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Buffett: The Making of an American Capitalist

Roger Lowenstein

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Buffett


The Making of an American Capitalist


“A masterly job.”
—*The New York Times*

With a new Afterword by the author

ROGER LOWENSTEIN

Author of When Genius Failed

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Roger Lowenstein : Buffett: The Making of an American Capitalist before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buffett: The Making of an American Capitalist:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Warren Buffett reveals a lot why he is truly great. I'm no longer surprised why he is a ...By Isom AdiarThis insightful journey into the life of legendary investor, Warren Buffett reveals a lot why he is truly great. I'm no longer surprised why he is a legend; the results couldn't have been by a stroke of luck consistently over time. He couldn't have been less great. The man is truly a great investor and I am of the opinion that his principles and methodology of picking winning stocks and investments are almost certain to guarantee long-term investment results above the average. Roger Lowenstein has once again exhibited his rare skills

as one of the best business authors of modern times. I read one of his previous books some years ago, "When Genius Failed" and was transfixed page by page throughout the pages of that book, hence, of all the biographies written about Warren Buffett, I chose to read his first. Good job, Roger. Keep it up!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great story that explains Buffett

By T. Berry I really enjoyed the book because it lays out Buffett's motivations and theories really well, and helps to make sense of some of Buffett's comments and actions over the years. For instance, I had wondered why I hadn't heard of him donating more to Columbia University's business school over the years, and the answer is that he has been frustrated by the academics' embracing the EMH, and not giving sufficient credit to the idea that investors can outperform the market over time purchasing undervalued companies the way he has. It also has the story of his father in politics, and I think explains some of his more liberal leanings as he grew older. Overall, a compelling story that is focused not just on his investment returns and theories, but also on Warren Buffett as a person.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than Snowball

By Jack Wilshire Lowenstein focuses on Buffett's discipline and his investment approach. He spends a great deal of time providing the elements of Ben Graham's valuation "science". The book is an excellent primer for young investors.

Since its hardcover publication in August of 1995, Buffett has appeared on the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, Seattle Times, Newsday and Business Week bestseller lists. The incredible landmark portrait of Warren Buffett's uniquely American life is now available in paperback, revised and updated by the author. Starting from scratch, simply by picking stocks and companies for investment, Warren Buffett amassed one of the epochal fortunes of the twentieth century--an astounding net worth of \$10 billion, and counting. His awesome investment record has made him a cult figure popularly known for his seeming contradictions: a billionaire who has a modest lifestyle, a phenomenally successful investor who eschews the revolving-door trading of modern Wall Street, a brilliant dealmaker who cultivates a homespun aura.

Journalist Roger Lowenstein draws on three years of unprecedented access to Buffett's family, friends, and colleagues to provide the first definitive, inside account of the life and career of this American original. Buffett explains Buffett's investment strategy--a long-term philosophy grounded in buying stock in companies that are undervalued on the market and hanging on until their worth invariably surfaces--and shows how it is a reflection of his inner self.

.com Starting from scratch, simply by picking stocks and companies for investment, Warren Buffett amassed one of the epochal fortunes of the 20th century -- an astounding net worth of \$10 billion and counting. That awesome record has made him a cult figure. This illuminating biography reveals a man whose conscientiousness, integrity, and good humor exist alongside an odd emotional isolation. Buffett also masterfully traces his life: his enormously successful partnership; his early, inspired investments in American Express and Geico; his companionship and investment with Katharine Graham of the Washington Post; his role in the Capital Cities purchase of ABC; his unique relationship with his wife and mistress; and his rescue of the scandal-ridden Salomon Brothers.

From Publishers Weekly

By picking the right stocks and businesses to invest in, plainspoken Nebraskan Warren Buffett became the richest man in the U.S. In this excellent biography, Wall Street Journal reporter Lowenstein details the billionaire stock market wizard's strategy of betting on the long-term growth of a handful of successful companies such as American Express and Berkshire Hathaway. Providing personal glimpses of a very private man, Lowenstein unearths childhood traumas such as the tormenting rages of Buffett's mother and his forced relocation to Washington, D.C., in 1943, where, at 13, he ran away from home (he was found by the police the next day). Buffett's wife, Susan Thompson, a nightclub singer, walked out on him in 1977 and was quickly replaced by his mistress, Latvian-born Astrid Menks. Lowenstein profiles an emotionally guarded, "strangely stunted" Midas obsessed with work and secrecy, who seemingly derives little pleasure from his fabulous wealth. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

The amazing securities investment analyst Warren Buffett is the focus of this near hagiographic biography that is filled with details about the life of an American capitalist that rivals the likes of Carnegie, Ford, or Morgan. Lowenstein does a remarkable job of telling the financial story of Buffett's rise to securities fame, even if details of Buffett's actual strategies aren't touched upon--that's another story altogether. The early years show a precocious child adept at numbers in a household with a domineering mother and business-minded father. Buffett's early investments, his famous relationship with Katherine Graham of the Washington Post, his role in the purchase of ABC by Capital Cities, his rescue of the Solomon Brothers, and his unique personal relationship with his wife all make for a highly interesting, fascinating tale that is sure to be a hit in business schools. James Lurie's powerful reading is dead on, evoking the power of this man's singular character. Highly recommended for all libraries.

?Dale Farris, Groves, Tex. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.