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The Accidental Billionaires: The Founding Of Facebook



Synopsis

The high-energy tale of how two socially awkward Ivy Leaguers, trying to increase their chances with the opposite sex, ended up creating Facebook. Eduardo Saverin and Mark Zuckerberg were Harvard undergraduates and best friends—“outsiders at a school filled with polished prep-school grads and long-time legacies. They shared both academic brilliance in math and a geeky awkwardness with women. Eduardo figured their ticket to social acceptance—and sexual success—“was getting invited to join one of the university’s Final Clubs, a constellation of elite societies that had groomed generations of the most powerful men in the world and ranked on top of the inflexible hierarchy at Harvard. Mark, with less of an interest in what the campus alpha males thought of him, happened to be a computer genius of the first order. Which he used to find a more direct route to social stardom: one lonely night, Mark hacked into the university’s computer system, creating a ratable database of all the female students on campus—and subsequently crashing the university’s servers and nearly getting himself kicked out of school. In that moment, in his Harvard dorm room, the framework for Facebook was born. What followed—a real-life adventure filled with slick venture capitalists, stunning women, and six-foot-five-inch identical-twin Olympic rowers—“makes for one of the most entertaining and compelling books of the year. Before long, Eduardo’s and Mark’s different ideas about Facebook created in their relationship faint cracks, which soon spiraled into out-and-out warfare. The collegiate exuberance that marked their collaboration fell prey to the adult world of lawyers and money. The great irony is that while Facebook succeeded by bringing people together, its very success tore two best friends apart. The Accidental Billionaires is a compulsively readable story of innocence lost—and of the unusual creation of a company that has revolutionized the way hundreds of millions of people relate to one another. Ben Mezrich, a Harvard graduate, has published ten books, including the New York Times bestseller Bringing Down the House. He is a columnist for Boston Common and a contributor for Flush magazine. Ben lives in Boston with his wife, Tonya. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

I bought this after watching The Social Network since this is the book that inspires the movie. You should note if you've seen the movie you won't find very much new here. The movie follows the book almost word for word most of the time, though the movie spices things up a bit and there are some creative differences, but again don't expect much new. That said I think you can still enjoy the book, especially if you're a huge fan of the movie. It may be written in an awkward manner (and it annoyed me too at first) but once you get past that the story is interesting and enjoyable. A great companion to the film for fans and an interesting read for those with a casual interest. I'd recommend The Facebook Effect for those who've seen the movie and don't want to pretty much read the film on paper.

Picking up "The Accidental Billionaires" after seeing "The Social Network," I was shocked how closely Aaron Sorkin followed Mezrich's fictionalized account of the founding of Facebook. Every scene is there. In the book, Zuckerberg is slightly more human, slightly less self-absorbed, but not by much. Eduardo Saverin serves as the main source of credited information, along with undoubtedly interviews with the Winklevoss twins that are not on the record. The social dynamic revealed in the book is that life is now to be lived online, something that might not be as positive a development as thought by many. Friendships actually suffer. Character is not built up. Everything is made too easy. In that sense, "The Social Network" trumps the book in that you leave the theater sure that isn't good in the long run.

I'll start by saying I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's a very easy read the chapters are very short and the book moves through the timeline quickly and effectively. It's highly entertaining and a fun book to read on the beach or on a plane. Now all that being said this is a highly biased, tabloid account of the founding of Facebook, written from the viewpoint of a disgruntled former partner. The

author is upfront about the fact that the founder, developer, and "face" of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg had nothing to do with the book and was not interviewed, so at times the book just trashes Zuckerberg, which is entertaining in a tabloid, gossipy kind of way, but I don't think the way he is depicted is really that accurate. I recommend this book if you want to be entertained, if you're looking into real insight and history into the founding of Facebook look elsewhere because this book is really just a tabloid account of the founding of the company.

Very interesting book. The authors tried to make it as interesting as possible all the time.

I really enjoyed this book on one of the most revolutionary businesses of our time: Facebook. What got me intrigued was watching the movie, "The Social Network". I actually saw the movie first before reading the book. In comparison, I must admit that many of the "dramatic" scenes and heated confrontations in the movie were left out of the book, which leads me to wonder about the accuracy of the movie. Nevertheless, I found this book to be a great and enjoyable read. I also find it very diplomatic and fair to all sides. When analyzing the book, one can make strong cases for all sides of the dispute including Mark Zuckerberg. My only issue is that I wish the author could have focused more on the business and growth aspects instead on the gossip and tabloid stuff. It would have been great to get a better look at Facebook the company over the first couple years, instead of Facebook, the dorm room prank-turn-business. Overall, this book is an enjoyable and easy read and I highly recommend it.

If you've ever read Ben Mezrich you know what you're getting into. He's a very solid writer who is great at putting forth the actual ideas and feelings of what happened, even if the details aren't exactly accurate. Read this book, enjoy it, but don't expect it to line up exactly with the events.

My two favorite things about this book were the pace and how much it swore. Certain uses of narrative style didn't seem to fit - the bits of "one can almost imagine Eduardo feeling blah blah blah" - those jumps to emotion and motivation could've been made by the reader, and their physical presence in the book weakened the style. Overall, though, it was a thrilling read. Already recommended to several friends.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I was amazed at how much the film, The Social Network, stayed true to the source material. Many scenes in the book are mirrored in the movie. But that's because

Ben Mazirch has a knack for creating compelling scenes and dropping the reader right into the middle of the action. This gets you turning the pages at a rapid rate, and, despite it being so similar to the film, the book still thoroughly entertains. The story does seem to end abruptly, which is my only gripe. That might have something to do with when it was originally released and what was known at the time about facebook versus the added info to date. In any case, I wanted more -- which, if you think about it, is a compliment. Regardless I still highly recommend this book.

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