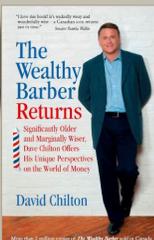


Personal Finance Reading Guide

Want to learn more about personal finance but aren't sure where to start? This guide has been developed to help direct you to some of the most helpful books on the subject, placing them in relation to one another. A general introduction is a good place to start, from which you can move on to books that will help you with debt, investing, or your own behaviour, depending on your situation.

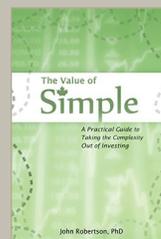
General Introduction

Get out of Debt



The Wealthy Barber Returns is where you should start your journey to learn about personal finance. It's an easy read full of good advice and short anecdotes.

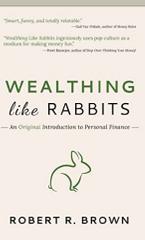
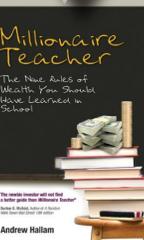
Learn how to Invest



The Value of Simple focuses on implementing your investing plan, with step-by-step instructions to get started as a do-it-yourself investor using passive index funds.



Debt-Free Forever, by Canada's debt maven Gail Vaz-Oxlade, is a no-nonsense, tough-love guide to budgeting and getting out of debt—and staying out for good.

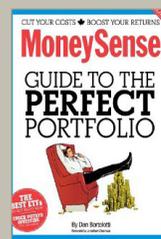


These books each serve as a general introduction to personal finance, and would be fine first reads. Even if you read WBR first, each one will teach you something new and useful.

Stop Over-Thinking Your Money has a great chapter on insurance which makes it a must-read.

Millionaire Teacher is another good general personal finance introduction that talks about car buying, and has more information on investing for the long term with index funds.

Wealthening Like Rabbits plainly lays out the case for living within your means, with a great alternate history view of the effect of making wise choices.

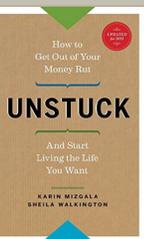
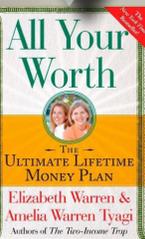
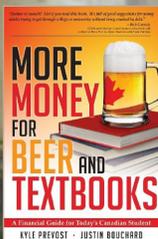


If you're not convinced that a simple indexing approach is for you, these books may help make the case.

The MoneySense Guide to the Perfect Portfolio discusses index investing for Canadians, complete with magazine-style sidebars filled with anecdotes from people in various stages of life who have made indexing work for them.

The Little Book of Common Sense Investing is an easy-to-read introduction to index investing from one of its founding fathers. While the practical components are aimed at Americans, it's still an easy read with many lessons for Canadian readers on an indexing strategy.

The Quest for Alpha focuses on making the case for index investing, and examining the underperformance of actively managed mutual funds.

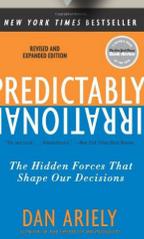
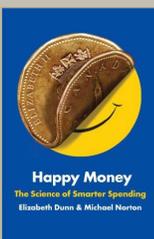


More books on budgeting, living within your means, frugality, and conquering debt.

More Money for Beer and Textbooks is geared towards students and recent grads, covering general budgeting and debt tips as well as specific tips for frugal studying like how to find the cheapest textbooks.

All Your Worth takes a big-picture view of budgeting and making money fit your life. Though American, it can be a great help to Canadians—especially those who are stressed out by a more prescriptive approach like that of *Debt Free Forever*.

Unstuck, by the founders of Money Coaches Canada, covers a lot of ground on helping you get control of your debt, prepare for emergencies, and talks about deciding when to seek help.

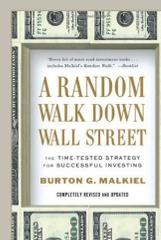


Behavioural finance will help you understand the unconscious ways we think about problems with money, how to make personal finance decisions fit your life, and consider the core issue of how to turn money into a better, happier, more fulfilling life.

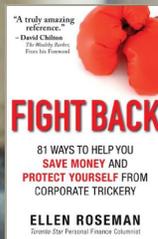
Happy Money discusses what we remember about spending and what makes us happy—with a big focus on buying experiences, not things.

Predictably Irrational covers many quirks of human decision-making and values. Tips like ordering first at a restaurant when out with friends to feel more satisfied are helpful, and the chapter on how we perceive things that are free relates to many financial decisions—like embedded commissions—is particularly enlightening.

Your Money & Your Brain looks more at the neuroscience of what happens when we think about money and investing.



A Random Walk Down Wall Street is a classic tome that looks at historical bubbles in various markets, and builds up to a strong case for index investing.

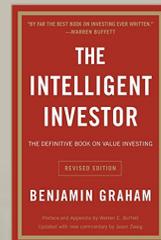


Being a smarter consumer can help you stick to your financial plan, and *Fight Back* is full of stories of corporate misdeeds and tips to help lower your bills.

There are more good books out there, and many great blogs to read! This guide should help give you a good start, but keep reading. *Please feel free to share this reading guide widely.*

Curation and layout by John Robertson for Blessed by the Potato. Originally published at <http://www.holypotato.net/?p=1327>

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The Intelligent Investor is a must-read for anyone looking to pick stocks themselves. A classic that introduces intrinsic value, investing vs. speculating, and "Mr. Market".