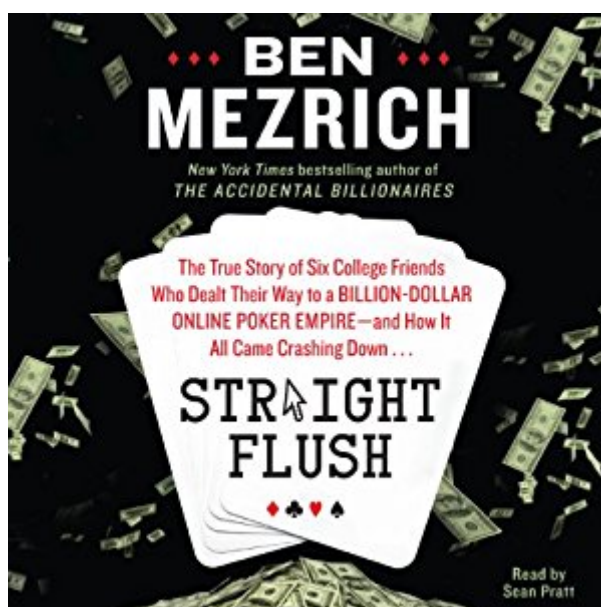


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# Straight Flush: The True Story Of Six College Friends Who Dealt Their Way To A Billion-Dollar Online Poker Empire - And How It All Came Crashing Down...



## Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *The Accidental Billionaires* and *Bringing Down the House* - the sources for the films *The Social Network* and *21* - comes the larger-than-life true tale of a group of American college buddies who brilliantly built a billion-dollar online poker colossus based out of the hedonistic paradise of Costa Rica. One problem: the U.S. Department of Justice was gunning for them.... Based on extensive insider interviews and participation, acclaimed author Ben Mezrich's *Straight Flush* tells the captivating rags-to-riches tale of a group of University of Montana frat brothers who turned a weekly poker game in the basement of a local dive bar into AbsolutePoker.com, one of the largest online companies in the world, on par with some of the behemoths of the Internet. At its height, Absolute Poker was an online empire earning more than a million dollars a day, following savvy business strategy and even better luck. Its founders set up their operations in the exotic jungle paradise of Costa Rica, embracing an outrageous lifestyle of girls, parties, and money. Meanwhile, the gray area of U.S. and international law in which the company operated was becoming a lot more risky, and soon the U.S. Department of Justice had placed a bull's-eye on Absolute Poker. Should they fold - or double down and ride their hot hand? *Straight Flush* is an exclusive, never-before-seen look behind the headlines of one of the wildest business stories of the past decade.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

To give you an idea as to how sloppy the work is, imagine if Ben Mezrich wrote a book about Neil

Armstrong and the moon landing. In the Mezrich version Neil Armstrong, after partying all night and a little high on cocaine, steals a rocket and along with two strippers/girlfriends makes the first moon landing. Armstrong then makes it back to earth landing on the lawn of the Playboy mansion just in time for an amazing blowout party with Heffner and the girls. While it is true Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon, the entire account is fictionalized. Ben Mezrich seems totally unaware of the true story surrounding Absolute Poker and Ultimate Bet. There is no excuse. The story is widely available. Good grief, 60 minutes did a segment on the cheating scandal. It is really too bad because the story is actually quite interesting and would have made a great non-fiction book.

Hard to put this book down. This fast-paced story will likely be made into a movie someday. This is a good read.

Although the background Costa Rican story fill is a bit exaggerated and not believable to one who has lived for over 30 years in Costa Rica as I have, the State side story line and legal machinations sound plausible and most of the "Sports Book" operations in San Jose are now closed so there must be something to the reported fact that the USG is actively pursuing these operations. The book focuses on a poker played over the internet and how it was thought of as a skilled activity and not a game of chance...to this non gambler's mind a real stretch, but so the story goes...that when the folks in the book started their operation and transferred it to Costa Rica, there was no law against it....until the U.S. DOJ decided that poker was really a game of chance and that's when the plot thickens..... Its an interesting read...just don't believe all of the hype about how untrustworthy and unprofessional Costa Rica employees are.....simply not true!

great read!!! i loved it. really motivating book to get up and do something big!!!

Fun book to read.

Item received as expected

If you are looking for a good summer read at the beach, I suggest you avoid this hastily written book that is short on details and long on fraternity boy humor and international hookers. The book seemed in a hurry to get done, often skipping 6 months to a year and many details about starting/running the company, very simplistic look at business from a HBS graduate. While I realize

it was told from the point of view of the frat boys, this book had a definitive anti US, anti Republican angle to it, making Brent out to be some sort of hero falsely pursued by the US government. Avoid, Avoid, Avoid, big disappointment from Mezrich

Great read!

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