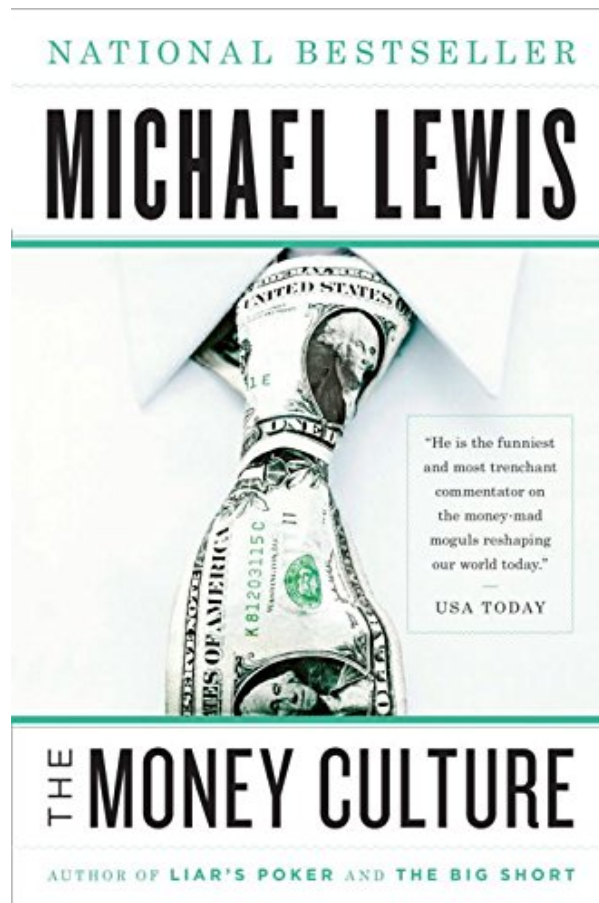


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commentator on  
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**THE MONEY CULTURE**

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From Publishers Weekly

Essays on the money-mad '80s from the author of the bestselling Liar's Poker .

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From Library Journal

Lewis wrote a very funny and trenchant book about life as a junior bond trader on Wall Street in the mid-1980s and called it Liar's Poker ( LJ 9/1/89). In this new book, he revisits familiar ground. In essays and pieces that originally appeared in magazines and newspapers, he strolls down Wall Street and takes aim at such targets as Michael Milken, the RJR Nabisco takeover, Louis Rukeyser, the Savings & Loan crisis, the Japanese, etc., and dissects them. There is not much in the way of true revelation here, but, with Lewis's puckish humor and inimitable writing style, the stories are entertaining and thought-provoking. And he proves that "the raw itch for money is still with us as surely as ever . . . and the money on Wall Street is better than elsewhere." This should be a big hit with the readers of his previous book. For all popular nonfiction collections.

- Richard Drezen, Merrill Lynch Lib., New York

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The classic warts-and-all portrait of the 1980s financial scene.

The 1980s was the most outrageous and turbulent era in the financial market since the crash of '29, not only on Wall Street but around the world. Michael Lewis, as a trainee at Salomon Brothers in New York and as an investment banker and later financial journalist, was uniquely positioned to chronicle the ambition and folly that fueled the decade.

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35 of 36 people found the following review helpful.

A Mediocre Anthology

By Z. Blume

This collection of previously published articles is at times very funny, insightful, and a good primer on several financial issues that dominated the 1980's, but it can also be repetitive (many of the articles repeat jokes, anecdotes, and some even seem to be slightly altered version of previous articles) and is quite dated since the articles detail financial events and characters of the mid to late 1980's. I learned a fair amount about the savings and loan scandals, leveraged buy outs, and the Japanese economic miracle and collapse, and also enjoyed some amusing tales of financial excess, but I had to read through a lot of less than interesting pages to find those treasures. I would not recommend someone buy this book, but if you can find it in the library, it is certainly worth flipping through it.

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Not Lewis's Best Work

By S. T. Sullivan

Michael Lewis wrote one of the great popular books about Wall Street, *Liar's Poker: Rising Through the Wreckage on Wall Street*. It is a classic of what life was like on Wall Street during the time when mortgage backed securities, something we're hearing a lot about currently, was just getting off the ground. He also wrote the bestseller *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*, which is a great baseball book. This collection of pieces written right before and after *Liar's Poker* is all right, but it is not his best work.

I have a high tolerance for bad writing if I am interested in the subject matter, but even I had trouble getting through some of the early pieces in here. Perhaps Lewis had to get all this poor sophomoric writing out of his system before he could write decent books. If the pieces collected in *Money Culture* are what it takes to get to *Moneyball*, then so be it.

Still, from a reader's standpoint, don't bother with this one, read *Liar's Poker* and *Moneyball* instead.

27 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

Good, entertaining reading about finance issues in the 80's

By Dan E. Ross

This is a collection of essays previously published in newspapers and magazines around the nation where some 10 years ago we could witness Lewis' early literary attempts. The book was consistently funny, insightful, and a good primer on several financial issues that dominated the 1980's. Most of these articles, for those interested in the authors' chronological history, came after he wrote his groundbreaking financial humor book entitled *Liar's Poker*, which is regarded as a "must read" for anyone entering into the investment banking industry, particularly in bond trading where we he worked.

Mr. Lewis' writing style is great, which is why I read his book entitled *Next*, another good read if you are

interested. Most of the topics in this book cover financial/business culture issues that date back during the late eighties, so there's also a bit of historical perspective to it.

The topics are a wide array and include stories about the domestic S&L scandal, some events that occurred in the French Bourse (their word for a stock market), the proliferation of the American Express Card during the 1980s, some offshore banking insights, Louis Rukeyser, Donald Trump, LBO stories and some comments on the Japanese capitalists. Like I said, he talks about a wide array of topics but remember that the book is a compilation of many articles.

I give it a 4 star rating. It was highly entertaining but nothing that caused my life to change or caused me to have a "light bulb" go off in my head.

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