

Money, Explained From the Inside

Eleven questions to talk about, written for book clubs, workplace reading groups and classrooms. Use as many as you have time for. Bring your own numbers, and keep them private.

1 Before the first page

Think of the last financial decision you made quickly, at a counter or on a phone. What did you wish you had known?

2 Part One · How money works

Where did you learn what you know about money? Which of it came from the people who sell products, and which from elsewhere?

3 Time and compounding

Compounding works for savers and against borrowers. Which side of it have you been on, and when did you first notice?

4 The true cost of borrowing

A rate can be quoted in several ways that sound alike. Has a headline number ever turned out not to mean what you assumed?

5 Part Two · Running your finances

What would a buffer change in your household: the decisions you would make, or the ones you could finally refuse?

6 Part Three · Inside the system

The book looks at products from the side of the desk where they are priced and sold. What surprised you about that view?

7 Protecting what you have

What is something you insure that you could absorb, and something you could not absorb that you have not insured?

8 Scams and bad advice

Scams exploit behaviour more than ignorance. Which feeling (urgency, flattery, fear of missing out) has pulled hardest at you?

9 Investing

If costs compound like returns do, what would you want to know about the fees you pay, and who could tell you?

10 The five questions

Time, Cost, Risk, Incentives, Alternatives. Pick one real decision and ask all five together. What changed?

11 Afterwards

What is one thing you will do this week that you would not have done before reading?