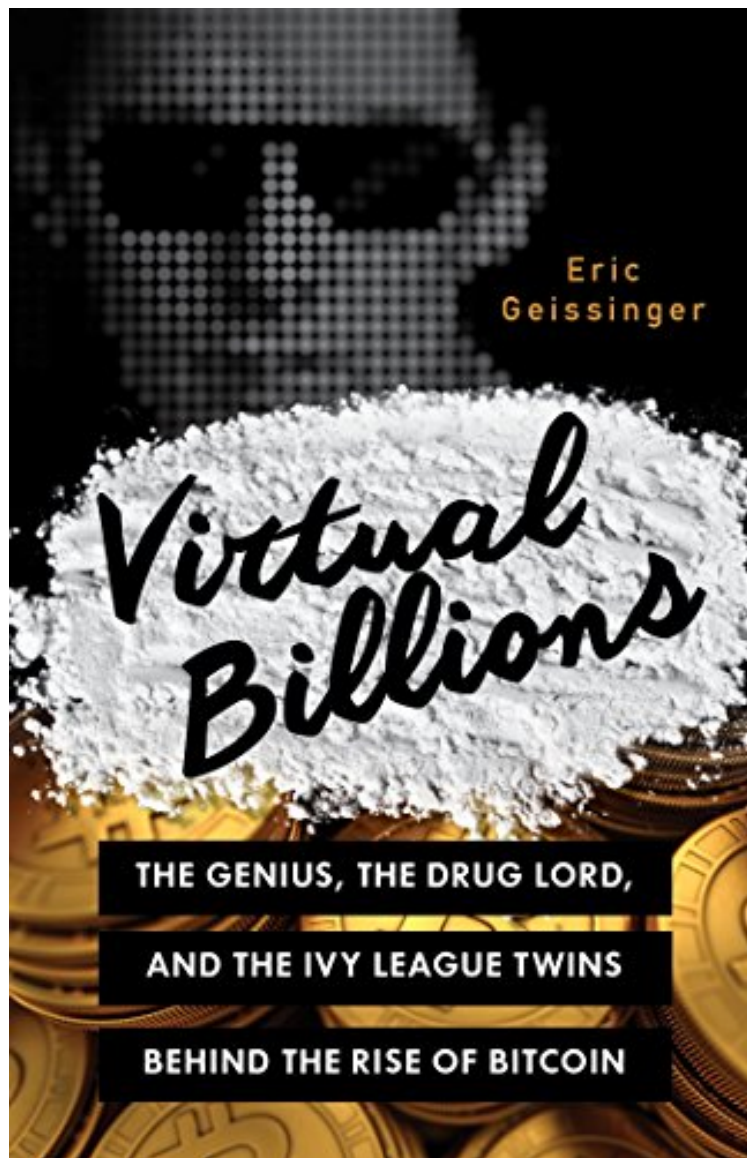


[Read now] Virtual Billions: The Genius, the Drug Lord, and the Ivy League Twins behind the Rise of Bitcoin

Virtual Billions: The Genius, the Drug Lord, and the Ivy League Twins behind the Rise of Bitcoin

Eric Geissinger

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Eric Geissinger : Virtual Billions: The Genius, the Drug Lord, and the Ivy League Twins behind the Rise of Bitcoin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Virtual Billions: The Genius, the Drug Lord, and the Ivy League Twins behind the Rise of Bitcoin:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too much unrelated fluff to swim through.By John A. NagleThe

book covers a lot of the meat aptly, but you have to swim through seemingly endless filler material to get to it. Even the most innocuous paragraph could lead Geissinger down a rabbit hole of what could only be generously referred to as related history. I kept hoping that that would not be the pattern I would see throughout the entire book, but it was. With such an engaging and fascinating subject, there should be enough to chronicle in the present day without revisiting centuries (yes!) of history. I give it 2 stars for the decent coverage of the story itself and for the excellent quality of the writing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Introduction to Bitcoin, Despite Some Filler By D. Carden Eric Geissinger does an outstanding job of laying out the history, functionality, and significance of Bitcoin. While the book is loosely structured as the story of 4 people, each chapter weaves in and out of its stated topic with tangential stories that sometimes bare little significance with Bitcoin. For some reason, the biography of the Winklevoss twins requires we understand the history of pension plans, going back to ancient Rome (where we spend several pages). If you're a trivia buff, some of these tangents prove fascinating but mostly it feels like Geissinger just needed to reach his word count. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. There's a brilliant explanation of how the blockchain works in the beginning By Customer There's a brilliant explanation of how the blockchain works in the beginning. Then the book basically descends into the writer's analysis of libertarianism. There isn't a lot to interest the more technically minded (BBT is invoked to explain nerd culture). The blockchain is hardly ever mentioned after that first explanation, and the text seemed more and more like carefully structured trivia.

Bitcoin, the digital currency, was introduced in 2009 with little fanfare; five years later, shocking the world, it was worth \$14 billion. This book explores the cyber currency by focusing on the remarkable stories and intriguing personalities of those responsible for its sudden success: Satoshi Nakamoto, the reclusive and anonymous genius who created Bitcoin; Ross Ulbricht, aka the Dread Pirate Roberts, administrator of the largest and most successful Dark Web drug superstore, using Bitcoin to fuel online sale of drugs, hacking services, counterfeit money, and assassinations; and Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, Harvard graduates, successful litigants vs. Facebook, world-class Olympic rowers, and Bitcoin entrepreneurs who own 1 percent of all bitcoins in existence. Equal parts *The Social Network*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *Breaking Bad*, this absorbing narrative tells the stories of the reclusive genius who waged a one-man war against the global banking system (and he's winning); the quiet and affable computer geek who, until his arrest, profited handsomely from Silk Road, his online drug superstore; and the multitalented Harvard twins, who made a fortune from an intellectual-property suit against Mark Zuckerberg, and now are the chief promoters of Bitcoin as "the next big thing." Bitcoin has introduced us to coke-fueled coding gurus, anger-crazed hitmen-hiring millionaires, and canny "Bitcoin miners" avidly adding processing power to their chilly Icelandic server farms to generate millions of dollars every month. Absurd and almost unbelievable stories abound, and sweep the reader along through the living and breathing, passionate and paranoid insiders who made it all happen. From the Hardcover edition.

Like *The Big Short* and *Bringing Down the House*, Eric Geissinger's *Virtual Billions* tackles a fascinating but elusive subject—in this case, Bitcoin—and makes it accessible and entertaining. This is a riveting slice of instant historical journalism about the digital currency that exploded onto the scene in 2009 and in just five years was worth \$14 billion. —RICHARD ROEPER, film critic, radio host, and cohost of *Good Day Chicago* Enthusiastic! [Geissinger's] account of Bitcoin's rise is thoughtful and generally precise.... A perceptive early look at the volatile present and seemingly inevitable future of "crypto-currency." —KIRKUS REVIEWS About the Author Eric Geissinger has worked as a technical writer for Silicon Valley software companies for seventeen years. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in several literary journals. He lives in the Finger Lakes region of New York with his wife and two daughters.