

(Read free) Hats Eyeglasses: A Memoir

## Hats Eyeglasses: A Memoir

Martha Frankel

DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



 Download

 Read Online

#1280557 in Books 2009-02-11 2009-02-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .70 x 5.50l, .50 #File Name: 1585426970238 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Martha Frankel : Hats Eyeglasses: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hats Eyeglasses: A Memoir:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really Wanted to Like ItBy AngieI was shocked when I realized the age of this writer. The book reads as though written by someone very young, lacking wisdom of any kind. And the name dropping (OH, the name dropping!) is so gratuitous that it remains a major turnoff throughout (I could only make it to the halfway point.) You will never read a self-deprecating phrase - she is IN LOVE with herself. And that's great for her. But what makes a good memoir is honesty and grit. This lacks both.Another thing: I LOVE writers like

Mary Gaitskill and I look for REAL life in the books I read and I never shy away from harshness. There are some seriously vulgar moments in here that took me out of the story and, like the name-dropping, served little purpose other than shock value. As much as I dislike this book I'm sure I'd like its author in person. She has a good sense of humor and spunk. I just think there was a better way to tell this story.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
Brilliant...Martha Frankel Hit a Home Run....By Michael Butson  
It's been said that the average American is exposed to 3,000 to 5,000 marketing messages a day. From the blatant billboard for Big Bob's Bail Bonds to a strategically placed can of Coca Cola in that movie you rented--it's all around us. So what are the odds that a certain book, *Hats Eyeglasses* would call my attention enough to read? 10 to 1? Likely as a Royal Flush? As much as I hate puns, this time my demons overruled. That book, written by renowned journalist Martha Frankel is a raw and honest account of her destructive path to online gambling addiction. "Come on Mike, not another one of those? I can tell you the beginning, middle and end." "Oh no, it is definitely not "one of those," my friends. *Hats Eyeglasses* demonstrates in-your-face writing and leaves you satisfied, yet haunted. The title itself is an insider poker phrase, which refers to a terrible hand. As the book describes, "It's what happens when a ship goes down and everything sinks," Broadway told me, lifting me onto his immense lap. "What floats to the surface is hats and eyeglasses. It means I have crapola, that I don't have a prayer." From the vivid description of Aunt Tillie kissing on young Martha's face and shrieking, "Four years old--what a big girl!" to that five night cruise in the Bahamas spent butt-to-seat at a poker table, you are right there with her. You will move in to Martha's home and sleep in her bed, sit at the dinner table, play cards with the guys, laugh with her and feel the stress and pain of a life sucking addiction. Eventually this compromised her work, devastated the family finances and transformed her to a lonely woman, whose addiction robbed her family, friends and professional life of non-refundable life passages. To be honest, I expected a commercialized "sell-out" recount of her story. After all, she spent much of her professional life interviewing big name celebrities, so certainly we would hear little quips about them. Right? Well, Martha Frankel is no tabloid style; sell `em on the dirt, prose writer. Yes, there are celebrities in the story--but only where it affects her journey. Like the time she dragged Jennifer Beals to an inside poker game at Hollywood Park Racetrack. Wisely though, she stayed on track and left the *Brangelina Meets Johnny Depp* tales in the recycle bin. There is a great bonus within this book, as well. So much of Martha's world is filled with the same uncles, aunts, neighborhoods and anguish as yours and mine--and she spins it with the keen angle that turns a smile to a rolling laugh. More than once, I had to stop for air and then reread a passage to make sure she really said that. It's that same wicked sense of humor that currently has many of her peers in a spellbound writer crush. Is there a happy ending with an earth shaking moral that will change every reader's life path? Does Martha preach wise testimonials and profess her wisdom, courage and then show us the light to a mystical tunnel of self-discovery? Absolutely not. Instead, you will find a gritty, funny, poignant and brilliantly written memoir from a refreshingly down-to-earth writer, who is sure to be the next rising star in the literary world. Am I biased or gush too much? Perhaps, but I also have been known to gush about Kurt Vonnegut Jr., John Steinbeck and Ernest Hemmingway, when asked to provide a report on their early works. Bottom line---Read this book!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Joyous Read  
By H. Rodgvill  
*Hats Eyeglasses: A Family Love Affair with Gambling* A delirious read demonstrating the strength of character Martha Frankel achieves after looking into the mirror. Her humor and desperation combine to rush the reader from page to page. This is one of those rare books that prohibits dropping out and compels you to stay in the pot to the end. There is magic on these pages. I heard the buzz, ordered the book in June and waited 'til yesterday for delivery. This is one of those waits that does not disappoint. What a wonderful family!

Martha Frankel grew up in a warm, loving family of diehard gamblers, where her father's poker games and her mother's mah-jongg blended happily with big pots of delicious food and endless gossip. As kids, she and her cousins bet on everything?from which of their Weight Watching mothers would lose the most to who could hold their breath longest underwater or eat the most matzo. But once Frankel left for college and later became a successful entertainment journalist, gambling didn't factor much into her life. She thought her family legacy had passed her by. In this ?fast-paced and amazingly funny? (The Times- Picayune) memoir, Frankel traces her love affair with poker, an obsession that didn't hit until her mid-forties. And she was good at poker. Frankel won routinely, whether she was playing in her Wednesday-night poker game or in one of the seedy, out-of-the-way rooms she always managed to find when on assignment. But all this changed when she discovered online poker. It was the beginning of what one of her uncles called ?hats and eyeglasses,? a term used to describe those times when you're losing so bad your ship is sinking until all that's left on the water's surface are your hat and eyeglasses. By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *Hats Eyeglasses* is a tale of passion, addiction? and those times in life when we almost lose our shirt.

From Publishers Weekly  
A soft-pedaling memoir by journalist Frankel fondly recalls growing up in the Bronx and Queens, N.Y., learning to play poker from her dad and uncles, which would later become her obsession. As a kid Frankel absorbed the numbers-canny ways of her relatives, who doled out gambling advice such as the reference in the title to a ship's sinking, leaving only hats and eyeglasses floating on the surface. With the death of her beloved father, known as the Pencil because he was a CPA, Frankel's big dreams deflated and she largely drifted through school, a

first marriage and drug use, before meeting woodworker Steve. She moved to Woodstock, N.Y., and, through friends, began writing celebrity interviews for magazines like Details. An idea for writing a screenplay about a poker player brought her into close contact with her ex-con cousin Keith, who had taught her how to play. From regular Wednesday night poker games with her friend Sal's group of hard-pickled males, where she learned how not to play like a girl, to an all-poker cruise to casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., and L.A., she gravitated to playing online, which enthralled her and emptied her bank account. As she explains in this frank and unaffected memoir, shame brought her back to her family and closer to her mother. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Fun and full of life. I've known Martha Frankel for twenty years and "Hats Eyeglasses" was still surprising. A wonderful book." -Jane Smiley, author of "Ten Days in the Hills" and "A Year at the Races" "A bluntly honest memoir of gambling addiction-harrowing, funny, and compulsively readable, straight through to the end." -John Berendt, author of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" and "The City of Falling Angels" ""Hats Eyeglasses" is a hamische tour de force. With a warm voice and a light touch, Martha Frankel's account of growing up with gambling pays off, big-time. My bet is on her as she both enshrines and kicks her compulsion. Entertaining and enlightening, this is a must for memoir addicts, and a fine debut for the author." -Laura Shaine Cunningham, author of "Sleeping Arrangements" and "Beautiful Bodies""[This] Honest, funny betting memoir rises to the top... Frankel's lively storytelling allows her to turn her own crapola into a winner." -"USA Today" "In five minutes you will feel not only as if you have known [Martha] all your life, but as if you still have one of her sweaters." -"The New York Times" "Intimate, exuberant" -"O, The Oprah Magazine" "Sparse and honest writing" -"The Associated Press" "Fast-paced and amazingly funny" -"New Orleans Times-Picayune" "[A] frank and unaffected memoir" -"Publishers Weekly" "Fearless... powerful, even uplifting and funny." -"The New York Post" "Fun and full of life. I've known Martha Frankel for twenty years and "Hats Eyeglasses" was still surprising. A wonderful book." -Jane Smiley, author of "Ten Days in the Hills" and "A Year at the Races" "A bluntly honest memoir of gambling addiction-harrowing, funny, and compulsively readable, straight through to the end." -John Berendt, author of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" and "The City of Falling Angels" ""Hats Eyeglasses" is a hamische tour de force. With a warm voice and a light touch, Martha Frankel's account of growing up with gambling pays off, big-time. My bet is on her as she both enshrines and kicks her compulsion. Entertaining and enlightening, this is a must for memoir addicts, and a fine debut for the author." -Laura Shaine Cunningham, author of "Sleeping Arrangements" and "Beautiful Bodies" a[This] Honest, funny betting memoir rises to the top... Frankel's lively storytelling allows her to turn her own crapola into a winner. a a"USA Today" "In five minutes you will feel not only as if you have known [Martha] all your life, but as if you still have one of her sweaters." a"The New York Times" aIntimate, exuberant a"O, The Oprah Magazine" aSparse and honest writing a"The Associated Press" aFast-paced and amazingly funny a"New Orleans Times-Picayune" a[A] frank and unaffected memoir a"Publishers Weekly" aFearless a powerful, even uplifting and funny. a a"The New York Post" "Fun and full of life. I've known Martha Frankel for twenty years and "Hats Eyeglasses" was still surprising. A wonderful book." -Jane Smiley, author of "Ten Days in the Hills" and "A Year at the Races" "A bluntly honest memoir of gambling addiction-harrowing, funny, and compulsively readable, straight through to the end." -John Berendt, author of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" and "The City of Falling Angels" ""Hats Eyeglasses" is a hamische tour de force. With a warm voice and a light touch, Martha Frankel's account of growing up with gambling pays off, big-time. My bet is on her as she both enshrines and kicks her compulsion. Entertaining and enlightening, this is a must for memoir addicts, and a fine debut for the author." -Laura Shaine Cunningham, author of "Sleeping Arrangements" and "Beautiful Bodies" aMartha Frankel . . . proves in her intimate, exuberant memoir that even in the face of a gambling addiction, frank self-appraisal and an armload of hugs can sometimes win the day. a a"O, The Oprah Magazine"?Martha Frankel . . . proves in her intimate, exuberant memoir that even in the face of a gambling addiction, frank self-appraisal and an armload of hugs can sometimes win the day.? "O, The Oprah Magazine""Martha Frankel . . . proves in her intimate, exuberant memoir that even in the face of a gambling addiction, frank self-appraisal and an armload of hugs can sometimes win the day." -"O, The Oprah Magazine"About the AuthorMartha Frankel grew up in a warm and loving family of die-hard gamblers, where her father's poker games and her mother's mahjong mingled with big pots of delicious food, endless gossip, and storytelling.Hats Eyeglasses is her first book, a memoir chronicling her upbringing in a family of gamblers. She is the Executive Director of the Woodstock Bookfest and has interviewed the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Roman Polanski, Susan Sarandon, Robert De Niro, and Leonardo DiCaprio. Her work has appeared in magazines as diverse as The New Yorker, Fashions of the New York Times, Japanese and German Men's Vogue, Redbook, Cosmopolitan, and MovieLine's Hollywood Life. Frankel lives near Woodstock, New York, with her husband, woodworker and sculptor Steve Heller.