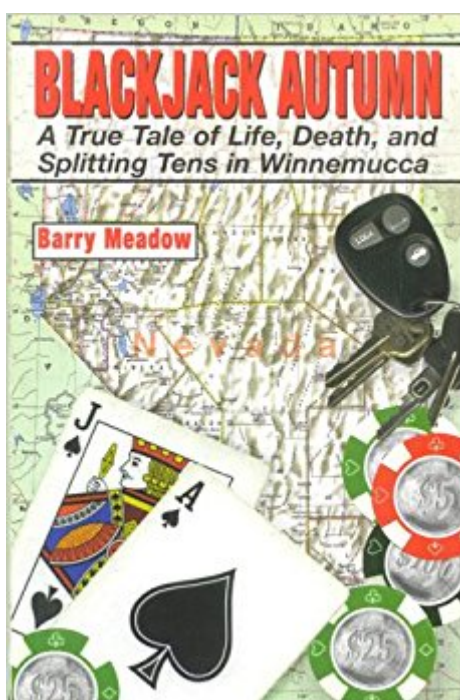


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Blackjack Autumn: A True Tale Of Life, Death, And Splitting Tens In Winnemucca



Synopsis

When Barry Meadow decided to take two months off from his life to play blackjack in every casino in Nevada, he had no idea what he would find. In this wise and witty story, he takes you deep into a little-known world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Given a map of Nevada and the premise that a blackjack card counter armed with \$8000 will hit the road for two months, attacking every available casino, the reader expects a certain level of adventure and excitement. Just the escapist illusion of roadside traveling past historic ghost towns, stopping at mom-and-pop diners for conversation, is more than enough to hook most readers. Yet the narrator we encounter here is a one-dimensional individual with a do-or-die agenda for whom the road becomes boring, even annoyingly time-consuming. At one point, paranoia sets in for the writer, who is carrying over \$25,000. At issue is his fear of being barred from casinos or spotted for his card counting. Even the death of a family member is handled from a gambler's perspective: just another annoying obstacle not unlike a change of casino dealers. Card counters are portrayed as a breed of loners and social misfits; writers at times tend to be just as masochistic. Turn a card counter into a writer, and you have a sometimes painful reading experience. Not recommended.

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"Blackjack Autumn chronicles an odyssey that is by turns hilarious, enlightening, suspenseful and

even, at times, a bit depressing. But it's always interesting, thanks to Meadow's eye for detail, brutal self-honesty and off-kilter sense of humor."-John Pryzbys, Las Vegas Review Journal"This is a funny, scary tour of Nevada casinos."-Susan Skorupa, Reno Gazette-Journal"Fresh, entertaining, and intelligent...Meadow's book is as good as it gets."-Howard Schwartz, Gaming Today"Witty, informative, and outrageous, Blackjack Autumn will appeal to anyone who has ever yearned to chuck it all and make their living with a deck of cards."-James Cox, Midwest Book Review"Blackjack Autumn is much more than just a diary. It's a tour of Nevada. It's a blackjack primer. It's a laugh a minute. And it's a look deep into the head of a highly provocative thinker." -- Anthony Curtis, Las Vegas Advisor"Get this book! It's educational and hilarious. Even if you're not a serious blackjack player, you will love this book if you like gambling tales." -- Arnold Snyder, Blackjack Forum

I like reading books about Blackjack as it's a favorite past time of mine. By the time I got to the end of the book though I was ready to hang myself. It just seemed so depressing. Not everyone is cut out to be on the road for long periods of time. Clearly this author isn't. Even without the BJ, traveling for 2 months or more is arduous to say the least. Kudos to the author for trying such an adventure. But don't read this book because you want any insight to the game or casinos. I did enjoy some of the history that was mentioned. I felt it added some depth to the writing.

It's a great story, and a great idea: take 2 months off for a gambling adventure. I'd love to see a modern refresh - I think a lot has changed about the business of gambling since this book was written. Example, playing under an assumed name is not as simple as giving a made up name. All casinos that I've been in want a driver's license to open a player account to generate comps. Also missing was a summary about his net outcome when factoring in his loss of income during the 2 month trip. Still, a fun read

I enjoyed reading this book, It is not a "How to play Blackjack" or strategy book, but very entertaining and funny book about the authors two month trip playing blackjack while card counting at all the casinos in Nevada.

If you're someone who enjoys more about Nevada in general and Las Vegas in particular than just gambling, then this book is for you. It takes you into the casinos and the surrounding areas, deserts and lakes alike. The author has a relaxed, and engaging writing style that makes the story easy to read.

Interesting tour of Nevada casinos by gambling pro. If he played like this all the time he wouldn't need to or have time to write books

This guy is pretty funny. As other's have mentioned, he really overdoes the metaphors, and it gets tiresome. "As (blank) as" is written probably a hundred times in this book. Or, in the writer's parlance, "the author uses this same joke form about as often as guppies ovulate." Or, "the author pulls out this joke form faster than than Pee Wee Herman would go down boxing Mike Tyson." When he's not using those lines though, he can be LOL funny. And of course, for any blackjack player, stories like his are pretty much irresistible. If you have ever fantasized about making money as a card counter, buy it.

But this is a great story about playing every casino in Nevada from Vegas to Reno to every small town in the state. And the author tells it in many forms as to his feelings-- from humorous to sad; from optimistic to depressive. It's a must read for anyone who really wants to know what the blackjack life as a "semi-professional" might be. I really enjoy his anecdotes, though some could have been written with a little more depth or detail. If you want to learn more, you might also listen to podcast of the author on "Gambling with an Edge" radio show. RichardMunchkin.com has it archived. This is a much better read than just a stark statistical analysis of playing sessions that some other authors give. I would HIGHLY recommend this book!

If you have ever thought about playing this game full time and ditching the day to day grind (at least for awhile) this book will put you over the edge. Fascinating tale of playing the game all over Nevada. Very well written, hilarious. Hey Barry! When does the sequel come out?

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