

Diary of a Very Bad Year: Interviews with an Anonymous Hedge Fund Manager

By Anonymous Hedge Fund Manager, n+1, Keith Gessen

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“Diary of a Very Bad Year is a rarity: a book on modern finance that’s both extraordinarily thoughtful and enormously entertaining.”<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />
— James Surowiecki, author of *The Wisdom of Crowds*

“A great read. . . . HFM offers a brilliant financial professional’s view of the economic situation in real time, from September 2007, when problems in financial markets began to surface, until late summer 2009.”
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“*n+1* is the rightful heir to *Partisan Review* and the *New York Review of Books*. It is rigorous, curious and provocative.”
— Malcolm Gladwell

A profoundly candid and captivating account of the economic crisis and subprime mortgage collapse, from an anonymous hedge fund manager, as told to the editors of New York literary magazine *n+1*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Expanding on a 2007 interview in the literary magazine *n+1*, editor and interviewer Gessen draws together two years' worth of interviews with a despairing anonymous hedge fund manager. HFM, as Gessen calls him, didn't go to business school or major in economics, but has been working successfully in hedge funds for over a decade. With some context provided by Gessen, HFM schools readers in the stories behind the death of Bear Stearns, the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the plunging dollar, the bailouts, the Madoff scandal, and, finally, the upswing. Though it's interesting to have a personal take on the tumultuous past two years—and HFM ends the interviews when the stress finally drives him to take a semisabbatical—the decision to tell this story in an interview format is tricky and ultimately unsuccessful; the choppy transcription format distances readers from the ideas at hand, and the points lose their punch. Fans of the original article will find this expansion compelling, but other readers curious about the factors behind the crash will do better elsewhere. *(July)*
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From Booklist
This book is a series of interviews with an anonymous hedge-fund manager (HFM) by the co-editor of a literary magazine (who admits to being ill-informed on finance); he sets out to understand what is happening on Wall Street. The HFM offers a brilliant financial professional's view of the economic situation in real time, from September 2007, when problems in financial markets began to surface, until late summer 2009, when the financial meltdown generally subsided and the financial community went back, in HFM's view, to business as usual. With definitions of financial terms and products, and explanations of domestic and global issues as they occur, HFM draws from his decade of nonstop work as a hedge-fund manager to educate the interviewer and us as the financial crisis unfolds. This is a great read. The interviews are edited in a readily understandable manner and will provide a thoughtful perspective for a wide range of library patrons who want to learn about the recent financial debacle. --Mary Whaley

Review
“Thoughtful, funny and unpretentious. . . . An unexpected treat that belongs on the shelf once labeled belles-lettres. . . . It is plenty enjoyable to watch HFM’s mind unfurl.”

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Stokes:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book eligible Diary of a Very Bad Year: Interviews with an Anonymous Hedge Fund Manager? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have different opinion?

Susan Woods:

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