

Calculated Risk

By Katherine Neville

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"A dizzying, enjoyable caper...After reading this hard-to-put down thriller, you may put all your money in your mattress."

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When financial executive Verity Banks' latest proposal is axed by her boss, she decides to show how easy it is to break through automated security, hide money, and then show senior management where it is. Then her former mentor, financial wizard, Dr. Zooltan Tor ups the ante, and dares her to steal a billion dollars, invest it to earn thirty million in three months, then put the original billion back before anyone notices. To heighten the challenge, Tor and Verity will compete against each other, though Tor gives Verity an edge: she can use a computer for her theft, but he cannot....

A BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH-CLUB ALTERNATE SELECTION

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

When Verity (True) Banks was 22, she was the highest-ranking woman executive at the world's largest bank. Now, 10 years later, she is contemplating a caper that will reveal the bank's security to be inadequate, and that will surely earn her a position at the Federal Reserve. Before she can carry out her plan to break into the bank's electronic security system, her erstwhile mentor, Dr. Zoltan Tor, reappears with a challenge: Which of them can steal \$1 billion, and invest it to earn \$30 million in only three months? (Of course, the money will be returned, and no one will be injured.) In the process, Tor and True, with help from a crew of brilliant eccentrics, stumble on a plan by members of the Vagabond Club CEOs of major corporations-,to take over the Bank of the World, possibly sending the U.S. economy into a tailspin. Alternately sounding like a romance novel (. . . he was tanned and golden, his coppery hair tumbling to the collar of his white silk shirt) and a text on banking (All federally chartered banks must be members of the Fed, and are required to maintain insurance deposits there. . .), True's story proceeds haltingly, disrupted by frequent recaps and descriptions of her emotional states (my mood progressed from real fury-to intense determination-to righteous indignation-to helpless frustration-to miserable desperation-at last to hopeless exhaustion). Although Neville (*The Eight*) obviously knows a great deal about the world of finance, she fails to deliver the goods as a novelist.

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From Library Journal

Neville's popular first novel, *The Eight* (LJ 3/1/89), featured dual story lines, one historical and one contemporary. Neville uses the same contrivance in these interspersed stories about schemes to amass great wealth: a clever tale about the early Rothschild banking dynasty and a much longer present-day story about bank executive Verity Banks's efforts to steal funds from her own institution in order to make a point about flawed computer security. The stakes are raised sky high, however, when Verity's charismatic mentor from years past shows up and challenges her to a bet that involves stealing and investing a billion dollars. Romance and riches ensue for these fetching characters in a farfetched plot. Good escapist fare.

- *Will Hepfer, SUNY at Buffalo Libs.*

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From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Corine Ramirez:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book is usually option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the e-book untitled Calculated Risk can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Alejandro Jones:

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James Smith:

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Avis Marguez:

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