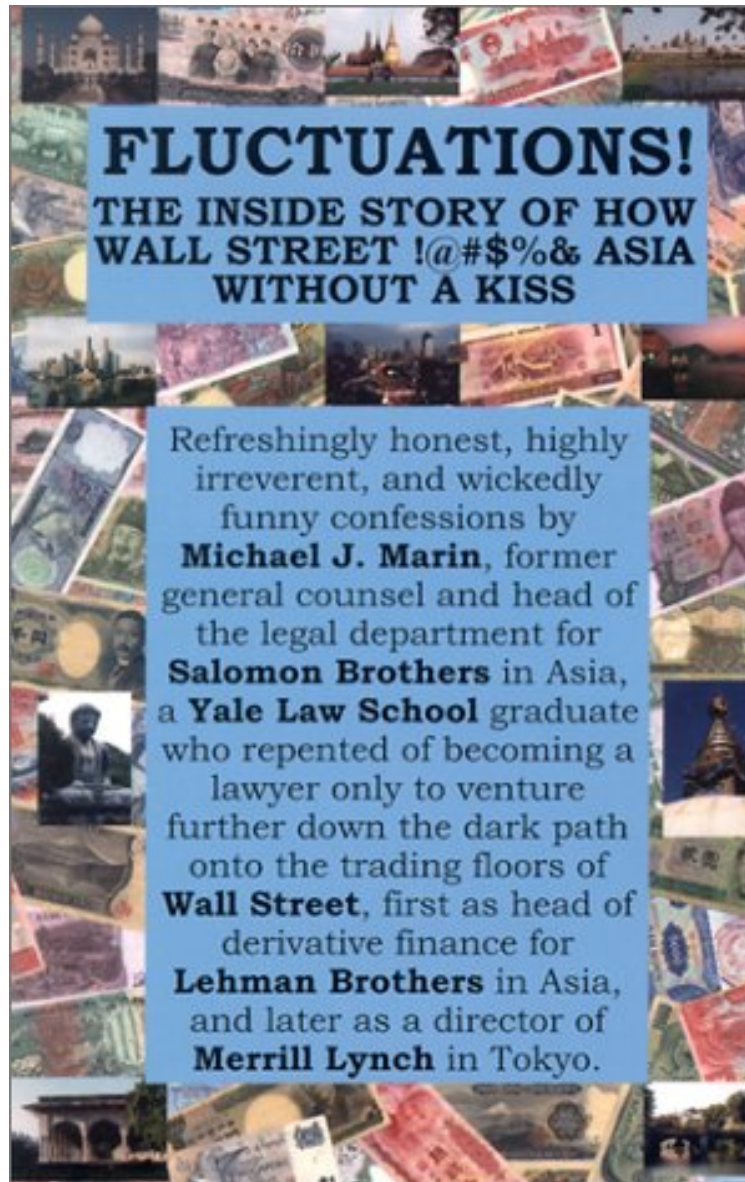


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# Fluctuations! The inside story of how Wall Street !@#\$\$% Asia Without a Kiss

*Michael J. Marin*

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**Michael J. Marin** : **Fluctuations! The inside story of how Wall Street !@#\$\$% Asia Without a Kiss** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **Fluctuations! The inside story of how Wall Street !@#\$\$% Asia Without a Kiss**:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fluctuations' FluctuationsBy CustomerI worked in Lehman Brothers Asia at the same time as Mike and was acquainted with him at the time. I was therefore looking forward to seeing whether this would be the next Liar's Poker of Wall St. The book is part autobiography, part confessional, part expose, part-fiction (by Mike's own admission) - all of which makes this book a confused hotch potch of fact and allegory, although at times (all to briefly) it comes on par with Liar's Poker. First and foremost the book desperately needs an editor - how else could you explain the inclusion of such disparate topics as saturation diving, letters from Nigerian con men, rather lame attempts at humour through the inclusion of bogus contracts and fictitious memos on trading floor language, in a book which supposedly is an exposé of Wall St firms in Asia. Lehman Brothers was indeed populated by a cast of colourful, but not necessarily malicious characters, and the political posturings and constant restructurings are worthy of a book, but sadly this book fails to capture much of the pace of the firm in Asia. That said there are some sharp observations and acute caricatures of some of the people. Aside from the poor editing the other major fault of the book is that we get a relatively sterile cardboard cut out version of Marin himself, not the full colour, all singing, all dancing version we came to know and love (well almost) - missing is the Marin with the Rolls Royce, his blonde bodacious girlfriend, Debbie (who gets only oblique reference in two paragraphs), the therapy sessions, Marin the serious gun enthusiast, Marin getting head-hunted to Deutsche Bank (very brief mention), Marin 'the Rod', Marin the misunderstood, Mike the absent, etc, about our erstwhile hero which would have livened up the book considerably. In conclusion the book fails to measure up with Liar's Poker, but for those who knew him the book provides an entertaining tour through the mind of Mr. Marin

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fact of fiction?By Oda KazumasaI realize Mr. Marion says this book is a mixture of fact and fiction, but the amalgamation of both coupled with this writing style, essentially render the whole effort fiction and comic-book fantasy reading. As such, if you read it for entertainment purposes only, it has engaging sections. Yet many sections completely bore you or make you feel Mr. Marin is simply boasting about his supposed prowess and intellectual escapades (not to mention his sexual escapades). In short, after the roller-coaster ride through Tokyo's Chuo-Ku, it leaves you somewhat cheapened, like a one night stand by the author and Wall-Street's biggest. I suppose that was the intent based on the title, but you never realize how bad that can be till the "morning after."

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. extremely informativeBy A Customerthis book was one of the more engaging books i have read. it is written in a sense that the writer was there and wants the reader to understand what is going on and all the background information. The stories were carefully composed in such a way that was to help a reader picture rather than think it through. the glorified carrots story in particular was worth reading and extremely entertaining. I would highly recomend this book to any other people who want to read a book on this subject because it is not just a book listing effects it is one of engaging stories that are worth reading and telling. this book could very well become a best seller once it is spread around some more.

Refreshingly honest, highly irreverent, and wickedly funny confessions by Michael J. Marin. Inside ... if you dare ... go on safari with a deliciously profane and entertaining guide to the Asian financial jungle who will show you a decade of pillage and plunder you could not have imagined and that you will never forget. Meet the Human Drill Bit. Discover what really happened when Yasuo Hamanaka lost close to Three Billion Dollars trading copper for Sumitomo Corporation. Experience the terror of the chairish sinkish thing. Find out what keeps the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank up at night worrying about Asia. Collect some great ideas for elaborate practical jokes and sophisticated money laundering. Marvel at the dire consequences of hysterical greed. See Japan through the eyes of a foreigner who lived and worked there for 12 years, who speaks fluent Japanese, and who understands the culture well enough to tell when the emperor has no clothes. Get the kind of candid perspective you can only get from an erstwhile wunderkind who doesn't give a rat's ass if he ever works on Wall Street again.

About the AuthorMichael J. Marin, former general counsel and head of the legal department for Salomon Brothers in Asia, is a Yale Law School graduate who repented of becoming a lawyer only to venture further down the dark path onto the trading floors of Wall Street, first as head of derivative finance for Lehman Brothers in Asia, and later as a director of Merrill Lynch in Tokyo.