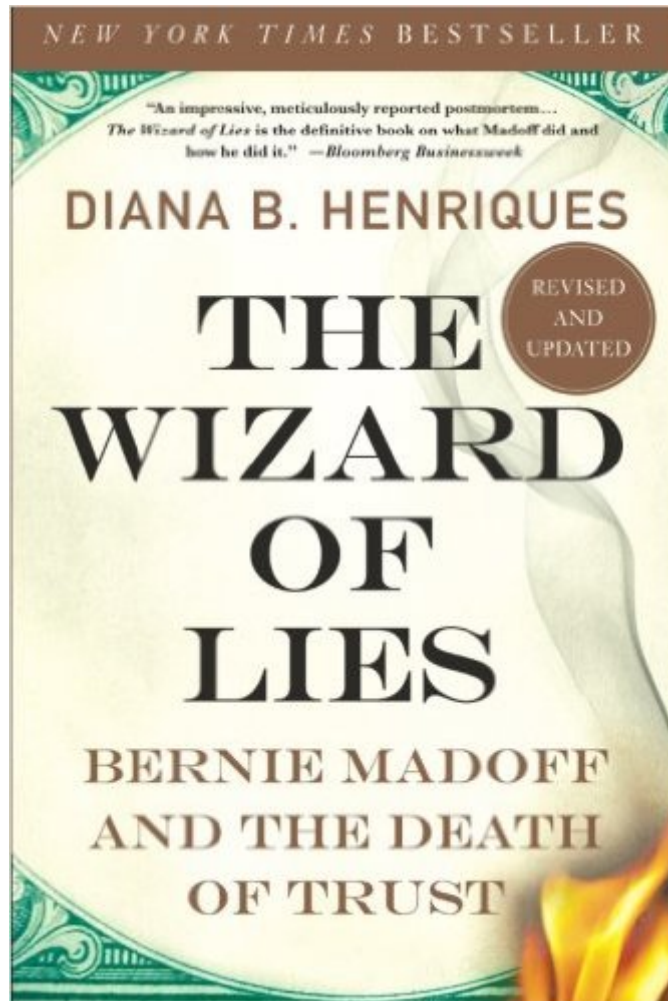


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The Wizard Of Lies: Bernie Madoff And The Death Of Trust



Synopsis

"An impressive, meticulously reported postmortem. . . . The Wizard of Lies is the definitive book on what Madoff did and how he did it." •Bloomberg Businessweek Who is Bernie Madoff, and how did he pull off the biggest Ponzi scheme in history? This question has fascinated people ever since the news broke about the New York financier who swindled his friends, relatives, and other investors out of \$65 billion. And in The Wizard of Lies, Diana B. Henriques of The New York Times has written the definitive book on the man and his scheme, drawing on unprecedented access and more than one hundred interviews, including Bernie Madoff's first interviews for publication since his arrest. Henriques also provides vivid details from the lawsuits and government investigations that explode the myths that have come to surround the story, and in a revised and expanded epilogue she unravels the latest legal developments. A true-life financial thriller, The Wizard of Lies contrasts Madoff's remarkable rise on Wall Street with dramatic scenes from his accelerating slide toward self-destruction. It is also the most complete account of the heartbreaking personal disasters and landmark legal battles triggered by Madoff's downfall—the suicides, business failures, fractured families, shuttered charities—and the clear lessons this timeless scandal offers to Washington, Wall Street, and Main Street.

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Customer Reviews

I used to know Diana Henriques, both professionally and personally, and am well acquainted with

her outstanding writing and reportorial skills, as well as with her relentlessness as an investigative journalist. These talents, among others, are evident beyond refutation or even argument in her excellent "The Wizard of Lies". I think what I like most about this book is Diana's decency and sense of fair play. She refuses to engage in idle and destructive speculation regarding the supposed involvement and guilt of Mrs. Madoff or of the two sons (and others). So easy to do, so expected; what an understandable temptation to which to succumb. But Diana is made of sterner -- and better -- stuff. She reports and, to coin a phrase, we decide. Indeed, if anything, she's perhaps a bit too detached. No, I didn't want her to engage in calumny, however coy and oblique. But I had both hoped and expected that she would delve a bit deeper. Her reporting is outstanding, to be sure, but I'm no closer (anyway, not much closer) to understanding Bernie Madoff than I had been. Why did he do it? I'm not impressed by vague and cookie-cutter explanations, such as "He was greedy." Who isn't who doesn't have "Saint" in front of his name? No, what I'm interested in, specifically and exactly, is...why? And I still don't have an answer to the question that's fascinated me from the beginning: Why didn't he run? If it had been me, I would have pulled a Lord Lucan in two shakes of a lamb's tail. Any other problems? Not really. There's an occasional editing glitch. For example, Diana explains the concept of front-running more than once. And where are the photos? Wasn't it Anita Bryant who astutely observed that a day without orange juice is like a day without sunshine?

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