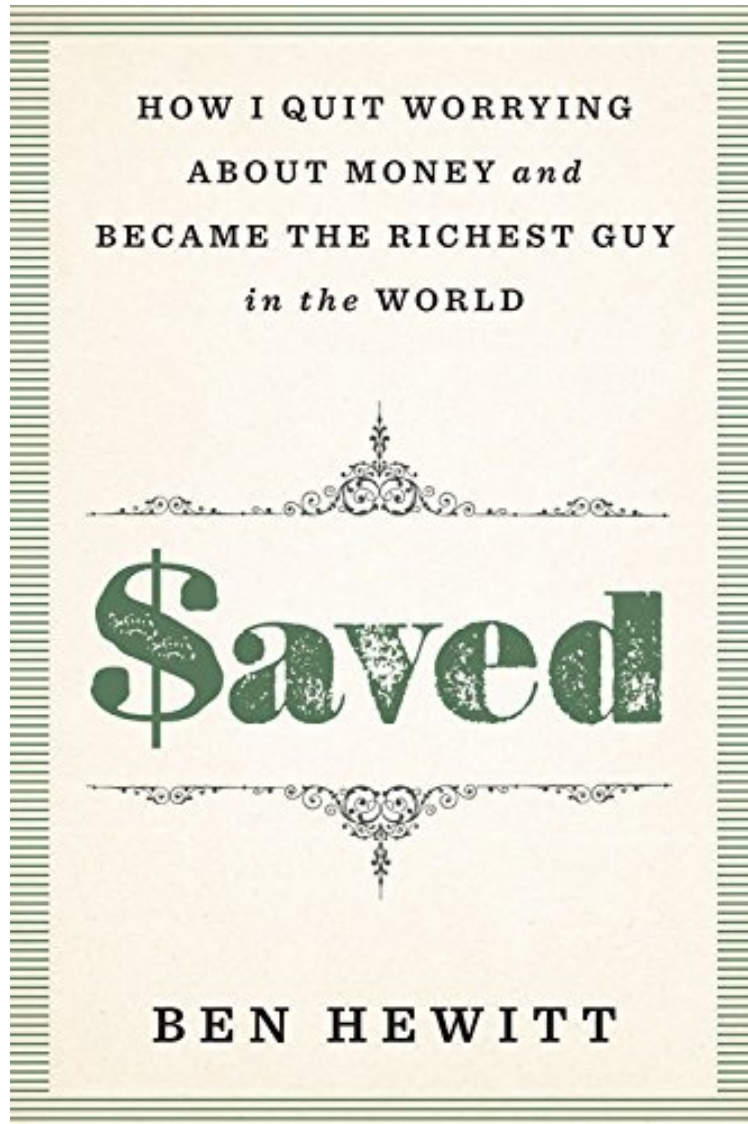


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Saved: How I quit worrying about money and became the richest guy in the world

Ben Hewitt

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Ben Hewitt : Saved: How I quit worrying about money and became the richest guy in the world before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saved: How I quit worrying about money and became the richest guy in the world:

32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Three books in one!By Diana RobertsThis book is actually three books in one: A story about a single guy who lives on very little money, a well-researched book that explains our Federal Reserve monetary policy in easy to understand language, and a call to arms for those of us who believe there is

more to life than the accumulation of wealth. I found the emphasis on Erik to be the weakest of the stories. I would be far more interested in reading more about how Mr. Hewitt his family thrive on \$35K a year in an area known for having a high cost of living. I hope Mr. Hewitt his wife collaborate on a book next. I have the feeling that Mrs. Hewitt would have some interesting positive views on how to raise children in a consumer-driven world. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Foggy and missing practical advice

By capucine

On the pro side, I valued two things this book puts a pin in - how money makes it easy to acquire something without the burden of 'owing someone' in return as with favors or bartering, and how a sense of happiness isn't tied to having/spending money. The explanation of how money in America is actually pretend was interesting, too. The book got me reflecting and thinking. On the con side, it was weighted too heavily on the intellectual with all the terms sprinkled in and explanations - conscious and unconscious economies, etc. And is indeed repetitive and says too often 'which we'll get into in the next chapter' or 'which I'll explain later'. There were several times I could have easily skipped a couple pages and missed nothing. So it's not a straightforward read that makes the confusing clear, and after admonishing not to save out of fear, it does not offer any suggestions for what old age is supposed to look like without that money. Much more energy on practical advice about making changes was missing. I think he's fumbling toward articulating something of value in changing our personal relationships to money, but he isn't totally clear on it himself yet and wrote prematurely. And that guy he's charmed by, dumpster diving for old sneakers, has doppelgangers in my hippie beach town. At 28, it is one thing. At 65, it is another - your children scrambling to find ways to treat sudden cancer for you or get you that shoulder surgery. That is to say, he should write this book again in twenty years or find a different subject to hold up as having found a good path.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provoking

By MI

Just finished reading this, one day after starting it. For someone who has given little conscious thought to money and what it means to me, or our economy, it has permanently altered my perceptions. I had seen this book recommended by a blog I read, and I had heard of Ben through an independent magazine I subscribe to, but I was reluctant to make the purchase because I dislike reading "how-to" books on money or finance. However, this is not a how-to book at all. Ben does touch on some of the technical and political aspects of money. For example, I now have a better understanding of the history of our nation's currency, what a mortgage actually represents (where's the money?!), and some of the makings of our current national debt situation. I am also more aware of how we got from the frugal "use it up and wear it out" strategy of my World War II generation parents to the "use it 'til it breaks or the upgrade comes out" mentality we currently exist in. As Ben puts it, "...it's not about what you NEED, it's about what industry needs you to THINK you need." But for me, Ben's examination into the SOCIAL aspect of money and how we relate to it, and by extension, how our relationship to money, both as individuals and as a culture, is where I have learned and stretched the most in reading this book. Ben examines and puts to voice some of the same questions and concerns I grapple with. "The workings of our money system and the manner in which it pits us against the environment, each other, and ultimately ourselves is so nonsensical that it becomes repellant..." But how do we extricate ourselves from this system? And what would that look like? Ben uses his inspiration for creating this book Eric Gillard to provide an example of someone choosing a life that does not revolve around the earning or spending of money, and the peace, mindfulness, generosity, authenticity, and serenity this life can provide. But he also raises the question, is Eric's level of contentment related to his lack of dependence on money? Or is it his attitude toward money? This is not a step-by-step book about making changes in your life or your attitudes toward money. But it will make you question your relationship to money, the sacrifices required to obtain it, and the realness of the security and happiness it brings.

When Ben Hewitt met Erik Gillard, he was amazed. Here was a real-life rebel living happily and comfortably in small-town Vermont on less than \$10,000 per year. Gillard's no bum. He has a job, a girlfriend, good friends, and strong ties to the community. But how he lives his life--and why--launches Hewitt on a quest to understand the true role of money and mindless consumerism in our lives. By meeting and befriending people like Erik Gillard, Hewitt realized that their happiness was real. What was he--and the rest of a deeply unhappy population--missing? Saved is the humorous, surprising, and ultimately life-changing result of Hewitt's quest, a narrative that challenges everything we know about the meaning of money. Hewitt uses his sharp eye for story, exhaustive reporting, and his own experience living below his means to bring what he learned into an even larger context. How does money really work? How can a bankrupt society move forward? The answers are not what you think, and Hewitt has written an important book for our times.

Thought-provoking new views on transforming our relationship with currency. Kirkus Thought-provoking; [Hewitt's] a terrific writer ndash; clear, funny, observant, even poetichellip; Saved made me laugh and think. NEW HAMPSHIRE CONCORD MONITOR About the Author BEN HEWITT is the bestselling author of The Town That Food Saved and Making Supper Safe. His work has appeared in Wired, The New York Times Magazine, Men's Journal, Bicycling, and others. He lives in Cabot, VT.