



Paper Money

Ken Follett

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Crime, high finances, and journalism are interconnected in this early thriller by the author of **On Wings of Eagles** and **Lie Down With Lions**. In one suspenseful, action-packed day, fortunes change hands as an ambitious young reporter scrambles to crack the story. A suicidal Junior Minister, an avaricious tycoon, and a seasoned criminal with his team of tough guys all play their parts in a scheme that moves "paper money" around at a dizzying pace.

Paper Money Details

Date : Published (first published 1977)

ISBN :

Author : Ken Follett

Format : Kindle Edition 276 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Suspense, Historical, Historical Fiction, Spy Thriller, Espionage, Novels, European Literature, British Literature, Unfinished

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From Reader Review Paper Money for online ebook

Carlos Fonseca says

Quando comprei o livro não me apercebi que era uma obra relativa à fase de "crescimento" do autor. Como os seus admiradores sabem, Follett só começou a ganhar fama depois de ter escrito uma dúzia de livros. "O Preço do Dinheiro", escrito em 1977, pertence a esse período inicial.

É uma historieta bem urdida - já se nota nela o dedo que lhe traria fama e fortuna - que se lê com agrado. Recomendo-a a quem gosta de ler em viagem, ou tem de estar aquelas longas horas que passaram a ser "lei" nos aeroportos.

Raquel Bernardes says

Foi o meu primeiro livro que li do Ken Follett e sinceramente não gostei muito. É um livro policial, mas achei que pôs muitas personagens e o livro ficou um pouco confuso pelo menos para mim. Decididamente não sou muito ligada aos polícias pelo autor Ken Follett. No entanto para quem goste deste tipo de género poderá ler...

<http://aviciadadoslivros.blogspot.pt/...>

Jim McCoy says

more like a 3.5. clever book, plot lines were intertwined, with no major character. kept me intrigued up to the end, but felt like the ending needed a little bit more length to it.

Richa says

A very fast paced, cut-to-cut novel by Ken Follett. It is not the better known works by the author; infact 'the new introduction' by him, seemed a little apologetic to me. I don't see any reason to do that, if that was the intention.

He calls this book "the best of his unsuccessful books". Well well well!

This was my first Ken Follett book, so I do not know why it was 'unsuccessful'... Maybe, that his other works were better, or racier... As a stand-alone work, I found this book pretty decent.

The entire book covers just one day. The action is spread evenly in multiple locations. The language is crisp and clear. Follett maintains his pace throughout the length of the story. The principal setting is different from any that I have come across (newspaper newsroom).

All in all, a good book.

Katherine says

Worst ken follett book. I got to the end, still trying to swipe to new pages on my iPad. I couldn't believe that was the end. It was like the falling action and conclusion Got lost! It was a very slow start with too many characters that were very similar, but just as it got a tiny bit interesting, the end! What a waste of my reading time!

Brent Soderstrum says

I enjoy a Ken Follett book. This is one of his early ones and it is apparent in the lack of character development. However, he comes up with great story lines and this one doesn't disappoint.

I will caution you to have time to read a good section before putting it down. I only read a few chapters before going to bed and didn't get back to it for a few days. This lead to having to look back to what I had already read since this book involves a day in the life of many characters. You will read about one and that character won't appear again for 6-7 chapters. All the characters get tied together in the end.

The London newspaper is what ties every character together in the end. A young reporter spends a day putting together various stories and later finds out that they are tied together.

I love books with a twist and this book has a few little ones.

Good read but before you start it give yourself time to read a big chunk of it.

Christian, Kelanth, Scala says

Alta finanza, in originale "Paper Money" è un romanzo di Ken Follett del 1977, uno dei primi lavori dell'autore, nonché il secondo ed ultimo accreditato sotto lo pseudonimo di Zachary Stone, dopo "Lo scandalo Modigliani", scritto l'anno precedente. Quest'opera, che precede di un solo anno La cruna dell'ago, primo importante successo di pubblico di Follett (e prima opera pubblicata col suo vero nome), è solitamente inclusa nel catalogo dei suoi lavori minori, anche se la complessità della struttura narrativa, il numero e la caratterizzazione dei personaggi e la riuscita rappresentazione del macroambiente (la swingin' London degli anni '70) e dei microambienti correlati (la City, la malavita, la stampa) sono tipici delle sue opere più mature.

La descrizione della trama: Siamo a Londra negli anni Settanta. Felix Laski, proprietario di una grande azienda le cui fondamenta poggiano su traffici illegali, tenta con una manovra spregiudicata di entrare nel vorticoso mercato azionario. In questa difficile scalata gli sarà di grande aiuto l'amicizia di Tony Cox, un criminale di professione impegnato in una lotta senza quartiere alla conquista del mondo della finanza e disposto a usare la violenza come arma e splendide donne come pedine per carpire informazioni top secret a ingenui personaggi come Tim Fitzpeterson, sottosegretario al ministero per l'Energia.

Tutta la vicenda si svolge in una sola giornata e ad ogni capitolo corrisponde ad un'ora precisa: una trama leggera, inizialmente disconnessa, dove si fa fatica a tenere a mente tutti i personaggi che all'inizio del

romanzo si palesano ad ogni ora. Poi man mano che la giornata entra nel vivo i collegamenti fra i vari personaggi, di diverso ceto sociale e appartenenti a contesti diversi, sembrano convergere tutti. Ci si trova quindi nel bel mezzo di intrighi finanziari ed amorosi che si sviluppano nell'arco di un solo giorno. Una trama poco incalzante piatta e assolutamente senza alcun tipo di colpi di scena, neanche nel finale.

Lo considero uno dei peggiori romanzi di Follett insieme a "Lo scandalo Modigliani" e "Il pianeta dei bruchi". Concludendo, una lettura che si scorda alla svelta e che non lascia nulla.

Apokripos says

You Win Some, You Lose Some

(A Book Review of *Paper Money* by Ken Follett)

What links the lives of a ruthless gangster, a sneaky businessman, an adulterous minister, and a young journalist, each a stranger to another, together?

Power...

Ambition...

Paper money...

Formerly published under the pseudonym Zachary Stone, *Paper Money*, one of Ken Follett's early caper reissued to quench the curiosity of hard-core fans interested about his earlier works prior his rise to fame, tells an intriguing plot concerning seemingly unrelated incidents about the conferring of an oil drilling license, a blackmailed politician, and a bank car heist. Yet what appears to be an ordinary day begins to turn odd as suspicious circumstances tie the events at once when a London evening news reporter fills and fits the pieces of a puzzle: a conspiracy that will rock Threadneedle Street.

In the reprinted book's Introduction, Follett said outright that this is "one of his best unsuccessful books" and reading it quite makes it plain at first sight. The novel lacks a central or primary character and — as was Follett's wont during this time when he's just learning the ropes of writing — they're sketchy at best. I think one of the trump cards of this "interesting little thriller" is its plot and structure (one of the cleverest the author has devised as he professed). Indeed, the chapter designed in an hour to hour fashion calls for brisk action but leaves the reader in a tumble of confusion as the character's lives begin to overlap coupled by the fact that so much is happening right under the reader's nose, lost in the story's comings and goings that one tends to easily forget what transpired during the previous sections.

Paper Money's premise, I admit, is a tad promising only if the author could've had the time to elaborate it plot and character-wise. Really, it's not as bad as it sounds. As someone who has his share of reading Follett's books, I can see here his budding ability to build and mount suspense in particular scenes quite delighting. For what it's worth those edge-of-your-seat moments are pretty much thrilling though it only lasts up quick as blink.

I, along with others, agree that the ending is a little anti-climactic; nonetheless, for me it's a good poetic

justice of sorts for the book's villains who smugly thought victory is close at hand when in the end it caught them unawares and cost them dearly.

Hold in the same regard with his other early caper, *The Modigliani Scandal* , *Paper Money* is still one nice read despite it being dated, will grab your interest if only for a foothold, and gives a fleeting glimpse of London during the 70s as well as the writing of a young Ken Follett.

Book Details: Book #20 for 2011

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(Mass Market Paperback, 1987 First Printing)

253 pages

Started: June 2, 2011

Finished: June 5, 2011

My Rating:★★★

[See this review on my book blog **Dark Chest of Wonders** and for many others.]

Benjamin Thomas says

Ken Follett began his successful rise as a best-selling author with the publication of *Eye of the Needle* in 1978. However, that was not his first novel. *Paper Money* was written just before, in 1976, and is described by the author in the introduction as “the best of my unsuccessful books.”

Maybe, but it still didn't work too well for me. This caper novel lacked a central character but instead told the story from a number of different characters' point-of-view. We have bankers, newspaper reporters, legislators, crooks and more. Each chapter is devoted to a single hour of the day, and the whole thing is told in chronological order. (Yes...long before the TV series “24” did this). For me though, dividing everything into the various characters' viewpoints made the plot very choppy and unconnected. Some of the chapters were quite enjoyable while others were not, depending on the character involved. I've read other novels that employ this method and they have worked well but this one lost its cohesion early on. Follett shows signs of excellent story telling here and there but to me, it seemed obvious this is an early effort.

Recommended for Follett completists but others will be taking a risk.

Erin Caldwell says

Just read this one for the second time on a plane. As it did the first time, it left me wanting more. The plot line has potential, but also seems a little basic and cliched. There are so many characters, but they are so underdeveloped that no one becomes important or likable. Follett admits in the intro that he "underwrote" on this one, and I completely agree. This book should be twice the length it is - I like all of the story lines, but never get complete satisfaction.

Sheri says

This was just fine and dandy Ken Follett suspense. There was nothing particularly spectacular about it, but the plot moves nicely and all the pieces fall together well.

I was especially moved by the puns; literally there are well used notes that are to be destroyed (paper money), but the story is also about the newspapers and how they make their money ("Laski is your new boss" might have been my favorite line in the book).

Of course the whole thing is rather silly and convenient: the bet between Tony and Laski is cute, but what are the odds that they'd both have info on the same day and the romance between Laski and Ellen is completely unnecessary (and the fact that she chooses Derek in a moment of profound English-ness is just ridiculous).

But, it was a decent, short, page turner of a book.

George says

more of a 2.5 stars. Not enough character development but a good plot skeleton. Glad his later works improved on this and didn't skimp on pages as this one did. At the end of the day it's a good quick holiday read

Addy says

#PaperMoney by Ken Follett.

This is the second experimental/off beat or unconventional Ken Follett novel that I've read after *The Modigliani Scandal* where he thought a detailed introduction was necessary. He makes it very clear that it is one of those novels, which did not do well. I've put a snap of the introduction which gives quite a comprehensive idea about the book and whether you should pick it up or not. I'll only add a few thoughts to it.

First of all, anyone who gets hold of this book, please read it in a single sitting (I couldn't) if you want to thoroughly enjoy it. The plot is just brilliant but has too many characters and when you try to continue after a few hours gap, it becomes a bit difficult to connect the dots. The characters are very colourful and it takes great mastery to create so many in such a short novel. The only thing that I didn't entirely like about the Novel was the climax which was so sudden and quite anti climactic. Other than that, it works very well. And because people are so used to the depth into which he goes generally, that was a reason this novel didn't do so well.

Overall I would still recommend this novel just to see the versatility of this guy.

4/5 (had the ending been better, I would have given 5)

Pete Loveday says

I am a confessed Ken Follett fan. Having said this, Paper Money is the least liked of the KF books I have so far read. He claims this is his best failed novel and I am willing to agree with him for now.

This book shows how the print media has it's finger on the pulse of the Business world the wheeling and dealing of the Share market and acquisitions and takeovers hostile or otherwise.

However, there are too many characters and the ending is disappointing. A good read for a plane or ship journey, but do read it in one go as it is difficult to pick up the story if left for any length of time

A Miuda Geek says

Ken Follett é para mim aqueles autores auto-buy - nem me incomodo a ler sinopses, porque normalmente gosto. Neste, a classificação de 2 estrelas traduz exatamente o que senti no fim da leitura - foi ok.

Tenho que confessar que a história, embora muito bem tecida e de passo rápido - como é habito neste autor - não me satisfez, mas manteve-me agarrada ás paginas para ver como acabava. Penso que também a premissa do livro seria conduzente a esta insatisfação.

O livro é passado desde as 7 da manhã de determinado dia até ás 16h horas do mesmo e centra-se numa imensidão de personagens, ás quais vai acontecer uma cadeia de eventos que, no fim desse dia podem dar um escândalo a nível nacional ou não. As decisões são ao segundo e tanto podem pender para a vitoria como para a desgraça.

Não achei nenhum personagem relevante o suficiente para eu me preocupar com ele mas o autor consegue em poucas paginas e poucas palavras dar-nos um conhecimento mais ou menos profundo desse personagem. Simplesmente não me revi em situação nenhuma e nenhum personagem - porque não há protagonista - me despertou sentimentos nenhuns. Este livro tem uma componente forte de intriga politica e financeira que está bem descrita, mas sem ser maçuda.

Não me encantou.
