

The Grim Truth

About

Bitcoin

by

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Preface

I have, in all cases, capitalized the word Bitcoin throughout

this book. The reason for this is simple. It is a proper noun. A specific word that exists distinctly from general nouns. Bitcoin is a particular name for a specific cryptocurrency. Although, it should be pointed out that Bitcoin came into being before the word cryptocurrency. You always have to be suspicious of a proper noun preceding the creation of a common noun.

Some people go so far as to say that when the word Bitcoin is used to refer to a currency, it should be in the lower case, but I do not consider it, in any way, to be a currency. Therefore, no lower case will be used.

What is Bitcoin?

To a large extent, that is what this book is about. If you were to ask a Bitcoin enthusiast that question, you're liable to get a completely different answer than you would from a Bitcoin skeptic or someone who thinks it is a scam. The title of this book tells you what I think of Bitcoin, but I will try and explain Bitcoin as objectively as I possibly can.

You may have seen images, even ones that look like photos, of Bitcoin in advertisements or in a story about Bitcoin. They're all over the internet. There is one on the cover of this book. These images give the impression that Bitcoin exists the same way a gold coin exists. This is not true and incredibly misleading.

Bitcoin is an algorithm. This is simply a set of instructions to a computer on how to perform certain calculations. A complex group of algorithms creates a computer program, and if you throw in a few data files, you have a software package. Of course, fundamentally, it is all the same, and to a certain extent, these terms are interchangeable because fundamentally, a computer is performing operations based upon its instructions.

At the heart of the Bitcoin algorithm is the block. This is a set of Bitcoin transactions. Unlike a dollar that is interchangeable with other dollars, each Bitcoin is unique. And every Bitcoin in existence has its own history. All of these transactions are

recorded in a block. These blocks are limited to no more than one megabyte of data. After this, it is linked to the most recent finished block. Each block is linked together, so a chain is formed; this is called a block chain.

The software containing the algorithm is open source and available for anyone to use.

All of the computers participating in the Bitcoin system have a copy of the complete blockchain. People who use computers to run the Bitcoin algorithm are called miners. Transactions in a block are verified by multiple miners in the system, and all of this is done anonymously without any central authority or middleman. When a miner in the system has verified a block's worth of transactions (1 Mbyte), they become eligible to earn Bitcoin.

The Bitcoin algorithm allows computers to run a series of mathematical computations looking for the correct result. When the correct result is found, the computer system running the algorithm is awarded 12.5 Bitcoin. The number of Bitcoin that is awarded to the successful miner is cut in half periodically and in a predictable way. Obviously, at some point in time there will be no more Bitcoin left to generate.

Supposedly, the Bitcoin algorithm sets a limit on the number of Bitcoin that can ever be mined: 21 million. In addition to that, the more Bitcoin that are awarded, the more difficult and time consuming it is to find the right solution to the mathematical computations that will award a miner Bitcoin. After a miner is awarded Bitcoin, he can then sell it or hold onto it.

Of course, you don't have to be a miner to get Bitcoin, otherwise the value wouldn't rise very high. It is the hordes of people who want to have Bitcoin without being a miner. To do this, you need to go to a Bitcoin exchange. This is a place where Bitcoin is bought and sold. You can obtain a Bitcoin wallet. This is simply a program that stores the unique encrypted number of each Bitcoin you purchase. You will need a bank account to purchase Bitcoin, the person selling the Bitcoin will want hard currency.

Who created Bitcoin?

Who indeed? The mythology surrounding Bitcoin has given credit for its creation to someone named Satoshi Nakamoto. Did this person really exist? Does this person exist today? Who knows? Nothing is truly known about this person. Every story told about him is unsubstantiated. Many believe that the name Satoshi Nakamoto is a pseudonym, and from time to time, there will be people that are believed to be the real Satoshi Nakamoto. There have even been people who have come forward and claimed to be the Bitcoin creator, but inevitably, they cannot prove they are who they say they are. But why wouldn't the creator of Bitcoin not want to come forward?

It is possible that he is no longer living, but this is doubtful. People leave behind papers and files that will demonstrate who they were in life. Even the man who was responsible for the anthrax attacks was found after he died. Something complicated like a blockchain is work that will leave a paper trail in death. I think that Bitcoin was never meant as any sort of scam, and the computer programmer who came up with the idea may have had noble intentions. But his idea quickly grew into something much more than he thought it would, and it morphed into something he had not foreseen. Computer programmers tend to be geeks and nerds; this is not the profile of a con man.

Whomever invented Bitcoin will never come forward because when it, and all the other cryptocurrencies, collapse, and they will, everyone who lost money will be out for blood. But it will be the inventor of original cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, who will be sought out and crucified. The inventor of Bitcoin will remain silent and hidden from the world.

Bitcoin is not a currency

You can buy Bitcoin, you can sell Bitcoin, but you cannot buy anything with it. Sure, there are Bitcoin enthusiasts who will claim there are all sorts of vendors who will take Bitcoin, and there are more being added each day. This sounds great, right?

It's catching on. It is easy to think that until you see who is taking Bitcoin, and what they are selling. The list is sad, and it makes you feel sorry for Bitcoin owners. Here, in Las Vegas, there is a casino that takes Bitcoin. The Golden Gate casino in downtown Las Vegas. Of course, there is only a limited amount of things you can buy with Bitcoin. Maybe a few souvenirs in their gift shop, or a cheap meal. Perhaps a discount on a room, but never for anything that requires serious money. It's simply a marketing gimmick, and whoever came up with the idea is a genius. Cash is king in Las Vegas, and they don't take Bitcoin. Even hookers don't take Bitcoin. I have that on deep background.

Where the hell does Bitcoin come from that people would think for a moment that it has any value? Bitcoin believers often sneer their noses at government backed currencies like the U.S. dollar. It's only paper that is printed up, and you need to believe that it has value. This is no different than Bitcoin. I swear, I think people who have this attitude toward the dollar do not work for a living. The growth in money supply correlates, more or less, with the productivity of our economy. The money you earn is the reward for the work you do. Yes, governments can expand its money supply faster than their economy is growing, and the result will be inflation, essentially a tax on your hard work. But large economies with currencies that float freely on the market have inflation targets, and their central banks use interest rates to throttle the supply of money, so it will remain stable.

Other forms of currency such as gold notes are a thing of the past. You don't need gold to back a currency, but you need to work to appreciate its value. Generating Bitcoin is not work. It is simply a reward created by a computer for someone's computer system. Fundamentally, it is no different than playing a video game and being awarded treasure for certain accomplishments. In the case of Bitcoin, it is the algorithm the is doing everything. There is very little input on your part. The Bitcoin that is awarded represents nothing. It is not a currency.

Of course, when push comes to shove, Bitcoin enthusiasts retreat and throw out the term cryptocurrency. It's not quite the same as traditional currency they'll say. I suppose they're right. There is a term called cryptozoology to differentiate itself from zoology. The latter is the study of animals while cryptozoology is the study of animals that do not exist. Just as cryptocurrencies do not exist. Bitcoin and other

cryptocurrencies are aptly named.

Bitcoin is not a commodity

There are factors that affect the price of a commodity, but the only factor that affects the price of Bitcoin is the level of delusion among its adherents. And adherents is the proper word because Bitcoin is closer to being a religion than any tangible commodity traded in the real world.

Bitcoin is not tulip mania

Tulips are not indigenous to Europe, and when they were first introduced to the Dutch Republic in the 17th century, they became fashionable. Everybody wanted them. The market for tulip bulbs soared and created one of the greatest commodity bubbles in history. Like all bubbles, eventually they burst. Many people lost money. You may have heard tulip mania being compared to what is happening with Bitcoin, at least when the price reaches a new high, but Bitcoin is not tulip mania.

That was a bubble in a commodities market. Sure, today, when you look back at tulips, it is laughable. But tulips were real then, and they are still real today. The value people place on them is subjective, and if there is enough demand, the price will rise. This is true with any commodity. Sometimes prices of a commodity will rise to impressive heights, only to rapidly collapse. But the commodity will still have some intrinsic value because it is real, and there is likely to be some demand for it. Albeit, nothing like the demand at the peak of the bubble. Someday the price of Bitcoin will collapse, but it will not be a bubble that burst. With Bitcoin, there will be nothing left because there was nothing there to begin with.

Bitcoin is not gold

Many people who invest in gold do so because they simply do not trust fiat currency, or in other words, paper money issued by the government. I hear this same thinking with many who buy Bitcoin. But Bitcoin is not gold. The fact is that gold is real, and it does have an inherent value. Whether it is a good,

long-term investment is open to debate. But I have never heard anyone retire, saying they have made a terrible mistake. “All these many years I have bought gold for my retirement. Now that I am retired, all I have is gold. What am I going to do with all of this gold? How will I eat? Where will I live?” Gold has value. Nobody will retire on their Bitcoin holdings.

Bitcoin is not even fool's gold

Back in the gold rush days, people who were mining for gold occasionally would find something that resembled gold, but it was not. They called it fool's gold. But the thing about fool's gold is that although it is not gold, it still exists. It is pyrite, and although not valuable like gold, it does have some use. The same cannot be said of Bitcoin. Bitcoin is not fool's gold.

People have different views of what any particular commodity is worth. The aggregate opinion determines its price. But the price is for something real. Something that has use in the real world. Bitcoin is an algorithm. What is the value of an algorithm? Complex as this algorithm may be, it is fundamentally a set of instructions on how to perform mathematical computations, nothing more.

Bitcoin is not an asset

Of course, it's not an asset say Bitcoin enthusiasts. It is a virtual asset. People actually say this with a straight face. A virtual asset? What does that mean? It is true that certain assets are not tangible in the sense that you can see them or touch them. You may own the right to something like a logo or word. But these assets have a usefulness. Things such as the rights to a book for the purpose of making a movie is another example. But rights such as these give a person or company exclusive use of something that produces tangible products.

Another silly concept is that Bitcoin is a digital asset. But what do they mean by digital? It is true that each Bitcoin transaction has a unique alphanumeric string that is a part of a block chain of other transactions, tracing back to the original generation of each unique Bitcoin. But a long alphanumeric string, although digital, is not an asset. Unless, perhaps, it is a launch code for a nuclear missile. There may be bad people

who would pay money for that. But even then, it would have, although sinister, a usefulness.

Never mind the silly idea of a virtual or digital asset. Bitcoin is either an asset or it is not. To be fair, to the extent that people will pay real money for Bitcoin, it could be considered an asset, but only temporarily. People who buy Bitcoin are suckers, and there are not enough of them to support Bitcoin endlessly. If you own Bitcoin and consider it to be an asset, as soon as Bitcoin crashes, you will have nothing. You will have lost your asset.

The entire Bitcoin concept may seem complex, and to a certain extent, it is. But that doesn't mean it is valid as a currency, commodity or an asset. There are theological precepts that are complex, but that doesn't mean they exist in the real world, or have any real world applications.

Well then, what is Bitcoin?

One illustration of what Bitcoin is can be explained with the famous children's story written by Hans Christian Anderson. A quick summary of the story, as it was told to me years ago, is as follows. There was an emperor who was given a new suit of clothes woven from invisible thread. This weaver (apparently the inventor of Bitcoin) told the Emperor that only smart people could see the clothes – stupid people could see nothing at all. Everyone knew this, so on the day of the great parade when the emperor would show off his clothes, everyone applauded and yelled compliments and praise, even though no one could actually see the clothes. They simply didn't want others to think they were stupid. Finally, a young child asks, “who's the naked man?” We are not at the point where the equivalent of a young child is ready to show up and ask about the naked Bitcoin, but we may be close. Clearly, we are at a point where Bitcoin is being paraded before the people, and so many of them are applauding even though they are not sure what the hell Bitcoin is.

Of course, in the story of the Emperor's clothes, there were no clothes. There was nothing. Although Bitcoin doesn't exist, the algorithm does; it simply has no value. The block chain technology behind Bitcoin is interesting, but at this time, it

doesn't seem to have any practical application. Certainly, the generation of Bitcoin is not a serious application of blockchain technology.

Criticism from Bitcoin skeptics

There are many skeptics of Bitcoin, and this is completely understandable. It is simply difficult to grasp exactly what it is, so many focus on aspects of Bitcoin that they don't like. The following are among the most common criticisms of Bitcoin.

It is not backed by the government

Although it is true that no government stands behind Bitcoin as a currency, this is only true because it is not issued by any government. Therefore, it cannot be a fiat currency. To be fair, this is not necessarily a bad thing. Governments can destroy their currency. History is riddled with examples, and there are even examples today. Bitcoin is decentralized, so governments can't touch it. The Bitcoin algorithm relies on complex encryption techniques for both the generation of Bitcoin, and to verify all transactions involving Bitcoin. This makes it difficult to tamper with.

The value fluctuates too much

Many people think the problem with Bitcoin is that it is too unstable, and the main reason for this is that it is not regulated. That's true. It is unstable. But it's not unstable because it is not regulated, so much is that it is unstable because it represents nothing. How can anyone possibly put a value on Bitcoin. They try, but the price is going to go up and down in wild fashion. There are no fundamental factors to use for any type of Bitcoin analysis.

It's used to launder money

Really? There are many ways to launder money. If you can show me a way that the criminal world uses Bitcoin to launder money, I will show you an idiot organization. Money laundering has existed since the beginning of taxation. There is no reason to attempt to do it with something as risky as Bitcoin. Many people who think that Bitcoin is attached to the underworld would be willing to accept it as long as the

government stepped in to regulate it. However, Bitcoin was designed to keep governments out of the process of generating money and regulating it. That by itself may be attractive to criminals wanting to launder money, but everything else about Bitcoin is a red flag for money laundering.

Is Bitcoin legal?

No one ever said Bitcoin is illegal. There are no laws against Bitcoin. It's not even regulated by the government. You can use Bitcoin to buy and sell. The problem is, no one will take it.

Let's say, I walk up to a taco vendor and say, "I have three pine cones, will you take them for a taco?" If he says yes, then I give him the pine cones, and I get a taco. There is nothing illegal about this transaction. If I ask the taco vendor if he will take Bitcoin and he says yes, then I can get a taco for Bitcoin. "Sure, I'll take Bitcoin," says the taco vendor, "just yesterday I took three pine cones." It is not illegal to use Bitcoin to purchase anything, it is just that few businesses will take it.

It is true that certain governments are trying to make Bitcoin illegal or have already done so. It is not easy to do because the control of Bitcoin is essentially outside their grasp. As I write this, India has announced that they are going to regulate Bitcoin. They said that Bitcoin was not a currency, but then they said they would tax it. This is confusing because if Bitcoin is not a currency, then what type of tax are they going to levy? Some sort of capital gains tax, income tax or maybe even a sales tax. It is difficult to see how they plan to tax Bitcoin.

Dictatorships, though, can regulate the internet with a strong hand, and this is their best chance of stopping it. China is a recent example of this, and they are cracking down hard. Predictably, they are going after the internet and all platforms that relate to Bitcoin.

Why people are drawn to Bitcoin

Initially, Bitcoin attracted a large group of followers who seemed to think that it was something that would replace our present currency. Perhaps it would replace all currencies throughout the world. Bitcoin was not just a currency; it was a new technology that was creating a new type of currency, a digital currency and a great blow to the banking establishment. And more than that, it was a way of breaking the monopoly of every government issued currency in the world. I have to admit, there is a certain appeal this has to me, but Bitcoin doesn't get the job done. The blockchain technology and the associated encryption give it great anonymity for its users and protection from government interference, but Bitcoin itself, is not a currency nor is it a vehicle to store wealth.

Get rich quick! The bane of all suckers

The lure of getting something for nothing is strong. It is what makes us susceptible to scams. Investment swindlers promote large returns for your money that are simply not possible. Pyramid schemes promise large returns without doing anything other than bringing in new members to the group. Although not a pyramid scheme, Bitcoin is something you need only buy. There is no work involved. You can fool yourself into thinking you are doing some form of research, but there is no research to be done. Bitcoin is not a commodity. The price is not determined by its supply nor the number of users of Bitcoin. No, the price of Bitcoin is determined by the number of people who share the common delusion of the algorithm. The price of Bitcoin has risen since 2009 because of the growing number of people drawn to it. All anyone could see is the rising price, and it never occurred to people to question exactly what people were buying.

Some people think it is a great long-term investment. The price will fluctuate, thinks a Bitcoin buyer, but it will rise over time. If I buy enough Bitcoin, I will be set for life.

Some people think they will take the intelligent path with Bitcoin, they will briefly jump into the water. Hang onto their Bitcoin for just enough time to see a respectable rise in price. Just long enough to make some money, and then get out. This is not a good idea. The only way to get rich quick is with luck, and Bitcoin is a poor way to test your luck.

The future of Bitcoin

After reading this far, it is obvious that I don't see a future for Bitcoin, other than its collapse and disappearance. But what will the consequences be after this happens?

Perhaps the scariest part about Bitcoin is how many mainstream financial institutions are beginning to take it seriously. Jamie Dimon, CEO and Chairman of J.P. Morgan Chase, in September of 2017 said Bitcoin was a fraud. I watched the video. A few months later, he changed his story. Apparently, the powers that be took him to the woodshed. This may have something to do with financial institutions attempting to make money from Bitcoin, at least from fees.

The most remarkable example is futures trading. Bitcoin has apparently entered the world of commodities. To a large extent, trading commodities is a wild form of gambling, at least for most people. But as a form of gambling, you are making bets on the future price of real stuff. Oil, corn, even currencies are examples of this. But Bitcoin is not a commodity, nor is it a currency. Futures trading in Bitcoin is simply trading on the future, delusional state of Bitcoin devotees. I hope that there are not too many financial institutions that take Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies serious enough that when it all comes crashing down, the rest of the economy crashes too.

Market capitalization

There are many cryptocurrencies. By market capitalization, Bitcoin is currently (January 6, 2018) the largest blockchain network, followed by Ethereum, Ripple, Bitcoin Cash, Cardano, and Litecoin. There are many others. All you need is to attract a following and off you go. In fact, at the end of 2017, there were over 1300 different cryptocurrencies. Granted, most of them did not have many participants, but regardless of how large the pool of participants each cryptocurrency had, there was a combined capitalization of 348 billion dollars. This is a scary number.

At the time of this writing, Bitcoin is selling at five times the

price of gold. Please read that sentence again. You may not like gold as an investment, but it is tangible. It is real. It does, and always will, have an intrinsic value. The moment when Bitcoin buyers begin to compare their beloved Bitcoin to things that are tangible, Bitcoin “investors” will become Bitcoin sellers, and the entire cryptocurrency market will collapse. As go Bitcoin, so will the other cryptocurrencies. And I'm not talking simply about a collapse in prices. This has been an attribute of Bitcoin from the beginning. This collapse will lead to the value of Bitcoin becoming zero, as people realize exactly what they have been buying and selling.

The scary thing is the number of related businesses that have sprung up surrounding Bitcoin. Some of these operations are scams in the traditional sense, but there are others who are making money from various services related to Bitcoin. As the number of businesses and their employees continues to grow, the danger of the economy taking a noticeable hit from a Bitcoin collapse increases. Of course, we're far from that right now.

Borrowing to purchase Bitcoin

Another danger is borrowing to buy Bitcoin. There are reports of idiots taking out a second mortgage to buy Bitcoin. These are only stories, but if they are true, the number of people doing this is likely small ... hopefully.

Credit cards are another issue, but just recently many credit card companies are saying no to Bitcoin. Most of the large credit card companies are doing this. Exactly how they plan to implement this is not clear. People can still buy Bitcoin by other means, including a debit card. But by clamping down on credit card use, there will be less people borrowing to purchase Bitcoin. When large numbers of people begin to borrow money to buy anything, there is always a danger that a collapse in prices will hurt more than the suckers, but also hardworking people who have been responsible with their money. What credit card companies are beginning to do should help to isolate the coming cryptocurrency collapse from the rest of the economy.

Final thoughts

Our capitalist system is ready made for any product or service for a try out. It really doesn't matter how valuable the product is in our society. Our system will send it up the flag pole and see how many people salute it. Of course, this doesn't apply to anything illegal, but the genius of Bitcoin is in the algorithm that uses sophisticated encryption to keep the government away. Bitcoin without the encryption would have been outlawed a long time ago, even in the United States.

Although I can understand not trusting banks and thinking their fees are too high, the answer isn't a pretend currency. I think the answer lies in non-profit banking where the depositors own the bank. Of course, we already have them. They are called credit unions, and that is what I would recommend to someone who is looking for an alternative to commercial banks.

If you are convinced that the dollar is simply a piece of paper that people believe has value, I recommend getting a job. If you already have a job, get a second job because you're not working hard enough. Work for your money and try to use as much cash as possible instead of plastic. You will appreciate the difference between U.S. Currency and paper.

I do like the idea of something that the governments around the world can't control. It helps protect our freedom. But Bitcoin is simply not a tool for this.

If you don't have any money in Bitcoin but you feel your money burning a hole in your pocket, I recommend visiting my city ... Las Vegas, Nevada. We have all sorts of things you can do with your money here. You may even hit a jackpot, and if you do, you will be paid in U.S. Dollars, a currency honored throughout the world.

If you already have money tied up in Bitcoin, you should think about getting out. This is not investment advice because Bitcoin is not an investment. In the long run, it's not even a gamble. You are certain to lose.

Bitcoin is not a currency, a commodity nor an asset. Bitcoin is ocean front property in Arizona. You have been warned.

Good Luck

Ron Charleston

About The Author

For more than 20 years, Ron Charleston worked in the field of electrical engineering, but after a sudden layoff, he found himself unemployed and with few career options in sight. This led to a new outlook on his personal finances and income generation. Today, Ron is self-employed, and makes his income exclusively from online activity.

Other publications from Teela Books

Las Vegas Books

Free Things To Do on the Las Vegas Strip A Self-Guided Tour By Matt Lashley

This book is a self-guided tour, taking you step by step down the Strip to visit all of the notable free things to do. This excludes most of the photo opportunities, because the entire length of the strip is filled with places to take a photo of you, your friends and relatives. Only a few places of interest, directly in our travel path, are mentioned. Also, shopping sites have been excluded except for three unique stores of interest on the Strip.

The trip begins at the Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign and ends in the downtown portion of Las Vegas Blvd. This is the old section of Las Vegas and is not considered a part of the Strip. I have included it to provide a complete Las Vegas experience.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01EW6DWXY>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1533524084>

The Ultimate Guide to Free Things To Do in Las Vegas by Matt Lashley

Las Vegas does not go out of their way to advertise all of the things you can do for free, because they want you to spend lots of money. Naturally, they want you to gamble, this is their top source of revenue. But they also want you to spend money on shows and restaurants. In years past, this was more of a way to get people to come to Vegas and gamble, but today it is a part of their revenue. And they're trying to expand their sources of revenue wherever they can. Hotels are even charging people for parking now. But if you know what there is to do for free, you can see Las Vegas on a budget.

This book is the ultimate guide to experiencing everything that Las Vegas has to offer that will cost you nothing. Not only will you learn about the free attractions on the Strip, but there is an entire section dedicated to free things you can see and do in Downtown Las Vegas. There is even a third section devoted to some of the interesting things to do for free that are both off the Strip and away from Downtown Las Vegas.

Illustrated with photos.

This book is currently available:
In Kindle format on Amazon:
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B07DK8TGT1>

It is available in Paperback on Amazon
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1720818339>

Things To Do In Downtown Las Vegas by Matt Lashley

This book tells you about all of the highlights in and around Downtown Las Vegas. You will learn about the new free Loop Shuttle that takes you around an outer loop to make it easy to

get around. This shuttle service is free, and gives you an opportunity to see a lot more of Downtown Las Vegas while you are there. The heart of Downtown Las Vegas is Fremont Street, and it has become quite a spectacle. There is a lot to see by walking casually down this pedestrian only street.

Things To Do In Downtown Las Vegas describes exactly what each attraction is and exactly where it is located. Hours of operation and admission prices are included when applicable. Web sites are also listed, so readers can find the latest information. There are photos found throughout the book for most of the places that are written about.

Read this book, and begin planning your next trip to Vegas to include Downtown Las Vegas.

Illustrated with photos.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0791CJDL3>

It is available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1983918873>

Things To Do in Las Vegas Off the Strip – Away from the Neon Lights by Matt Lashley

This is a follow up to my book, *Free Things to Do on the Strip: a self-guided tour*. The following are things to do that are off the Strip, away from the neon lights – well, at least most of it. Some of these things are free, and I have grouped them in the first section. Everything else will cost you money. However, I have only included those things to do off of the Strip that are reasonable in price. Most of these places are not too far from the Strip and can be easily reached by car. I have also tried to list prices and hours of these places, but you should always check the websites or call for current information.

I have also included things for kids to do in Las Vegas. Kids can get bored quickly, and this city was not designed for them. There are a few arcades in some hotels, and there are pools for swimming when the weather is warm, but parents can run out

of ideas to provide entertainment for their children quickly. Many of these destinations are suitable for families

Illustrated with photos.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B071XT3VYF>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1545575398>

Shopping in Las Vegas by Matt Lashley

Let me first explain what this book is not about. It is not about every place on the Strip where you can possibly shop. Neither have I restricted myself to talking about shopping exclusively on the Strip. There is a discussion of some of the highlights of shopping throughout the valley as well. As far as the Strip goes, I have limited the discussion to those areas that are large retail centers that resemble traditional malls. Many of the larger casinos have a certain amount of shopping in them. Examples include the Bellagio, Monte Carlo, the MGM and Mandalay Bay to name a few. But the retail stores at these hotels are limited in number, and many of the stores can be found elsewhere in the larger shopping centers. This is especially true in places like the Bellagio.

If you are staying on the Strip, you may want to limit your shopping interests to the main retail venues, but if you are interested in the full range of retail centers in the valley, you will find other parts of the book interesting as well. Some of these shopping venues are located near hotels in other parts of the Las Vegas area, so if you are staying off the Strip, one of these venues may be near you.

I have also tried to include the highlights of these shopping sites, other than specific retail stores and restaurants. Even without buying anything, many of these shopping venues are an attraction all by themselves.

Illustrated with photos.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B074ZL1X2H>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1975687612>

The Best Free Photo Ops on the Las Vegas Strip by Matt Lashley

There are many fantastic places to take pictures on the Las Vegas Strip. Unfortunately, many of them cost money. The Stratosphere is at the top of the list, but the top of the Eiffel Tower and the High Roller also offer stunning views, but they cost money. If you can afford it, there are even helicopters that will fly you over the Strip. There are also photo opportunities from hotel rooms, if you are fortunate enough to have a room with a great view. But these are not truly free because you are paying for the room, and the better the view, the more expensive it will be. And besides, you will only have a single angle to see Las Vegas.

This book describes and shows photos of all of the best places to see and take pictures of, and all of these photo opportunities cost you nothing. This is good news for those visiting Las Vegas on a budget.

The places in this book represent what I consider to be the best photo ops on the Strip. Both the object of the photo and well as the best place to take the picture are described.

Illustrated with photos.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B07D5RL7SR>

Sports and Horse Betting Books

Betting Systems for all Major Sports by

Ken Osterman

This book contains systems and angles for all four of the major sports in the United States. Professional football, basketball, hockey and baseball are all covered. In addition, college basketball and college football are covered. Some of these are easy to use angles, but others are more complex systems that form a strong foundation for sports handicapping that can be improved upon by smart handicappers.

These systems are The Quick Line Method (NFL), The Underdog Advantage (MLB), The Road Dog Method (NHL), The Point Spread Overlay Method (NBA), and The Betting Odds Analysis Methods for college basketball and college football.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

The Best Sports and Horse Racing Betting Systems That Work! by Ken Osterman

This book contains the best sports and horse racing betting systems from Ken Osterman previously published in two separate books: *Sports and Horse Racing Betting Systems That Work!* and *More Sports and Horse Racing Betting Systems That Work!*.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B07BN9SJ2V>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1987596765>

The Path to Harness Racing Handicapping Profits by Douglas Masters

The Secrets of Harness Race Profits Revealed!

This book represents three decades of handicapping and betting harness races and is a summary of observations that are important to being a winning player. This book summarizes the conclusions on what made the author a winning player. There is no magic formula to become a winning player and the author is the first to say that there is more than one road to profits. This book is the road taken by Doug Masters to becoming a winning player. Becoming a winning player is part art and part skill, so it is impossible to summarize it as a mechanical method; however, Doug attempts to outline his process in the second half of the book.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00I5B13MU>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1508707553>

The Quick and Dirty NFL Football Handicapping Method By Ken Osterman

The purpose of this book is to explain a fundamental approach to making a profit betting on professional football games, especially for those with little time to handicap them.

This method will help you find an overlay in the point spread using the simplest and quickest method possible.

The Quick and Dirty NFL Football Handicapping Method teaches you how to create your own point spread for each game in the NFL.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NX9X81I>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/151202614X>

Betting on Major League Baseball The Underdog Method By Ken Osterman

The essence of any good baseball handicapping system is to find games to bet on that will result in long-term profits. In other words, finding overlays. The Underdog Method uses an approach to not only find these good bets, but does so by creating a money line that can be compared to the one offered by sports books.

Author and sports gambler, Ken Osterman, explains this system in an easy-to-understand way, and then uses an entire day of baseball games as examples. Each game is handicapped per the rules of the Underdog Method, and then a betting line is created. This line is compared to a specific sports book's money line. It is then decided, based upon specific rules, whether a good bet exists or not.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01220NL8I>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1515180646>

Sports and Horse Racing Betting Systems That Work! by Ken Osterman

The book contains some of the best sports betting systems from Ken Osterman.

There are 10 systems in this book that cover horse racing, football and baseball.

Quarter Horse - The Hidden Speed Horse Angle
Thoroughbred - Best Jockey – Long shot Method
Thoroughbred - Bet the Fastest Horse
Thoroughbred - Show a profit down under
Harness - The qualifier advantage
Harness - Morning Line Overlay
NFL Football - The Injured Star
NFL Football - The Hat Trick

Baseball - The AAA Surprise
Baseball - The Underdog Advantage

This book is currently available:
In Kindle format on Amazon:
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00JTMWDNM>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1507800142>

More Sports and Horse Racing Betting Systems That Work! By Ken Osterman

This is a sequel to Ken Osterman's *Sports and Horse Racing Betting Systems That Work!*. As with Ken's first book, there are methods for handicapping both horse races and sports. In this book, he has an angle for handicapping each of the popular breeds of horse racing: thoroughbred, quarter horse and harness.

With sports betting, he provides a profitable method for NHL hockey that focuses on road teams who are the underdogs, going off in the middle odds range. His other method involves a fascinating angle on college basketball. In fact, this method does not involve handicapping teams at all. You are handicapping the betting public, so you don't need to be an expert to use this system. There are plenty of examples that allow you to follow this method in step-by-step fashion.

This book is currently available:
In Kindle format on Amazon:
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B07B1V2SWG>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1986211304>

Casino Books

Stealth Betting Systems for Winning at Casinos by Luke Meadows

Stop Losing and Start Winning in Las Vegas casinos!

Author and casino gambler, Luke Meadows, explains his betting methods he uses in Las Vegas casinos in an easy-to-understand way. There are casino systems for the games of roulette, craps, blackjack, Let It Ride, and Keno. Mr. Meadows is convinced that your best chance of winning is small wins using smart gambling systems, and to do this without bringing attention to yourself – a stealth mode of casino gambling.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01KGSN63S>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1537175939>

Health and Diet Books

Type 2 Diabetes: From diagnosis to a new way of life by Matthew Lashley

This book tells the story of how my diabetic condition was discovered, my denial of the condition, then the work done to get my glucose level to levels that are close to normal.

Topics include:

How I found out what type 2 diabetes was

Acceptance and getting down to work

Medication

Type 2 diabetes is a serious illness

How many carbohydrates per day should the limit be?

My target glucose levels

Foods to eat and foods to avoid

The importance of fiber in the diet

Eating out at restaurants

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00IRJ9L1K>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1508826005>

Money and Financial Books

The Dream is Gone Economic Survival in 21st Century America Say No to Credit – Say No to Banks by Ron Charleston

For many Americans, it may seem like they are moving rapidly out of the middle class and towards poverty. This is not just a feeling. The middle class is disappearing, and you need to take steps now to insure your economic survival, today and into the future.

Economic survival means breaking free from a system that takes from you and offers nothing in return. The only solution is to break free from it. Break free from credit and other economic traps laid by corporations that are only interested in profits. In these pages you will learn how to rid your life of debt and live free with cash based finances.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01MY926X7>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1542637066>

Make Money Online Without Spending Any Money By Ron Charleston

The Internet is filled with ads pitching some product that will allow you to make money at home from your computer. Some of these advertisements will go so far as to claim you can get rich, or at least make an outrageous sum of monthly or yearly income. Some of this money can supposedly be made in a matter of days. How much of this is legitimate? Not much, and

at the very least, the claims are exaggerated. Can you make money on the Internet? Yes! And you can make money with no investment other than your time.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B074C5XKBW>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1974031020>

The Grim Truth About Bitcoin by Ron Charleston

This book cuts through all of the propaganda that is espoused and promulgated by the devotees of the that which is called Bitcoin. This book explains to you exactly what Bitcoin is, and more importantly, what it is not.

The author explains:

Why Bitcoin is not a currency!

Why Bitcoin is not a commodity!

Why Bitcoin is not an asset!

Above all, by reading this book, it should be clear why you should not spend any of your hard earned money purchasing Bitcoin.

This book is currently available:

In Kindle format on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B079QCLMSC>

It is also available in Paperback on Amazon

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1985250896>

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<http://www.teela-books.com>