



Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went from Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur

Ryan Blair

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The incredible story of a gang member who became a multimillionaire CEO.

Ryan Blair's middle-class upbringing came to an abrupt end when his father succumbed to drug addiction and abandoned his family. Blair and his mother moved to a dangerous neighborhood, and soon he was in and out of juvenile detention, joining a gang just to survive. Then his mother fell in love with a successful entrepreneur who took Ryan under his wing. With his mentor's help, Blair turned himself into a wildly successful multimillionaire, starting and selling three companies worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

This book will inspire and guide people who are willing to do whatever necessary-hard work, long hours, sweat equity-to take their vision from paper to pavement. Blair gives readers a road map for successful entrepreneurship.

Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went from Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur Details

Date : Published August 4th 2011 by Portfolio (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781591844037

Author : Ryan Blair

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : Business, Biography, Autobiography, Nonfiction, Memoir, Entrepreneurship, Buisness, Economics



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From Reader Review Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went from Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur for online ebook

Sharon Carroll says

OMG!! This has to be if not the most, it's definitely in the top three of the most profound autobiography's I've ever read. Actually, I listened to it on Audible.com which made it even better than reading for me. His story is freakin amazing! Every young person needs to be introduced and made to read or listen to Ryan Blair's story. What he did was nothing short of a miracle and guess what, they will see they too can over come anything! Any labels or titles that society has placed on you, any misfortunes, bad mistakes or choices you've made, any mental or physical abuse you have experienced, regardless of the negative issues in your life.....THESE DO NOT HAVE TO DEFINE YOU OR WHO YOU REALLY ARE! You can overcome it all, because of the simple power of Acceptance, Forgiveness, Desire and Action. Ryan Blair will leave most who read or listen to it feeling more motivated and inspired in a way that they may have never experienced before. Hopefully this book can be the start of making this mind-set a common practice in our society.

Jodi says

I'd say I'm lukewarm on this one. Ryan certainly has a compelling story (which I like) but the book seemed to focus a lot on start-ups from the venture capital-backed world, rather than simple start-ups like mine. That world doesn't hold any interest to me so I didn't really find reading about it very interesting. The most interesting things to me were when Ryan talked about his life growing up, how he now recognizes the lessons his parents taught him and how he uses them in business.

Landon says

As a recent MBA graduate, I have read countless books, articles, HBR studies, etc, regarding business. One complaint I have had is the lack of entrepreneurial conversation in business studies. This book helps rectify that. It is a well written, clear, concise melding of Porter, Hill, Carnegie, Gladwell and the like.

This book will be my Christmas gift to my friends and peers.

Lisa says

Ryan Blair started his life in the middle class until his engineer Dad got hooked on meth and started beating his Mom. Previously Ryan had always been enterprising, taking on paper routes and other jobs. When his life was disrupted by poverty, Ryan got caught up in the gang life all around him. He was arrested numerous times and seemed destined for a life in and out of jail. Then his mom started dating a successful businessman who took Ryan under his wing and reignited Ryan's own entrepreneurial spirit.

After a few years of hard work and a never say die attitude, along with basic principles and Ryan became a millionaire. Can anyone do this? Certainly everyone may have a shot, but my guess is that few people are as smart, hard working, and indefatigable.

Ryan's story makes for an easy motivational read. Even I, who falls asleep within an hour every time I find a comfy place and book in hand, is halfway through this book in one chunk of time. OK, I do keep getting up to check the temp on my smoker and making the necessary adjustments to produce a delicious dinner in about 10 hours--but even through his analysis of the business world, I am still awake and enjoying his book.

I find Ryan's story particularly interesting in light of the Occupy Wall Street protesters all over the world. While I think some of the protesters have some valid points with regards to corruption and the feeling they have been lied to, most them appear to not have a clue. This is illustrated when the protesters took the time to have a moment of silence for Steve Jobs at the protest!!

I do hope that high school and college students will read this book and that their schools will stop telling them that they must have their college degree and then they will be guaranteed a great high paying job...even if they major in "Something Studies."

I noticed that one of the reviewers of this book said, "... the book lacked useful advice for the start-up entrepreneur." I think people are looking for a formula for guaranteed success, and they are never going to find it. I'm sure you can find worthwhile step by step books for starting a business, but read this book too because it offers principals and ideals.

Some quotes from the book:

In juvenile detention, if you let someone take your milk the first day, they'll start taking it every day. The same is true in business.

When you're dealing with an investor's money, you have to act as if God himself wrote you the check.

Most business plans aren't worth the paper they're written on.

Efforts don't pay the rent. Have no sympathy for employees who talk about how hard they're trying.

Entrepreneurship is great because you can set your own hours -- any 17 hours of the day, 7 days a week. But if you're doing what you love, it doesn't drain you as much as the 9 to 5 death cycle.

And my personal favorite:

The path is all math.

He wasn't trying to boost my private math tutoring business though, he was speaking about analyzing your business as a system and to put resources into what maximizes that system.

The link to a video of Ryan:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BgD7W...>

Andrea St. says

I spent quite a bit of time pondering what I wanted to say about Ryan's book, and the impact it had on me. That's mainly because there are so many things I found helpful and inspiring. It was hard to narrow it down to one specific thing, or even just one generalization. It's true that the book offers lots of insight into the world of entrepreneurship, gives lots of practical advice about running a business, and teaches some important life lessons. The thing that kept coming to mind though, as I read through it, was how his words could stir emotion. I kept thinking how true to life Ryan's story is, and how he just laid it all out for the world to see. This is not an easy thing to do. It takes a huge amount of courage and fearlessness to bare your soul to anyone, much less the world. At times I giggled, sometimes I found myself deep in thought, my mind racing as something sparked my imagination. And sometimes, the tears welled up in my eyes, then fell to the paper making wet spots on the page. Ryan shares his trials and triumphs with complete candor. To me a true leader is one who can inspire people, rouse their emotions, and stir them to action. Ryan certainly does that in life and in this book. I also love the new forward by Nick Sarnicola and the new chapter "Told You So," at the end. The epilogue chronicling his mother's journey is heart-wrenching. Each gives added insight into the man that is Ryan Blair. Definitely a must read!

Arminius says

The second part of the title in Ryan Blair's book is what struck me. "How I went from Gang Member to Multi Millionaire Entrepreneur" seems like other great American rags to riches story. I was a little disappointed however when I read that his transformation from gang member was because his mother married a wealthy real estate magnate when Ryan was a young teenager. Then his step-father dragged him from "the streets" into a very hospitable and pleasant existence.

That being said, Ryan still propelled himself into the internet sales world by creating a weight loss program called Visalus. And a wireless broadband company called SkyPipeline. I, frankly, never heard of either company yet he made millions from them.

I am impressed, and surprised, by the way he spells out like an instruction manual how to be a successful entrepreneur. He learned lessons from his drug addict father, from his gang leaders and particularly from his adopted successful step father. He applied all these to his life.

Some are basic concepts to employ in everyday life such as "keep your word" and "payback your debts." He does go into nuts and bolts too. For example, when asking for financing from a venture capitalist who questioned him on why to give his business his money. Ryan advises employing creativity in your answer. When he was in that situation he told the venture capitalist (who was to provide him the money) to phone his company and he would receive professional service. The call was made and the investor was impressed by the service he received.

When creating an Internet name for your business he gives the obvious advice of something that tells the viewer of the website what business it is but also be memorable. It then states if you cannot come up with a good name try using the street name you grew up on with your middle name. For example, if the current president wanted to start a business he could use Poki Hussein.

There is a lot more valuable information if you are interested in going into a business career of your own.

Winter Sophia Rose says

Heartfelt, Inspirational, Empowering & Motivating! A Powerful Life Changing Read! I Loved It!

Juliana Barker says

Can wait to Read this book... received it on Sunday from Ryan :)

Paul says

Thought that the book lacked useful advice for the start-up entrepreneur.

Fuyuko Gratton says

somewhat inspirational...not a profound one but definitely a motivator; good starting point for small business newbies like myself; easy reading, i.e. not too complicated, not in depth...in a good way...so that even you are not an expert you get the ideas. I'm not in par with some of his visions but like his solid philosophy and strive for fairness and high ethic.

Chien says

Pretty quick read. While you may question the validity of the multi-level marketing business model, you should come away from this book having a good sense of what being an entrepreneur means. He speaks frankly about sacrifice, reinvestment and being a guardian for your investors. Many business owners should learn the lessons from this book.

Lita Browning says

I started reading Ryan's book the evening I received it. I start reading and have a hard time putting it down. Most amazing book so far on Entrepreneurship that I have read to date. One of the most difficult things that I have done is try and figure out which one I desire the most. "Independence, Wealth, Recognition & Fame, or feeling of contribution" I had to write down what drives me. The biggest driver for me is Independence, I have worked myself out of so many positions by giving 100 to 150% to a company that even though their systems were up and running smoothly they all wanted to get me part time because I have one of those hearts

that says all in! I was raised in California, my mom raised three girls and had a full time job along with selling one of the vitamin replacements in the 70's - 80's. I was raised to do the best possible job, go to school and get educated. I left a job in 2000 to pursue a college degree. I was so motivated to get this degree, left behind a 35,000 annual job to do it. I went to school for 2.5 years and when I achieved my degree with 3 certificates in different fields, I have not made close to that income or above since 2000.

After reading through Ryan's book, I now realize what I need to do, and the biggest one is knowing that I have nothing to lose! They can come and take my car and my house, but I will prevail! I have a strong drive to not only be Independent but to also help others. I am with ViSalus and will never leave! Ryan's book is giving me motivation to achieve it all. I have searched for a long time, to where I can say "I quit" with a smile on my face because I do not need corporate America telling me what and when I can do something or retire! I will have a pension for the rest of my life!! Thank you Ryan you are a great motivator and CEO :-) **NOTHING TO LOSE, EVERYTHING TO GAIN:By Ryan Blair:Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went from Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur [Paperback] (Author), (Contributor)**

Ben Love says

This one literally turned up on my doorstep. Twice! The book fairies don't visit often, but when they do it's a fantastic surprise. (I still don't know who sent me this, but thank you – whoever you are!!!)

Looking at the cover, the first thing that sprung to mind was The 50th Law – a book I intended to dislike but was somewhat blown away with by the time I finished the last page. Hard, edgy lessons from a life I have thankfully never lived.

I guess I was spoiled first time around because I didn't think the edge was ever there with this book. A fair amount of the first pages were trying to convince the reader that what comes next really really did happen. Unnecessary mostly because the title gave us the credibility to run with.

It's a good book to read. There are interesting parts, a few pieces of new information to work with and a narrative that keeps the attention. It's not going to blow your mind though as the "gun to the head" nothing to lose sentiment doesn't really come through with the rawness that I expected it to.

Jen Fader says

Awful: proof of the love of money leading to nothing.

S says

The book is fluff, much like the businesses built by the author.
