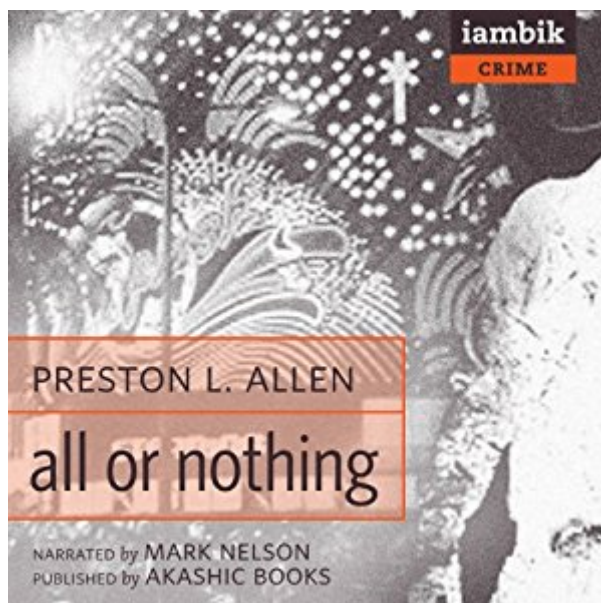


The book was found

All Or Nothing



Synopsis

Preston L. Allen's witty, charming, and very likable school-bus driver, named P, is a desperate gambler. He has blown the \$100,000 he won at a casino six months ago, but his wife and family still think he's loaded. P spins out of control on the addict's downward spiral of dependency, paranoia, and depression, as he must find ways to keep coming up with the money to fool his family and fund his growing addiction. The bets get bigger and bigger, until finally, faced with the ultimate financial crisis, he hits it really big. Yet winning, he soon learns, is just the beginning of a deeper problem. The one constant for P - who rises from wage-earner to millionaire and back again in his roller-coaster-ride of a life - is that he must gamble. That his son has died, that his wife is leaving him, that his girlfriend has been arrested, that he has no money, that he has more money than he could ever have dreamed - are all lesser concerns for P as he constantly seeks out new gambling opportunities. While other books on gambling seek either to sermonize about the addiction or to glorify it by highlighting its few prosperous celebrities, *All or Nothing* is an honest, straightforward account of what it is like to live as a gambler - whether a high-rolling millionaire playing \$1,000-ante poker in Las Vegas or a regular guy at the local Indian casino praying for a miracle as he feeds his meager life savings into the unforgiving slot machine. *All or Nothing* is the first novel to dig beneath the veneer to explore the gambler's unique and complex relationship with money. If you've ever wanted to get into the heart and psyche of a compulsive gambler, here is your chance.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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#700 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Gambling #5355 in Books
> Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > African-American Studies

Customer Reviews

This is a difficult book to rate: it has some stunningly original insights, but is flawed as a final product. That is, the depiction of the mind and logic of an addicted gambler is fascinating; I learned a lot from it. The plot, on the other hand, isn't quite sure what to do with itself. The first third, in which the gambler shows his normal life and the workings of his logic, is almost perfect. I only wish there had been more about his relationship with his wife: the few glimpses of her were extremely interesting - part critic, part enabler. Would have loved to have seen more of HER logic. The middle section is far less interesting and realistic. The denouement comes almost as if the editors demanded it so the writer was forced to add it, but his heart wasn't in it. In short then, a book of wonderful, highly original insights marred by an uncertain plot. But completely worth buying and reading.

What Fyodor Dostoevsky did for *The Gambler* over a hundred years ago, Preston Allen does for his bus driver "P" in *All Or Nothing*. A degenerate gambling addict on a losing streak, "P" will do anything for the big win, believing that one vast win will save him. He gets that win, and many more, and along the way you meet all different types of gamblers. Allen proves that this addiction crosses all barriers and does not discriminate on race, ethnicity, sex, age, or class line. Anyone can be taken prisoner and held hostage by this addiction, and intellect has nothing to do with it. "P" is a lovable, warm, and generous guy, and you are rooting for him all the way, but in the end, Allen proves that no matter what the stakes are, no matter how much you win....it is never enough. A fascinating, heartbreaking, beautifully written "must read" for anyone interested in the topic of gambling, or gambling addiction.

I'm not sure about this book. It's a long string of variants of the bad things that gambling can do to your life (and the lives of others) while at the same time playing up the big money glamour. The hero (?) is a sleazy lying bus driver who wins a few million and loses it all again.

Preston has done it again. This guy keeps pumping out good books like *Florida gives us sunshine and babes on the beach*. I read this book in less than 48 hours, the story was very entertaining and easy to read, yet very deep and raw. I like his style, I like how he brings you around and delivers the punches when you least expect it. I love Grisham and Preston had a style that reminds me of him. Thanks Preston...keep them coming. Roger Pereira

This book is a great testimony to the power of addiction-in this case gambling. Told in first person by

P, (author Preston Allen?) the story follows the rise and fall of a compulsive gambler. The reader is taken for a stark ride on the high highs and low down lows of the gambler's experience. It's an easy read and a frightening warning to those who have "casual" gambling habits.

An amazing story with unforgettable characters. The writing is superb and will keep you hooked until the end. Preston Allen has done it again.

This book is in my top 3 for stories about compulsive gambling. The other two are "Nicotine Dreams" and "Stung". I really enjoy reading about people with gambling addictions and these are 3 books in which the addiction rings true. Thanks for the great story. Loved the writing style.

This is a well written, exciting book. I like the "feel" of being there at the casino and the writer has a way of using words that conveys being there.

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