

[Free] Lay the Favorite: A Story About Gamblers

## Lay the Favorite: A Story About Gamblers

*Beth Raymer*

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**Beth Raymer : Lay the Favorite: A Story About Gamblers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lay the Favorite: A Story About Gamblers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great readBy cewhiteIn my personal opinion, this is a great and we'll written memoir! No jumping around and the author added more in depth thoughts and feelings. She just didn't write what was going on, she gave you more insight on herself and the people around her. Knowing just as much about the people around her as I knew about her, made me love the book more. It was a hard book to put down.3 of 3 people

found the following review helpful. Only so-so By NJ Frankie Expected a lot more detail about the ins and outs of sports betting. Author gave some interesting insights to some of the players, but overall, I think the book was really more about her. Fairly interesting story, but if you're looking for the "how's" of the sports betting world, you won't find it here. This is about the lady, not really enough detail about what she actually did for the sports books and players...and that's what I was looking for. Overall, though I did read the whole book, it wasn't what I wanted or expected, and I would not recommend the book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Take the points By Robert R Peters Good book about sports betting world both in Vegas and off-shore, but lacks the details (the ins and outs) that would have given the book more depth. For instance, it was never really explained as to what exactly Beth did for the bookies i.e. did she just answer phones, did she just make runs or was she just a good looking gofer. I can't imagine anyone in Vegas or New York paying her \$10 or \$20 an hour just to get donuts. In short, I think the really interesting part of the story was left out and can only hope the movie version will fill in blanks and make a more fulfilling tale. However, I did like the ending of the book with the unanswered questions: did she ever get out of the business and did she marry the boyfriend?

Beth Raymers crackling, hilarious memoir ricochets through the gambling underworld in Las Vegas, and is peopled with all manner of lovable wack-jobs, none of whom is quite as wacky or lovable as Raymer herself. Marie Claire Beth Raymer waited tables at a dive in Las Vegas until a customer sent her to see Dink, of Dink Inc., one of the town's biggest professional sports gamblers. Dink needed a right-hand man someone who would show up on time, who had a head for numbers, and who didn't steal. Beth got the job. Lay the Favorite is the story of Beth's years in the high-stakes, high-anxiety world of sports betting a period that saw the fall of the local bookie and the birth of the freewheeling, unregulated offshore sports book, and with it the elevation of sports betting in popular culture. As the business explodes, Beth rises from assistant to expert, running an offshore booking office in the Caribbean. As the men around her succumb to their vices money, sex, drugs, gambling Beth improbably emerges with her integrity intact, wiser, sharper, nobody's fool. A keen and compassionate observer of the adrenaline-addicted roguish types who become her mentors, her enemies, her family, Beth Raymer depicts an insanely colorful world teeming with pathos and ecstasy. NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE Candid, smart, funny, wild and crazy. Elle Raymer gleefully shatters the myth of the modern gambler. . . . Seduced by her stories, we long for this strange, sleazy and alluring landscape. Los Angeles Times [Raymer depicts] a sordid, florid microworld lurching along the edge of society, not to mention legality. . . . She never condescends or indulges in reality-show caricature; she finds charm in the charmless, a point of light in the most lost of souls. The New York Times Book Review Lay the Favorite reads more like a novel than a memoir. The rich characters are drawn in depth, yet simply and honestly. The Wall Street Journal Entertaining (and often quite funny) . . . a delight to read. The New Yorker

From Publishers Weekly It's hard not to like the breezy, ingenuous voice of this plucky protagonist who proves she's game for any kind of new experience. Hailing from Ohio, Raymer eventually made her way to Las Vegas when she was 24 and found a lucrative position assisting a Queens-born, Stuyvesant High School-educated gambling operator, Dink Heimowitz. The lovable, irascible, big-bellied Dinky had shucked life as a bookmaker back in New York, having run into trouble, for professional sports gambling; he put Raymer and the other motley staff on the phones setting up bets for all kinds of sports matchups (baseball, football, horse racing, hockey) in order to find a line that gave him an edge. Dinky referred Raymer to a high-flying bookie on Long Island, Bernard Rose, who had his own offshore network. As girl Friday Raymer fetched doughnuts, placed calls, and acted as a runner, making wads of dough, but mostly Raymer cherished working among the assortment of gambling types, the low-end hustlers and misfits she chronicles with evident tenderness. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Betting on the come in her wickedly funny debut, Beth Raymers prose is like a virgin in a sandy bikini festooned with C-notes. From Vegas to Rio, from the boxing ring to the stripper's pole, she rubs shoulders and other things with the sickest crew of action junkies since Roulettenburg. Her ear for sports bettors' patois, for the ins and outs of pleasure, self-pleasure, and getting the best of it, makes Lay the Favorite a kaleidoscope of high-test debauchery. James McManus, author of Positively Fifth Street Strange as hell, wildly affectionate and very, very funny. It is a world filled with scoundrels, thieves, and gamblers. It is a world we all recognize, where everyone is looking to somehow come out on top while doing what they love. The book is wise and has a relish for life that is a treat. Stephen Frears Beth Raymer possesses one of the most original voices I've encountered in years of teaching, reading, and reviewing young writers. And she puts that voice to ideal use in depicting the demimonde of sports gambling, the place where she finds an unlikely but uncanny surrogate family. Lay the Favorite is a coming-of-age saga like no other you're ever likely to read. Samuel G. Freedman, author of Letters to a Young Journalist Lay the Favorite reads more like a novel than a memoir. The rich characters are drawn in depth, yet simply and honestly. Wall Street Journal [A] very funny and smart book. Robert Siegel, NPR/All Things Considered Seduced by her stories, we long for this strange, sleazy and alluring landscape, even as the stakes get higher and Raymer's search for the best of it turns into a worst-case scenario. With a film adaptation in the works, it's a safe bet that Raymer's memoir will find a wide audience. In

fact, her engaging voice makes her a shoe-in for a sequel. I'm setting the odds at 3 to 1. Los Angeles Times  
Raymer's crackling, hilarious memoir ricochets through the gambling underworld in Las Vegas, and is peopled with all manner of lovable wack-jobs, none of whom is quite as wacky or lovable as Raymer herself. Marie Claire  
Candid, smart, funny, wild and crazy. Elle, Top 10 Summer Books for 2010  
It's hard not to like the breezy, ingenuous voice of this plucky protagonist who proves she's game for any kind of new experience. Publishers Weekly  
From the Hardcover edition.  
About the Author  
Beth Raymer has an MFA from Columbia University. In 2007 she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship. She lives in New York City.  
From the Hardcover edition.