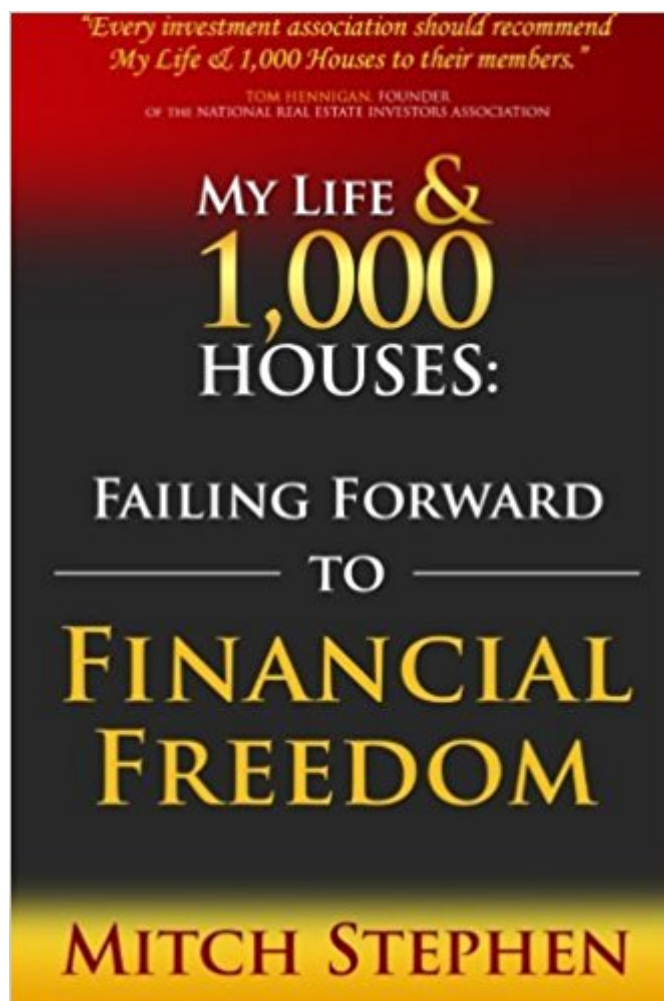


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# My Life & 1,000 Houses: Failing Forward To Financial Freedom



## Synopsis

This autobiographical tale is perfect for entrepreneurs and a must-read for anyone aspiring to be a real estate investor. Beginning with a handful of credit cards, he mastered the art of the purchase and sale of single and multi-family residences, small commercial properties, manufactured homes, raw land and lots, and eventually was honored by the San Antonio Real Estate Investors Association. Combining commonsense, experience and technology, he merges real estate and Internet marketing. With fifty one informative chapters, including an eye-opening introduction to "Adversity University," and powerful food for thought in "Escaping the Debt Trap" and "The Moat Theory: Keep Something Sacred," this book provides insight far beyond deal making. In the second half of the book, he delivers eighteen anecdotes such as "So What Can a Dollar Buy?" and "The Art of War," stories about real life in the real estate trenches. You simply can't make this stuff up. While everyone's struggles are different, you are sure to connect with the author's tumultuous and rewarding journey. You don't need a college class to be a success but a successful person's education never ends. Continue your education on a deeper level and read the book My Life and 1,000 Houses.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A self-taught real estate entrepreneur, Mitch Stephen has purchased over a thousand properties over the past decade. He was proclaimed the founder of the San Antonio Real Estate Investors Association whose more than eight hundred members dedicated their headquarters in his name. The founder of Homes2Go.NET, a powerful Internet tool for real estate investors, he preaches the

virtues of the worldwide web and the absolute necessity of a global presence. In addition, he has lectured on a wide variety of topics, ranging from owner financing mobile homes to purchasing commercial buildings. Truly a renaissance man, in March of 2005, he won the Tejano Music Award's "Crossover Song of the Year" for "Who's that Gringo," co-written by Billy O'Rourke and performed by the multiple Grammy Award-winning group, David Lee Garza y Los Musicales. Mitch Stephen lives and works with his wife and daughter in San Antonio, Texas. This is his first book.

If you are considering going into real estate investment, read or listen to this story first! Mitch Stephen is the real deal and will tell you the realities of the business and how to succeed in life! This book really made me look at how dependent I am on my corporate job, and gave me inspiration to start making changes.

My goodness! I've read many books- mostly for entertainment, but lately have been reading more non-fiction for insight to assist me in my own endeavors. Why would someone do this? For the same reason no one accepts dieting advice from a fat person. We tend to emulate those that are successful in hope of replicating their success. In this, Mitch does a great job of explaining how one who seemingly was a failure in life was able to become successful by finding their niche, and then persevering until success had been realized. From this perspective, this is a very inspirational story which is very raw and sometimes brutally honest in its approach. Not all success comes without sacrifice. Not all wins come without first losing. This is a great book into the mindset of an entrepreneur and the steps he used to become more than he was. The vehicle used to accomplish this is real estate, so to an extent, those seeking success in this field will read looking for insight along with tips and tricks to assist them. I do invest in real estate, and to a large degree, this was why I purchased the book. However, my expectations were modified throughout the reading. Slowly with each page turned, I began to feel an affinity for Mitch Stephen as a person rather than what I was reading about. As this is his first book, it is not as refined and polished as many others. This is an advantage in that a more trustworthy source becomes apparent. This is not a guru who is out to fleece readers of their money in search of more dollars. Why should he? He's already attained what others would consider an enviable level of success, so doesn't need. Instead, this is a human story of one man's struggles to become successful in providing for his family while fighting perceptions of those around him that what he is doing is not worthwhile, nor a good use of time. In other words, while fighting feelings experienced by every entrepreneur to date as people tend to criticize rather than encourage for whatever reason by human nature. Think about this- how often do we critique

rather than praise? Upon finishing this book, I personally purchased his next book, as I did want more information on creative real estate. Between the two, I feel there is a wealth of information. However, like anything in life, unless that information is acted upon and used, then it will be pointless. For this book, if one wishes to find insight into real estate it is useful. If one wants a human story it is useful. If one wants a step by step guide as to what to do to become successful overnight without any effort- well, there are many other authors promising exactly that.

I'm 3/4 through the book but can say that first, I am impressed with Mr. Stephen's work ethic - a great American example. AAMOF, he viewed his early struggles as though he was an immigrant, which kept him going through adversity, just like the thousands of early immigrants did - worked hard, didn't complain, didn't depend on government help and eventually rose in income level and success. Second, his creative approach and always being open to new tactics is impressive. Third, his willingness to listen to others with more experience to help build his knowledge base is spot on. When he had little or no knowledge of a certain facet of real estate acquisition, funding, property evaluation, he sought out experts, learned and succeeded. A great personal success story, based on persistence, hard work and learning from others. NOT a book about get rich quick in real estate like the seminars and DVD's promoted constantly

I ordered this book because I searched Google for best real estate investment books and it was the first on the list. After reading the book, it is obvious why it was rated so high. I could not put it down. I read the first 300 pages in 2 days. (I read it before work, during my lunch break, and when I got home.) The book is so compelling because it is about a person who is doing the things that we want to do. Through perseverance and very hard work, Mitch became successful at real estate investment and is willing to share things that helped him to be successful. At times I was laughing. One time, I had tears in my eyes because his words allowed me to feel like I knew him as a close friend and I felt that I was right there with him experiencing his life. Reading this book will allow him to share investment strategies in a way that you can see the practicality of them working out in his stories. They are provided to the reader in context and show integrity in action.

Really good book. Well written short chapters that are friendly to read. Fun to read and very insightful for anyone who is involved with Real Estate Investing. Very personal and helps us all relate to our own personal struggles by looking at Mitch's and gives positive reinforcement to keep moving on from setbacks. A lot of little things, like having to slowly convince his wife of his business

moves risking money which I'm sure a lot of people can relate to with struggles of pursuing success. I really liked the written songs from the book about the stories that were told and then going to mitchstephen.com and listening to the songs while reading the words. Mitch is a great example of a person that ethically does business. He's very humble and stays appreciative even after achieving great success.

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