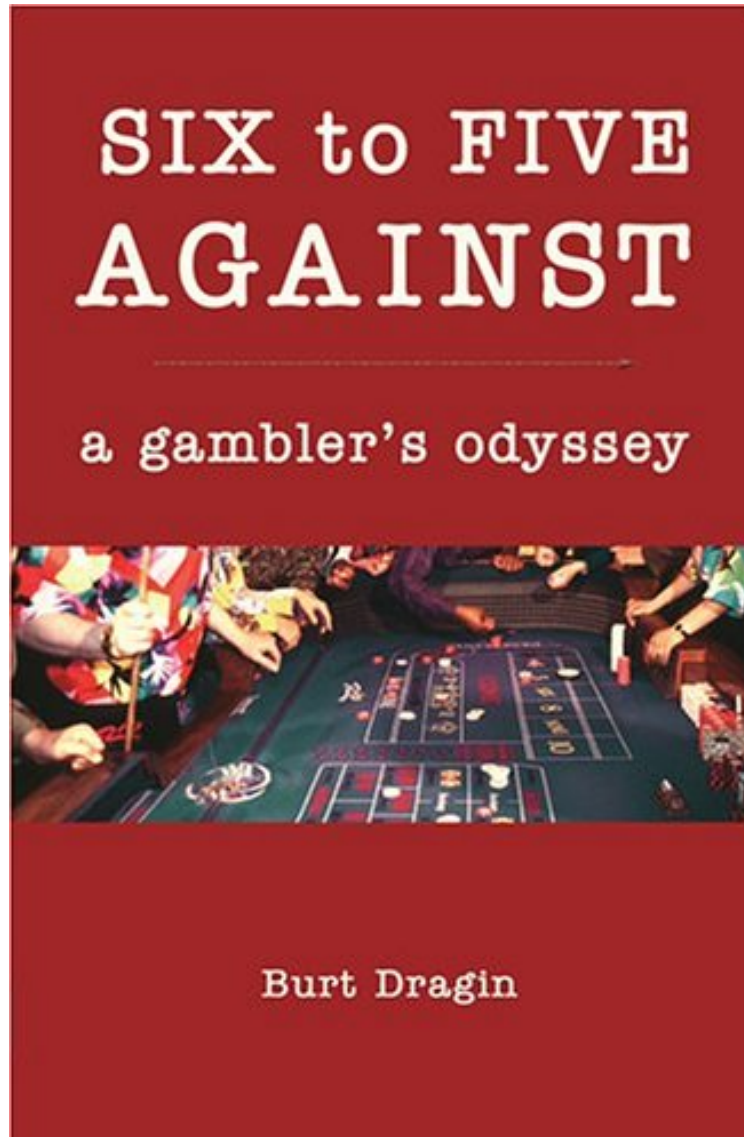


[E-BOOK] Six to Five Against: A Gambler's Odyssey

Six to Five Against: A Gambler's Odyssey

Burt Dragin

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Burt Dragin : Six to Five Against: A Gambler's Odyssey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Six to Five Against: A Gambler's Odyssey:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worth reading if you like personal memoirs about gamblingBy Book LoverMy husband read this and said it was very entertaining. Story of one man coping with his demons told in a straightforward manner. Gave the reader a better understanding of a gambler's life style.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Michael CarlomustoGood read.0 of 1 people found the following review

helpful. Four StarsBy Ernie StoddardOne of the people interviewed in the book was myself.

Burt Dragin, a journalism professor and investigative reporter, writes about gambling because it's what he knows best. In this wise, witty, and wonderful book, he traces his own gambling addiction back through past generations and looks at the national passion for games of chance from the early colonial times to today's multibillion-dollar casino boom. Along the way, he shares not only intimate interviews with recovering problem gamblers, but also his firsthand experiences of winning-streak exhilaration, loser's humiliation, and the inner struggle for freedom of tyranny of the house edge.

From Publishers WeeklyIn profiling dapper, extravagant, self-destructive and desperate gambling addicts, journalism professor Dragin writes a sympathetic saga to the powerless rather than an indictment of a sick society. The world of the addict is a sleazy and romantic one dominated by big wins and bigger losses with a fantastic lexicon of its own (A juice joint is a "house that uses electricity to control magnetized dice"; a cheese-eater informs on a cheating player), but instead of concentrating on the thrill of picking the winning horse or glorifying the high of a lucky roll at a craps table, Dragin wants to help people, an admirable goal, but one that makes for a confused read. Awkwardly crammed into this slim volume are a trove of statistics (in 2001, Americans spent more at the casinos than at the movies), interviews with gambling addiction counselors (Dragin's investigation of "the psychological need for suffusing oneself in risk" yields familiar testimonials like "winning money in a casino is really an attempt to alleviate the bankruptcy of the soul") and bite-sized profiles of gambling addicts that are too short to pack redemptive wallops. Meanwhile, Dragin's retelling of his father's gambling odyssey seems more like myth-making than a cautionary tale. Though Dragin's goal of helping addicts see the way is admirable, he doesn't seem to know where to shine the light. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.About the AuthorBurt Dragin teaches journalism at Laney College in Oakland, California. He has written for various newspapers and magazines. This is his first book. He lives in Berkeley with his wife Nadine, daughter Ana, one dog and two cats. He tries not to think about gambling.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Steve Wynn and I have a few things in common. Family values, for instance. Born the same year, we both visited Las Vegas as children with our gambling-addicted fathers. Wynn became a billionaire Las Vegas impresario, and I helped make him rich. Wynn soon learned that "if you want to make money in a casino, the answer is to own one." I was simply seduced. For decades I would battle gambling addiction while Wynn and his ilk pocketed billions. And I'd do it again. Pluck me from this century and deposit me in the fresh neon of the Flamingo Hotel in the 1950s and I'd swoon once more. Toss in the glitz and glamour, sex and alcohol-and those greenbacks waiting to be picked- and I'd continue the lifelong love affair.