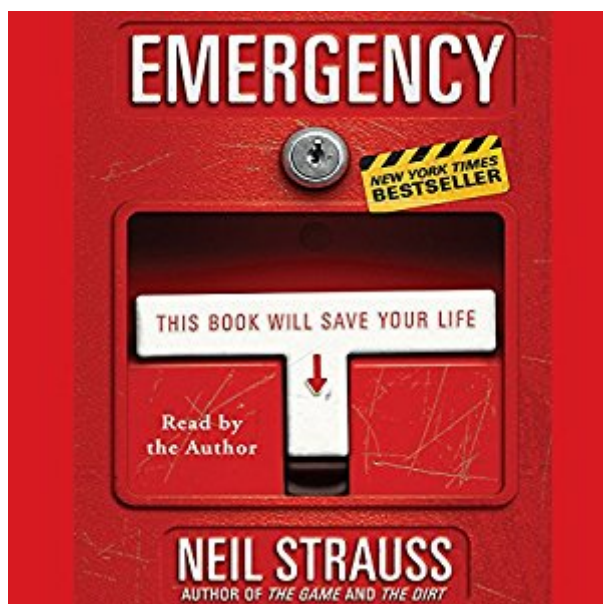


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Emergency: This Book Will Save Your Life



Synopsis

With the same sharp eye, quick with, and narrative drive that marked his bestsellers *The Game*, *The Dirt*, and *How to Make Love Like a Porn Star*, Neil Strauss takes us on a white-knuckled journey through America's heart of darkness as he scrambles to escape the system. It's one man's story of a dangerous world and how to stay alive in it. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I read an excerpt of this book on Tim Ferriss's blog, and I bought it on the presumption that it would answer some of the questions set forth. Namely, how are wealthy people preparing for potential economic emergencies and how will Neil, a not-so-wealthy author, use that information to prepare himself? Tim Ferriss talks about how he gets "in" with the author to find out about the "mysterious 5 flags." He later summarizes the book as follows: "Neil's new book, *Emergency*, teaches you how to become Jason Bourne. Multiple passports, moving assets, lock-picking, escape and evasion, foraging, even how to cross borders without detection (one preferred location: McAllen, Texas, page 390)-it's a veritable encyclopedia of for those who want to disappear or become lawsuit-proof global citizens." That is not at all what this book is actually about. It has more in common with *Travels with Charley* than *Bourne Identity*. What this book is not: 1. A manual that dwells on options. Example, the only solution Neil offers for economic safeguarding is wiring \$500,000 to St. Kitts and buying property there, and later becoming a citizen. Not a scalable solution. 2. About currency, passports, swiss banking etc. - basically all the topics about becoming a "lawsuit-proof global citizen" or opening up your personal options internationally are glossed over. The law firm in charge of "lawsuit

proofing" Neil is under investigation by the end of the book.³ A practical guide to anything really that can save your life, unless you take it to be advice that you should take a half dozen survivalist courses and practice sleeping in your backyard. What this book is: 1.

As with Strauss's previous two books, I read this one in one sitting. Strauss's very interesting technique of submerging himself in a subject and its sub-culture and becoming an exemplar member of it, to then come out and write a book, full of wit, intelligence and relevantly pondering important questions related to it, is why his books are so enjoyable. In his book *The Game* he proposes that our main drivers are the need to survive and the need to replicate. *The Game* and *The Rules of the Game* were about how to acquire replication value. *Emergency* is about Survival Value. His previous two books, even-though they were about a more superficial group of people (pick-up artists), had an inspirational quality to them, an underlying optimism and their greater point was more about self-actualization (to use Maslow's term) than about pick-up. *Emergency*, though it was clearly about becoming a better human being, about learning to connect with our basic needs, about developing the self-reliance needed in the absence of the social fabric, was (for most of the book) a rather pessimistic book. The first one hundred and change pages of the book are spent justifying and setting the stage for this pessimism, and it gets quite boring at one point (unlike any of his other books). As for style (no pun intended for those who read *The Game*), this book lacks Strauss's beautiful and distinctive language, the clever turn-of-phrases used in his other books, his typical intellectual musings (though this book has a few, at the end). The book, compared to the others, seemed rushed in parts, and perhaps over-edited in others.

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