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A Colossal Failure of Common Sense: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Lehman Brothers is a 2009 non-fiction book written by Lawrence G. McDonald and Patrick Robinson

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which chronicles the events surrounding the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in the context of the financial crisis of 2007–2010 and the subprime mortgage crisis. The work is divided into a prologue, an epilogue, and twelve chapters. As of August 9, 2009, the book was 7th on The New York Times Best Seller list for hardcover ...

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"A Colossal Failure of Common Sense," though seen thru the lens of Lehman Bros. excesses, a great read for those who believe Capitalism need not = greed. Getting beyond the narrator's narcissism and only adequate writing, is well worth the effort. Makes an upside down value system of

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A Colossal Failure of Common Sense is a human story of McDonald ' s rise from a Massachusetts project, to the New York headquarters of Lehman Brothers, home to one of the toughest trading floors in the world. He posed as a pizza

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delivery man to get past receptionists, to score interviews at brokerage firms.

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In A Colossal Failure of Common Sense, Larry McDonald, a Wall Street insider, reveals, the culture and unspoken rules of the game like no book has ever done. The book is couched in the very human story of Larry McDonald ' s Horatio Alger-like rise from a Massachusetts " gateway to nowhere " housing project to the New York headquarters of Lehman Brothers, home of one of the world ' s toughest trading floors.

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In this news-making, often astonishing book, a former

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Brothers Vice President gives us the straight answers--right from the belly of the beast. In A Colossal Failure of Common Sense, Larry McDonald, a Wall Street insider, reveals, the culture and unspoken rules of the game like no book has ever done.

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A Colossal Failure of Common Sense eBook by Larry McDonald - 9781407030678 | Rakuten Kobo United Kingdom. Read "A Colossal Failure of Common Sense The Incredible Inside Story of the Collapse of Lehman Brothers" by Larry McDonald available from Rakuten Kobo. When Lehman Brothers bank went under, the world gasped.

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Yet “ A Colossal Failure of Common Sense ” largely rings true. It expresses the anger that many former Lehman employees still feel toward Mr Fuld.

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A Colossal Failure of Common Sense is by Larry McDonald, a trader at the bank, and his view of its culture is much darker than Tibman ' s. McDonald ' s background was in convertible bonds. McDonald ' s background was in convertible bonds.

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A former vice president of Lehman Brothers explains the financial collapse of the securities giant in 2008, what led to the financial crisis, and who was responsible for its downfall.

One of the biggest questions of the financial crisis has not been answered until now: What happened at Lehman Brothers and why was it allowed to fail, with aftershocks that rocked the global economy? In this news-making, often astonishing book, a former Lehman Brothers Vice President gives us the straight answers—right from the belly of the beast. In *A Colossal Failure of Common Sense*, Larry McDonald, a Wall Street insider, reveals, the culture and

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Brothers, Lawrence O'Neil

unspoken rules of the game like no book has ever done. The book is couched in the very human story of Larry McDonald ' s Horatio Alger-like rise from a Massachusetts " gateway to nowhere " housing project to the New York headquarters of Lehman Brothers, home of one of the world ' s toughest trading floors. We get a close-up view of the participants in the Lehman collapse, especially those who saw it coming with a helpless, angry certainty. We meet the Brahmins at the top, whose reckless, pedal-to-the-floor addiction to growth finally demolished the nation ' s oldest investment bank. The Wall Street we encounter here is a ruthless place, where brilliance, arrogance, ambition, greed, capacity for relentless toil, and other human traits combine in a potent mix that sometimes fuels prosperity but

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occasionally destroys it. The full significance of the dissolution of Lehman Brothers remains to be measured. But this much is certain: it was a devastating blow to America ' s—and the world ' s—financial system. And it need not have happened. This is the story of why it did.

When Lehman Brothers bank went under, the world gasped. One of the world's biggest and most successful banks, its downfall was the event that sparked the slide of the world economy toward a Great Depression II. This is the gripping inside story of the dark characters who ruled Lehman, who refused to heed warnings that the company was headed for an iceberg; the world-class, mid-level people who valiantly fought to get Lehman off its disastrous course; the crash

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that didn't have to happen. A news-breaking explanation that answers the question everyone still asks: "why did it happen?" Larry McDonald, a former vice-president at Lehman Brothers in charge of distressed debt trading and convertible securities, was right at the centre of the meltdown of the company and gives an intimate look at the madhouse that Lehman became. This book shows beyond a doubt that Richard Fuld, the long-time CEO of Lehman, and his top executives, were totally out to lunch, allowing Lehman's risk profile to reach gargantuan proportions. While the traders, like Larry McDonald, clearly predicted more than two years in advance that the market for packaged subprime mortgages and credit default swaps would evaporate, the high-flying Lehman bosses pushed

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A former vice president of Lehman Brothers explains the financial collapse of the securities giant in 2008, what led to the financial crisis, and who had been responsible for its downfall.

The inside account of a financial meltdown that reshaped Wall Street In 1983, Lew Glucksman, then co-CEO of the heralded investment bank Lehman Brothers, demanded the resignation of chairman Pete Peterson, with whom he had long argued over how to manage the company. Shockingly, Peterson, who had taken charge a decade earlier and led Lehman from near collapse to record profits, agreed to step

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down. In this meticulously researched volume, Ken Auletta details the turmoil, infighting, and power struggles that brought about Peterson ' s departure and the eventual sale of one of Wall Street ' s oldest and most prestigious firms. Set against the backdrop of the 1980s stock exchange, where hotshot young traders made and lost millions in a single afternoon, the story of Lehman ' s fall is a suspenseful battle of wills between bankers, traders, and executives motivated by greed, envy, and ego. Auletta, who conducted hundreds of hours of interviews and was granted access to private company records, has crafted a thorough, enduring, and engaging account of pivotal events that continued to influence this storied financial institution until its ultimate demise in 2008.

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The intimate, fly-on-the wall tale of the decline and fall of an America icon With one notable exception, the firms that make up what we know as Wall Street have always been part of an inbred, insular culture that most people only vaguely understand. The exception was Merrill Lynch, a firm that revolutionized the stock market by bringing Wall Street to Main Street, setting up offices in far-flung cities and towns long ignored by the giants of finance. With its “ thundering herd ” of financial advisers, perhaps no other business, whether in financial services or elsewhere, so epitomized the American spirit. Merrill Lynch was not only “ bullish on America, ” it was a big reason why so many average Americans were able to grow wealthy by investing

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Brothers Lehman & Co. Merrill Lynch was an icon. Its sudden decline, collapse, and sale to Bank of America was a shock. How did it happen? Why did it happen? And what does this story of greed, hubris, and incompetence tell us about the culture of Wall Street that continues to this day even though it came close to destroying the American economy? A culture in which the CEO of a firm losing \$28 billion pushes hard to be paid a \$25 million bonus. A culture in which two Merrill Lynch executives are guaranteed bonuses of \$30 million and \$40 million for four months ' work, even while the firm is struggling to reduce its losses by firing thousands of employees. Based on unparalleled sources at both Merrill Lynch and Bank of America, Greg Farrell ' s Crash of the Titans is a Shakespearean saga of three flawed masters of

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the universe. E. Stanley O'Neal, whose inspiring rise from the segregated South to the corner office of Merrill Lynch—where he engineered a successful turnaround—was undone by his belief that a smooth-talking salesman could handle one of the most difficult jobs on Wall Street. Because he enjoyed O'Neal's support, this executive was allowed to build up an astonishing \$30 billion position in CDOs on the firm's balance sheet, at a time when all other Wall Street firms were desperately trying to exit the business. After O'Neal comes John Thain, the cerebral, MIT-educated technocrat whose rescue of the New York Stock Exchange earned him the nickname “Super Thain.” He was hired to save Merrill Lynch in late 2007, but his belief that the markets would rebound led him to underestimate the depth

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of Merrill's problems. Finally, we meet Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis, a street fighter raised barely above the poverty line in rural Georgia, whose "my way or the highway" management style suffers fools more easily than potential rivals, and who made a \$50 billion commitment over a September weekend to buy a business he really didn't understand, thus jeopardizing his own institution. The merger itself turns out to be a bizarre combination of cultures that blend like oil and water, where slick Wall Street bankers suddenly find themselves reporting to a cast of characters straight out of the Beverly Hillbillies. BofA's inbred culture, which perceived New York banks its enemies, was based on loyalty and a good-ol'-boy network in which competence played second fiddle to blind

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obedience. Crash of the Titans is a financial thriller that puts you in the theater as the historic events of the financial crisis unfold and people responsible for billion of dollars of other people ' s money gamble recklessly to enhance their power and their paychecks or to save their own skins. Its wealth of never-before-revealed information and focus on two icons of corporate America make it the book that puts together all the pieces of the Wall Street disaster. From the Hardcover edition.

“ Skrym makes complex financial scenarios accessible to all interested readers in an informative and entertaining manner. We can all learn something from this book. ”

—Thomas Peterffy, Chairman, CEO, and President of

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Interactive Brokers “ Skyrn put together the story of MF Global like no one else could in providing the ultimate autopsy covering destructive financial engineering that ’ s played such a big role in our capital markets. ” —Lawrence G. McDonald, New York Times best selling author of A COLOSSAL FAILURE OF COMMON SENSE “ God is in the details...first come the reporters, then the lawyers. Skyrn ’ s book is the necessary antidote. Only someone who has ‘ done ’ it can explain it. Perhaps the best ‘ counterfactual ’ rationale for reading The Money Noose: If John Corzine had been able to before, there would likely have been no after. ” —Stan Jonas, Managing Partner, Axiom Management Partners In 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform

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Brothers and Consumer Protection Act. MF Global was bankrupt less than a year after the law ' s passage. THE MONEY NOOSE is a general accounting of the facts that led to MF Global ' s collapse, as well as the story of the major players involved. It is a chaotic story, one in which individual actions taken in and of themselves are relatively minor. But the sum of those individual actions equal the same end result. This book is designed to tell the story of MF Global, what went wrong and how things came to an abrupt end. In those regards, it ' s an incredible story.

The inside story of what really happened at Lehman Brothers and why it failed In The Devil's Casino: Friendship, Betrayal, and the High Stakes Games Played Inside Lehman

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Brothers, investigative writer and Vanity Fair contributing editor Vicky Ward takes readers inside Lehman's highly charged offices. What Ward uncovers is a much bigger story than Lehman losing at the risky game of collateralized debt obligations, swaps, and leverage. A can't put it down page turner that opens the world of Wall Street to view unlike any book since Bonfire of the Vanities, except that The Devil's Casino isn't fiction. Details what went on behind-the-scenes the weekend Lehman Brothers failed, as well as inside Lehman during the twenty years preceding it Describes the feudal culture that proved both Lehman's strength and its Achilles' heel Written by Vicky Ward, one of today's most connected business and finance writers On Wall Street, Lehman Brothers was cheekily known as "the cat with nine

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lives." But as The Devil's Casino documents, this cat pushed its luck too far and died?the victim of men and women blinded by arrogance.

In order to save a life, he must take one... When Navy SEAL Mack Bedford ' s fellow officers are brutally killed by Iraqi insurgents using a new, anti-tank Diamondhead missile, Mack recklessly avenges their deaths by gunning down the attackers, resulting in his expulsion from the Navy. He learns that the Diamondheads were sold illegally by infamous French politician Henri Foché. Mack suspects that Foché will triumph in his campaign to become the next French president and fears that his election will promote the spread of international terrorism. In addition, Mack has a gravely ill

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son whose life can only be saved by an expensive and experimental medical procedure. So when Mack is asked to help assassinate Foche, his hand is forced... His reward: a chance at survival, not just for his son, but for his country. But before Mack can reach his target, a jilted mercenary group warns the Frenchman of the threat, greatly increasing the difficulty of Mack ' s solo assassination attempt. Can he succeed – and survive? A non-stop action thrill ride, Diamondhead is perfect for fans of Vince Flynn, Andy McNab and Frederick Forsyth.

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and the government's unprecedented response—from our most trusted business journalist. The End of Wall Street is a blow-by-blow account of America's biggest financial collapse since the Great Depression. Drawing on 180 interviews, including sit-downs with top government officials and Wall Street CEOs, Lowenstein tells, with grace, wit, and razor-sharp understanding, the full story of the end of Wall Street as we knew it. Displaying the qualities that made When Genius Failed a timeless classic of Wall Street—his sixth sense for narrative drama and his unmatched ability to tell complicated financial stories in ways that resonate with the ordinary reader—Roger Lowenstein weaves a financial, economic, and sociological thriller that indicts America for succumbing to the siren song of easy debt and

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speculative mortgages. The End of Wall Street is rife with historical lessons and bursting with fast-paced action. Lowenstein introduces his story with precisely etched, laserlike profiles of Angelo Mozilo, the Johnny Appleseed of subprime mortgages who spreads toxic loans across the landscape like wild crabapples, and moves to a damning explication of how rating agencies helped gift wrap faulty loans in the guise of triple-A paper and a takedown of the academic formulas that-once again- proved the ruin of investors and banks. Lowenstein excels with a series of searing profiles of banking CEOs, such as the ferretlike Dick Fuld of Lehman and the bloodless Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan, and of government officials from the restless, deal-obsessed Hank Paulson and the overmatched Tim Geithner

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Brothers Lawrence O. Whitehead
to the cerebral academic Ben Bernanke, who sought to avoid a repeat of the one crisis he spent a lifetime trying to understand—the Great Depression. Finally, we come to understand the majesty of Lowenstein's theme of liquidity and capital, which explains the origins of the crisis and that positions the collapse of 2008 as the greatest ever of Wall Street's unlearned lessons. The End of Wall Street will be essential reading as we work to identify the lessons of the market failure and start to reb...

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