**Money Matters: Book Recommendations Suggested for Discussion**

**Categories:**

1. **Advice**
   1. **Financial Advice**
   2. **Investing Advice**
2. **Industries/Companies/People**
3. **Analysis/Trends/The Future**
4. **Classics/History**

**Financial Advice:**

**The Algebra of Wealth: A Simple Formula for Financial Security by Scott Galloway. 2024** 289 p

Scott Galloway, NYU Business School professor, serial entrepreneur, and host of the Pivot Podcast, lays out steps for succeeding in today’s environment. He explores four components: stoicism (develop a strong character), focus (passion careers suck), time (budgeting, saving, future planning), and diversification. You’ll learn

* How to find and follow your talent, not your passion, when making career decisions
* How to ride and optimize big economic waves (hard truth: market dynamics always trump individual achievement)
* What small steps you can take that pay big returns later, including diversification and tax planning
* How stoicism can help you minimize spending and develop better financial habits

**Broke Millennial Talks Money: Scripts, Stories, and Advice to Navigate Awkward Financial Conversations** by Erin Lowry 2020

Talking about money is always awkward. Lowry helps take the stress out of these tricky conversations by giving you scripts, tips, and troubleshooting advice that take you through every possible money talk scenario. From telling your friends you can't afford the same lifestyle they can, to broaching the subject of a prenup with your fiancé, it is time to demystify our money and hash out these tough topics with the important people in our lives.

**The Great Money Reset: Change Your Work, Change Your Wealth, Change Your Life** by Jill Schlessinger. 2023

A bible for navigating our present era of seismic change, Schlesinger's book shows us how to take advantage of this situation to pull off personal transitions. Whether it's time to get that raise, refinance your mortgage, or start a new business, The Great Money Reset provides a framework to strategize your next financial move. In ten simple steps, you will be empowered to fundamentally break through your unsatisfying pre-pandemic reality and thrive through whatever awful surprises come next. And there will be some"—

**In Control at 50+ : how to succeed in the new world of work** by Kerry Hannon 2022

Anyone who began working 20 or 30 years ago has witnessed astonishing changes in the workplace during their career. When the global pandemic hit, older workers fortunate enough to retain their jobs once again had to navigate enormous upheaval, virtually overnight. In Control at 50+ shows how to make the new normal work for you. Kerry Hannon, a workplace futurist and renowned expert on business, careers, and personal finance, combines all her insights and skills to help you actively shape your work future into what you want it to be.

**Launching Financial Grownups: Live Your Richest Life by Helping Your (Almost) Adult Kids Become Everyday Money Smart** by Bobbi Rebell 2022

Learn how to give the young adults in your life the knowledge, confidence, and motivation to make adult money decisions, and create their own strong financial foundation and independence, so you can all live richer lives.

In Launching Financial Grownups, popular personal finance expert and Certified Financial Planner Bobbi Rebell gets candid about the very real-life challenges of getting young adults to choose to be financial grownups and develop their own financial foundation and security. She shares her own personal setbacks and solutions (both from her own past, and as a parent), and walks readers through the ups and downs of financial adulting milestones.

**Redefining Financial Literacy: Unlocking the Hidden Forces of Your Financial Future** by Cindy Couyoumjian 2021

Redefining Financial Literacy and Cindy's innovative REALM model can open your eyes to investment possibilities while helping you regain confidence in the American dream. Redefining Financial Literacy can help you

* Understand the complex macro forces that you cannot control, yet could determine your financial future,
* Take actionable steps to regain command of your retirement strategy,
* Build a retirement with potential durable income strategies, lesser volatility, and risk-adjusted returns.

**Retirement Watch: The Essential Guide to Retiring in the 2020’s** by Robert Carlson 2023.

The 2020’s are a very challenging time to be retiring. The former head of the Fairfax County Retirement Agency and creator of RetirementWatch.com presents tried and true investment strategies to employ before and after retirement. He covers each of the key planning issues faced in the 5 years before retirement and the 5 years after retirement

**Investing Advice:**

**The All-Weather Retirement Portfolio: You Post-Retirement Investment Guide to a Worry-Free Income for Life by Randy L. Thurman. 2022, 232 p**

The 2nd edition of the author’s 2015 guide to planning and saving for retirement helps you prepare for stormy weather. The author advocates a prudent, practical approach to money management for retirees and those approaching retirement, allowing for an active lifestyle during early retirement with enough of a cushion to cover later expenses. He offers 10 steps for ensuring a worry-free retirement.

**Common Stocks and Uncommon Profits** By Philip Fisher, 2023

Widely respected and admired, Philip Fisher is among the most influential investors of all time. His investment philosophies, introduced almost forty years ago, are not only studied and applied by today's financiers and investors, but are also regarded by many as gospel. He is a pioneer of modern investment theory. His investment philosophies are not only studied and applied by today's finance professionals, but are also regarded by many as gospel. This book is invaluable reading and has been since it was first published in 1958. The updated paperback retains the investment wisdom of the original edition and includes the perspectives of the author's son Ken Fisher, an investment guru in his own right in an expanded preface and introduction.

**IRA’s, 401(k)’s and Other Retirement Plans: Strategies for Taking Your Money Out** by Twila Slesnick 2023 401 p.

Covers tax strategies before and after retirement including required distributions. Learn how much you need to take and penalties for taking money out early and how to avoid them, how to divide a plan at divorce, what happens to your retirement plan after your death, and rules for taking money out of an inherited plan. Updated to include the latest changes.

**More Straight Talk on Investing** by Jack Brennan 2021

Former chairman and CEO of Vanguard explains how to invest successfully in both bull and bear markets. This invaluable guide cuts through all the hype, offering a sensible plan for building a long-term investment portfolio. The comprehensive, but approachable book will help you develop the knowledge, confidence, and discipline to navigate the financial markets and attain investment success over the long term.

**How to Invest: Masters on the Craft** By David M. Rubenstein 2022

What do the most successful investors have in common? David M. Rubenstein, cofounder of one of the world's largest investment firms, has spent years interviewing the greatest investors in the world to discover the time-tested principles, hard-earned wisdom, and indispensable tools that guide their practice. With unprecedented access to global leaders in finance, Rubenstein has assembled the most authoritative book of its kind. How to Invest reveals the thinking of the most successful investors in the world, many of whom rarely speak publicly. Whether you're brand-new to investing or a seasoned professional, this book will transform the way you approach investing forever.

**The Missing Billionaires: a Guide to Better Financial Decisions**  by Victor Haghani & James White 2023

Over the past century, if the wealthiest families had spent a reasonable fraction of their wealth, paid taxes, invested in the stock market, and passed their wealth down to the next generation, there would be tens of thousands of billionaire heirs to old fortunes today. The puzzle of *The Missing Billionaires* is why you cannot find one such billionaire on any current rich list. This book is focused on one mistake which is of profound importance to all investors: poor risk decisions, both in investing and spending. Many of these families didn’t choose bad investments– they sized them incorrectly– and allowed their spending decisions to amplify this mistake. If even the most financially successful members of our society consistently made atrocious financial decisions, what can be expected from the rest of us? This book sets forth our framework for addressing the challenge faced by all families—not only potential and actual billionaires—to find a path to better financial decisions.

**Nothing But Net: 10 Timeless Stock-Picking Lessons from One of Wall Street’s Top Tech Analysts** by Mark Mahaney 2022

The Tech industry is the stock market’s hottest, most profitable sector, but it can be a roller coaster ride. Companies with great ideas can end up going nowhere, and some that dominate today will be sold at fire-sale prices in five years. “Sure things” can become “sore things” very rapidly. Nothing But Net provides the knowledge and insights you need to understand what’s really hot, to know what’s not, and to outperform other investors consistently and decisively.

Famous for his smart, savvy and unique approach to Tech stock investing, Mark Mahaney provides his 10 proven rules for succeeding as a long-term Tech stock investor―explaining everything he’s learned during almost 25 years of analyzing internet stocks, including:

**Industries/Companies/People:**

**Barons: Money, Power, and the Corruption of America’s Food Industry by Austin Frerwick 2024**

In his account of the deregulation and consolidation of the food industry Frerwick, an agricultural policy and antitrust specialist at Yale, explains how a large portion of our food supply came to be concentrated into a few multinational corporations. He relates the story of seven leading agricultural giants and shows how they have changed the landscape, environment, and the economy of rural communities throughout the country.

**The Bogle Effect: How John Bogle and Vanguard Turned Wall Street Inside Out and Saved Investors Trillions** by Eric Balchunas 2022

Today, nearly every dollar invested in America goes to either Vanguard funds or Vanguard-influenced funds. But Bogle’s impact and this “great cost migration” reaches well beyond index funds into many other areas, such as active management, ETFs, the advisory world, quantitative investing, ESG, behavioral finance and even trading platforms. The Bogle Effect takes readers through each of these worlds to show how they—and the investors they serve—are being reshaped and reformed.

**The Datapreneurs: The Promise of AI and the Creators Building Our Future** by Bob Muglia and Steve Hamm 2022

Bob Muglia helps us understand how innovation in data and information technology has led us to AI--and how this technology must shape our future. The long-time Microsoft executive, former CEO of Snowflake, and current tech investor maps the evolution of the modern data stack and how it has helped build today's economy and society, Muglia details his personal experience in the foundational years of computing and data analytics, including with Bill Gates and Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, and others that are not household names--yet. He builds upon Isaac Asimov's Laws of Robotics to explore the moral, ethical, and legal implications of today's smart machines, and how a combination of human and machine intelligence could create an era of progress and prosperity where all the people on Earth can have what they need and want without destroying our natural environment

**Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A (and how it got that way)** by Rachel Slade 2024

Explores the challenges of manufacturing products in the U.S. from the perspective of a Maine couple looking to produce and sell sweatshirts. Discusses the conflicts between operational efficiency and social objectives.

**Rethinking Competitive Advantage: New Rules for the Digital Age** by Ram Charon and Geri Willigan, 2021

Business consultant Ram Charan advises today’s consumer-oriented businesses to embrace constant innovation on behalf of the consumer. He looks at digital behemoths such as Netflix and Google as well as older companies that have transformed their organizations to take advantage of new spaces and models to increase their market share.

**Companies/People:**

**The Dish: The Lives and Labor behind One Plate of Food** by Andrew Friedman 2023 271 p.

We go behind the scenes of a busy Chicago restaurant to see the people and processes needed to produce a single restaurant meal. Andrew Friedman, an acclaimed chef and writer, takes us to farms, slaughterhouses, and food suppliers. He introduces the many employees essential to the production of a special meal on a busy night.

**The Fund: Ray Dalio, Bridgewater, and the Unraveling of a Wall Street Legend**  by Rob Copeland 2023.

 Late last year, when the billionaire founder of Bridgewater Associates, the largest hedge fund on the planet, announced that he was stepping down from the company he started out of his apartment nearly 50 years ago, the news made headlines around the world. Dalio cultivated an aura of international admiration and fame thanks to his company's eye-popping success, coupled with a mystique he encouraged with frequent media appearances, celebrity hobnobbing, and his bestselling book, Principles.  The Fund is a page-turning, stranger-than-fiction journey into a rarefied world of wealth and power. It offers an unflinching look at the pain so often caused by the "radical transparency" Dalio has described as a core tenet of his recipe for business success and a meaningful life.

**Going Infinite**: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon by Michael Lewis 2023

 Both psychological portrait and financial roller-coaster ride, Going Infinite is Michael Lewis at the top of his game. He traces the mind-bending trajectory of Sam Bankman Fried, who never liked the rules and was allowed to live by his own--until it all came undone"

**No Filter: the Inside Story of Instagram** by Sarah Frier, 2020, 327 p.

A riveting account of the founding and development of Instagram. Sarah Frier chronicles Instagram’s transformation from startup, through the Facebook acquisition

and its contentious aftermath, to the advertising platform it has now become. Filled with tales of creativity, ambition, and intrigue she relates how Instagram became a cultural phenomenon and what that says about us.

**The Man Who Solved the Market** by Gregory Zuckerman 2019

Drawing on unprecedented access to Simons and dozens of current and former employees, Zuckerman, a veteran Wall Street Journal investigative reporter, tells the gripping story of how a world-class mathematician and former code breaker mastered the market. Simons pioneered a data-driven, algorithmic approach that's sweeping the world. Since 1988, his Renaissance signature Medallion fund has generated average annual returns of 66 percent. As Renaissance became a market force, its executives began influencing the world beyond finance. Simons became a major figure in scientific research, education, and liberal politics.

**Analysis/Trends/The Future:**

**The Bogle Effect: How John Bogle and Vanguard Turned Wall Street Inside Out and Saved Investors Trillions** by Eric Balchunas 2022

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**Chaos Kings: How Wall Street Traders Make Billions in the New Age of Crisis** by Scott Patterson, 2023

Wall Street Journal reporter Patterson delivers an illuminating investigation into those who profit from anticipating crises. He outlines the two prevailing camps of catastrophe forecasters: there are those who follow trader Nassim Nicholas Taleb's "Black Swan" theory, which holds that world-changing events are often entirely unpredictable, and then there are those who follow French physicist Didier Sornette's "Dragon King" theory, which holds that events can be predicted if one has the right inputs.

**Direct: the rise of the middleman economy and the power of going to the source** by Kathryn Judge. 2022

Over the past thirty years, middlemen have built intricate financial and retail empires capable of moving goods across the country and around the world—transforming the economy and our lives. Because of middlemen, investors and consumers enjoy an unprecedented degree of choice and convenience. But the rise of the middleman economy comes at a steep price. Middlemen today shape what people do, how they invest, and what they consume. They use their troves of data to push people to buy more, and more expensive, products. They use their control over critical infrastructure to suppress innovation and competition. Judge, a law professor, tells us how to fight back.

**The End of The World is Just The Beginning - Mapping The Collapse of  Globalization** by Peter Zeihan 2022

In *The End of the World is Just the Beginning,* author and geopolitical strategist Peter Zeihan maps out the next world: a world where countries or regions will have no choice but to make their own goods, their own food, secure their own energy, fight their own battles, and do it all with populations that are both shrinking and aging.

The list of countries that make it all work is smaller than you think. Which means everything about our interconnected world - from how we manufacture products, to how we grow food, to how we keep the lights on, to how we shuttle stuff about, to how we pay for it all - is about to change.

A world ending. A world beginning. Zeihan brings readers along for an illuminating (and a bit terrifying) ride packed with foresight, wit, and his trademark irreverence.

**Limitless: The Federal Reserve Takes on a New Age of Crisis** by Jeanna Smialek, 2023

A fascinating deep dive into one of the most powerful and least understood American institutions--the Federal Reserve. The central bank has entered a new era of transparency and activism that has changed its role in modern society in subtle but remarkable ways. Limitless tells the inside story of this deeply impactful transformation, and what it means for ordinary Americans.

**The Lords of Easy Money: How the Federal Reserve Broke the American Economy** by Christopher Leonard 2022

For most of its history, the Fed has enjoyed the fawning adoration of the press. When the economy grew, it was credited to the Fed. When the economy imploded in 2008, the Fed got credit for rescuing us. But the Fed also has a unique power to reshape the American economy for the worse, which it did, fatefully, on November 4, 2010 through a radical intervention called quantitative easing. Leaders at the Fed knew that they were undertaking a bold experiment that would produce few real jobs, with long-term risks that were hard to measure. But the Fed proceeded anyway. Once it printed all that money, there was no way to withdraw it from circulation. The Fed tried several times, only to see market start to crash. When COVID hit, it printed300 years’ worth of money in two short months. *The Lords of Easy Money* tells the shocking, riveting tale of how quantitative easing is imperiling the American economy through the story of the one man who tried to warn us.

**Mixed Signals: How Incentives Really Work** by Gneezy, Uri 2023 307 p.

A behavioral economist explores the impact of incentives on human behavior. He provides real world examples of incentives that do and do not work and suggests methods of designing incentives to have the desired effect and avoid unforeseen pitfalls.

**Power Law: Venture Capital and the Making of the New Future by Sebastian Mallaby** 2022

https://www.amazon.com/Power-Law-Venture-Capital-Making/dp/052555999X

Innovations rarely come from “experts.” It is the nature of the venture-capital game that most attempts at discovery fail, but a very few succeed at such a scale that they more than make up for everything else. That extreme ratio of success and failure is the power law that drives the VC business, all of Silicon Valley, the wider tech sector, and, by extension, the world.  
    
In The Power Law, Sebastian Mallaby has parlayed unprecedented access to the most celebrated venture capitalists of all time—the key figures at Sequoia, Kleiner Perkins, Accel, Benchmark, and Andreessen Horowitz, as well as Chinese partnerships such as Qiming and Capital Today—into a riveting blend of storytelling and analysis that unfurls the history of tech incubation, in the Valley and ultimately worldwide. We learn the unvarnished truth, often for the first time, about some of the most iconic triumphs and infamous disasters in Valley history, from the comedy of errors at the birth of Apple to the avalanche of venture money that fostered hubris at WeWork and Uber.

**The Problem of 12: When a Few Financial Institutions Control Everything** by John Coates. 2023 188 p

John Coates, a Harvard professor of law and economics explains how a few financial institutions have exerted outsize influence over America’s corporations. Blackrock, Fidelity, Vanguard, and State Street funds now own 20% of corporate America. He also addresses the rise in private equity companies that take companies private while having no transparency requirements. He calls for regulatory changes.

**The Velvet Rope Economy: How Inequality Became Big Business** by Nelson D. Schwartz, 2020, 339 p.

Schwartz, a business reporter for the New York Times, illustrates how businesses that sell convenience has contributed to the gap between the wealthy and everyone else. Business innovators, with the assistance of venture capital, have stepped in to create a frictionless life for those able to pay. They secure fast service and special access to the best education, healthcare, tourism, and entertainment for their clients, who rarely see those on the other side of the velvet rope.