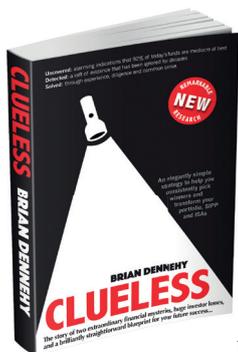


Investment books for Christmas

Lawrence Gosling and Samantha Downes review a handful of publications that investors might be happy to find under their Christmas tree



Clueless

Brian Dennehy

Dennehy, whom some might know from Dennehy Weller & Co financial advisers and fundexpert.co.uk fame, promises

to apply his legal training (he studied law before becoming a financial adviser) to “one of the biggest scandals of all time” – how has £35bn plus (his estimate) managed to go missing without anyone noticing?

This huge amount of money is the amount he estimates has been lost via mediocre funds. It is a scandal, he tells us, that goes back to 1774. After reading that I could not help but be inspired to embark on the rest of the book, which promises in one chapter that “you can do better than Buffett”.

The first half is a retrospective look at why and how investments which promise so much have underperformed; I will let you read it to find that one out.

The second half of the book is an attempt at inspiring investors to be their own financial guru and how it is not so bad to be a “pig” as opposed to a bull or a bear.

The book may just be one big plug for his fundexpert.co.uk website, but as plugs go it is quite a compelling one.

Information plus a little self-knowledge is all you need to not be (quite so) clueless. **SD**

RRP: £12.99. Published by DWC Marketing. ISBN: 978-1999806217 (paperback).

The Behavioral Investor

Dr Daniel Crosby

The area of behavioural investing has grown in relevance and importance since the global financial crisis of 2008 and this book is one of the best to have been published in this period.

The author is both a professional investor (a successful one) and a psychologist; he knows what he is

talking about and has the added credibility of knowing what it is like to have money invested in the markets.

This book is wonderfully written and avoids falling into the trap of many in this genre of being too academic and riddled with jargon.

If you consider yourself to be a long term investor who has followed what happened with your investment actively over the last decade or more, this is worth buying.

You do not have to be a regular buyer or seller of those investments, just someone who is engaged to get something out of it.

The advice is in many ways simple and obvious; but it is when you sit back and reflect on what Crosby is saying that you can learn from very valuable lessons – many of which are how to avoid being sucked into biases towards one kind of investment or another or being seduced by ‘hot’ investments.

This hardback edition is also beautifully designed. I will be putting it on my Christmas list. **LG**

RRP: £25.00. Published by Harriman House. ISBN: 978-085719686 (hardback).

The Meaningful Money Handbook

Pete Matthew

This is a very practical, down to earth guide to financial planning written by a professional and highly reputable independent financial adviser.

Look up the author online and you will see short and simple videos he has produced to explain many important subjects. This book is an extension of his videos and for someone looking for a reliable read which covers a number of areas of broader financial planning it is invaluable.

If you consider yourself a novice then this book is

ideal; if you are looking for a book to give as present to an ‘adult child’ or grandchild to help them prepare their finances, it also works very nicely. **LG**
RRP: £12.99. Published by Harriman House. ISBN: 978-0857196514 (paperback).

Investment Traps Exposed

H. Kent Baker and Vesa Puttonen

This book covers much of the ground covered by Dr Daniel Crosby but with an emphasis on how to not to get caught up in investment scams. Like Dr Crosby’s book, it is well written, not too academic and full of very useful advice.

Many may think they are too experienced or clever to get caught out – this book demonstrates they are wrong.

It should appeal to experienced, confident investors and relative novices alike; and may help you avoid a financially painful mistake. **LG**

RRP: £24.99. Published by Emerald Publishing. ISBN: 978-178714253 (hardback).

Broken Pie Chart

Derek Moore

Anyone who thought their investments were diversified enough to withstand the global financial crisis probably found out this was not the case. This book challenges many of the theories which left investors exposed.

It is an excellent read which not only tackles diversification but also looks at how we should invest in our retirement given we are all living longer.

A recommended read for anyone who has multi-asset investments or thinks their portfolio is well diversified – it may not be. **LG**

RRP: £24.99. Published by Emerald Publishing. ISBN: 978-1787435544 (hardback).

