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# Naked Option

by Joe Kolman

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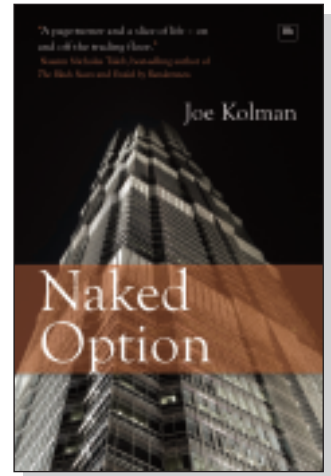
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## Key points

- A high octane erotic thriller set in the high flying world of Wall Street
- A unique book from a high profile financial writer
- A rollercoaster ride for anyone working in or around the financial markets

## Book description

Naked Option is an erotic mystery/thriller that crackles with an uncompromising realism that governs the plot, its portrayal of Wall Street, and even sex. In contrast to the usual depictions of rampant financial greed, it paints an unusually nuanced portrait of life on a Wall Street trading floor, and of the options subculture in particular, where the dizzy mathematical challenges are as attractive as the financial rewards.

Option traders are the high wire act of the circus that's Wall Street, placing bets that make Vegas look like kindergarten. Dave Ackerman, the narrator of Joe Kolman's Naked Option, is a brilliant trader, but his colleague Ray Goodman is the superstar. Fed up with being made the office joke, Dave decides to beat Ray at his own game and goes naked on a multi-million dollar option trade, hiding the trade in a client's account. When he loses \$121 million, he's fired and saved from criminal charges only by selling everything he owns.

Destitute and unemployable, he hears about an investment bank that needs a trader to help with an auditing project. Despite his instincts warning him to get out fast, he's so desperate that he takes the job. The bank assigns Dave to work with Susanna Cassuto, an attractive young auditor.

Together, they discover that there are two crooks. But the minute they find the one in the bank, the man turns up dead from what appears to be a gay S&M incident gone awry. When they start to track down his outside partner, they're fired. No one wants to know anything more. Case closed. Furious, Dave goes out on his own to the SEC. When the SEC can't help, he dives into Wall Street's gay subculture to find the partner.

But the partner finds him first, and injects him with lethal drugs. It looks like Dave will be the second victim. Fortunately, he's saved by a sympathetic SEC investigator who's quietly been keeping tabs on him. The truth behind the murder -- and the financial fraud -- becomes clear only months later, when Dave stumbles across a witness to the crime.

## About the author

Joe Kolman has been a financial writer for more than two decades. He began his career in 1983 as an associate editor at Institutional Investor magazine. In 1992, he started Derivatives Strategy, a publication that explained the nascent market in over-the-counter derivatives in plain English. The publication quickly became the leading magazine covering the U.S. derivatives market. In 2005, he became a vice president at AllianceBernstein, where he is a senior writer in the firm's mutual fund division. His writing has appeared in more than a dozen financial publications.

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