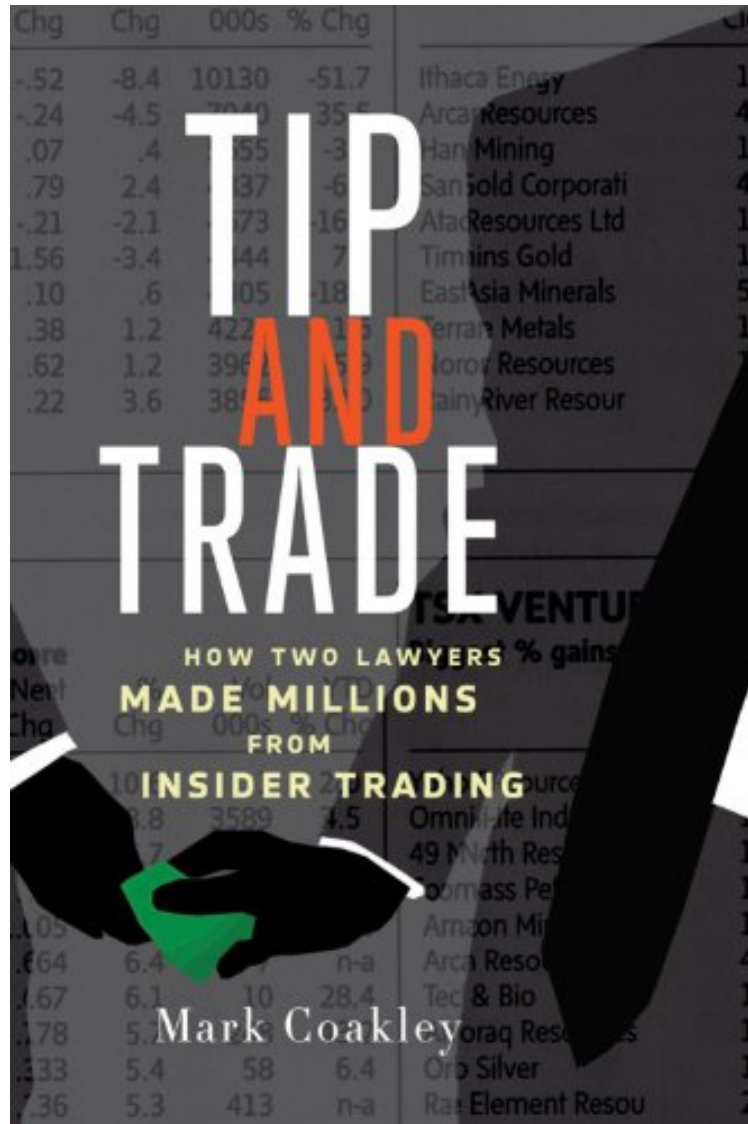


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Tip and Trade: How Two Lawyers Made Millions from Insider Trading

Mark Coakley

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Mark Coakley : Tip and Trade: How Two Lawyers Made Millions from Insider Trading before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tip and Trade: How Two Lawyers Made Millions from Insider Trading:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Absorbing tale of unlikely criminals By Jazz fan Right up front, this isn't a perfect book. The author makes the amateur mistake of being too present in his own book - he knew the subjects, Cornblum and Grmovsek, casually in law school, but that could have been mentioned in a preface and

disposed of quickly - we don't need an account of his weeping at Cornblum's grave and it doesn't feel earned. Coakley also leans too heavily on reproducing original documents instead of digesting them for his readers - we don't need to read the juvenile back and forth contained in extracts from the law school newspaper they all worked on together, nor to review entire chapters of court transcripts. I found myself skimming these sections, which could be usefully pruned. Coakley's politics leak in a bit much, as well. I happen to share his politics, and didn't mind hearing his objections, for example, to the destruction of the natural environment by the mining companies in which the arch-Conservative Cornblum and Grmovsek invested - but his occasional, not always unwelcome diatribes might have been toned down a tad for the general audience. On the other hand, what Coakley does well, he does very well, which is to present the two main characters in this sordid drama and the gripping events that led to their eventual arrests and - in the case of Cornblum, suicide. Full disclosure - I knew Cornblum, and I cooperated with Coakley while he was writing this book, and he quotes me in a few places. He does so accurately, and appropriately. More than that, he does a terrific job capturing the miserable world in which Cornblum and I worked, the world of Sullivan Cromwell, a big top-tier white-shoe NYC law firm. Coakley is also terrific at putting the distasteful character of Grmovsek, Cornblum's co-conspirator, on the page. Grmovsek sounds like he suffers from anti-social personality disorder - the man has no conscience, from the sound of things. The book is most gripping - and it is honestly gripping - when it describes the interaction between the morose, angry but deeply depressed Cornblum - the stereotypical miserable lawyer - and the strutting, arrogant, self-obsessed and compulsively dishonest Grmovsek. I did a bit of skimming in places - but there were large chunks where I read every word, and sat back a bit stunned at the scope and impact of this story. Recommended for anyone curious about this affair, for lawyers who want to hear what endless lawyer misery can lead to, and for anyone curious for a good story, well-told.