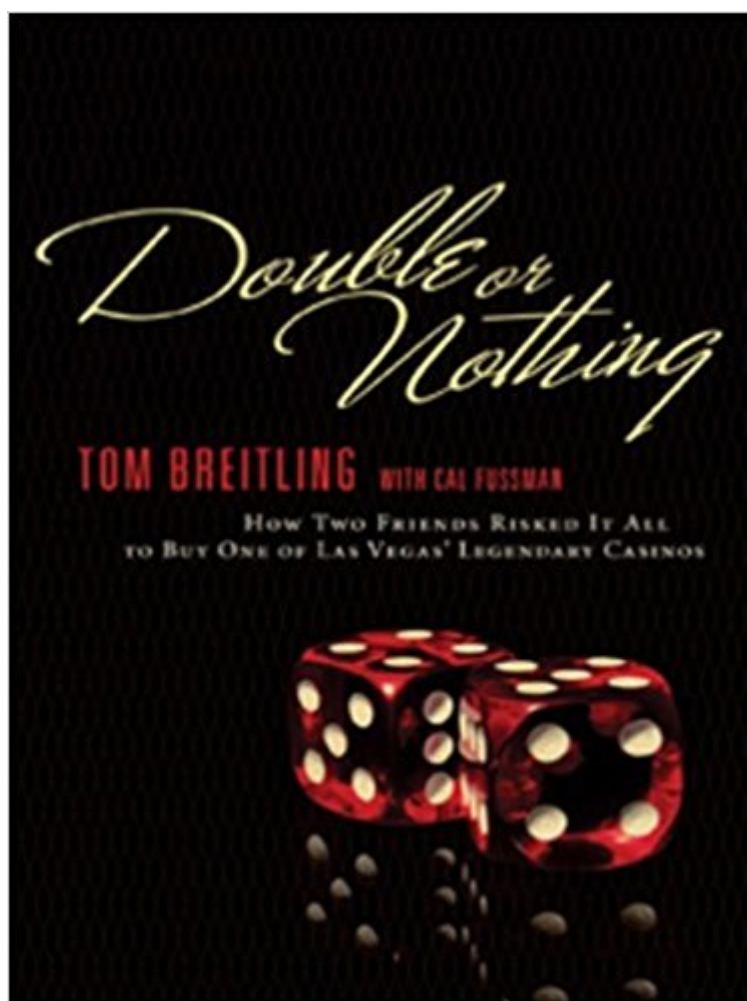


The book was found

Double Or Nothing: How Two Friends Risked It All To Buy One Of Las Vegas' Legendary Casinos



Synopsis

If Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn had come of age at the end of the 20th century looking for an all-American adventure, they probably would've headed for Vegas. They'd have been hard-pressed to go on a wilder ride than the one taken by Tom Breitling and Tim Poster to the top of the famed Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino. Call them the Odds Couple. Breitling is the kid who lives next door if you grow up in Burnsville, Minnesota. He never saw a hundred dollar bill or The Godfather until he went to college. Poster comes from a family of oddsmakers who reach for the Doritos on football Sundays and scream for the point spread. He was whistling Sinatra and booking games at his Las Vegas high school. Their unlikely friendship began in college over an \$8 veal parmigiana sandwich that led to a partnership in a hotel reservation business. Starting with a desk, a chair, a pillow, and a telephone, Tim and Tom grew a company that they sold during the dot.com boom for \$105 million. This allows Tim to pursue his childhood dream of owning a casino and bringing back the glory days of Vegas. When Tim ups the odds and raises the limits to give gamblers the best game in town, a craps player nicknamed "Mr. Royalty," who's on one of the hottest winning streaks in history, heads for The Nugget. When he begins to take Tom and Tim for millions, the partnership is put to the test. But Tim refuses to back off on the odds or the high limits, telling his partner, "It's a ballsy proposition here. It's gonna be a roller coaster ride. But we don't have a public company to answer to. It's just you and me." When Mr. Royalty rolls twenty-two consecutive passes and rakes in a mountain of chips, he takes Tim and Tom to the brink. They must figure out a way to hold up The House. Just as they do, the roller coaster ride really gets rolling — and the ride becomes crazier than they'd ever imagined.

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Customer Reviews

The book tells the story of two childhood friends who created a travel-booking website called Travelscape and how they sold it to Expedia for millions, and then used the proceeds to buy the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas, and sell it a year later for a 116 percent profit. One third of the book is dedicated to the Travelscape deal. Even though it is a very interesting entrepreneurial story, many readers will think this is just a "filler" for the book. There are a few stories of the "whales" going to the casino, I liked those and for me these are the highlight of the book. The real question remains, are Tim and Tom really great entrepreneurs or they were just lucky? They were in the middle of a war between the owners of the Station casinos and their Texan cousin that wanted to buy the Golden Nugget just to say he had a casino. They held the Golden Nugget for only one year, so it is hard to say if they would stand the test of time as casino owners. The book is well edited, but the author keeps putting his partner, Tim, on a pedestal, and this is sometimes annoying. Also, he flunked geography (says his sister was adopted from "Columbia;" of course the correct name for the country is Colombia), biology (says that the prostate is part of the urinary system, while it is part of the reproduction system; he wanted to say "bladder"), and math (says he had a profit of 226 percent with the sale of the Golden Nugget, while his profit was of 116 percent). But, the duo pocketed USD 113 million with the sale of the Golden Nugget (USD 56.5 million per partner), at least gross (the author didn't say how much he pocketed after taxes), so who am I to say they were "wrong"...

Very interesting book. Keeps moving along and most parts are interesting enough to keep you turning pages. I started this book on a 2 hour flight and didn't end up putting it down until I finished it that night before falling asleep. Made for a late breakfast the next day, but was well worth it. Sometimes lightning strikes twice for some people when it comes to luck with financial situations. It's like they hit the lottery twice by accident. Some interesting tie-in's late in the book with reality

stars who have their own TV shows now, but not when the book was put out.

Although this book may not be an authoritative piece on fine Las Vegas history. I did find it to be a good read on 2 guys that started as friends, and made money during the internet boom, by selling their travel ideas. It is an easy read, easy to understand and follow. I often wonder about downtown Las Vegas, and purchased this book. It gave me some insight about being a casino owner in modern day America. Or at least during the period of which it was written (pre-recession). You may not like this book if you are a history buff, but if you are a common person, like myself. Then you may find this book as entertaining and informative as I did. I enjoy walking by a place and saying to others... "you wanna know a thing or two about this place?" I may not be 100% accurate, but I am at least informed and if others have feedback or more knowledge about something. Then by all means, I sit back and listen. I am then thankful to have learned something and become that more knowledgeable on a given subject.

Tim and Tom are best friends who first take a piece of the internet bubble and then a piece of Las Vegas. I was very skeptical when I picked up this book. My assumption was that it was going to be a feel good story about how two guys conquered the world. I had watched their "reality" television show and assumed the book would be the same canned prefabricated dribble. Instead, I was rather surprised by a decent story with some interesting turns. Starting with the bad, the writing is not going to win any awards. It was written very conversationally, which makes it a quick read. Tom excessively goes into detail about how him and Tim were such good friends - I figured it out in the first chapter, but yet was reminded of it throughout the book. The name dropping is a little much at times. Also, the book is largely optimistic and rarely points out negatives in people. As for the good, I would almost consider this a legitimate business book. It goes into detail about owning an internet based business through the bubble, and then of course owning the Golden Nugget. Probably the best part of the book was the discussion of negotiations for both. I came away from the book liking Tim and Tom. I had a terrible impression of the two based on the television show. Tom goes into detail about the show, and I have a new opinion of them based on it.

I didn't know what to expect when I purchased this book but I loved it and couldn't put it down. It shows that true entrepreneurs aren't limited by industry or geography. Great stuff.

This book was written more as a Novel than a real life book. I rarely read Novels anyway, because

real life is so much more interesting.I knew of the people and places the book was about and really enjoyed the details of deal making.I could hardly put the book down and would recommend it to anyone!

great condition

Really interesting - awesome story about entrepreneurship and taking risks. Cool to hear more about the inner-workings of a Las Vegas casino

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