



# Molly's Game

*Molly Bloom*

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## Molly's Game Molly Bloom

Molly Bloom reveals how she built one of the most exclusive, high-stakes underground poker games in the world—an insider's story of excess and danger, glamour and greed.

In the late 2000s, Molly Bloom, a twentysomething petite brunette from Loveland Colorado, ran the highest stakes, most exclusive poker game Hollywood had ever seen—she was its mistress, its lion tamer, its agent, and its oxygen. Everyone wanted in, few were invited to play.

Hundreds of millions of dollars were won and lost at her table. Molly's game became the game for those in the know—celebrities, business moguls, and millionaires. Molly staged her games in palatial suites with beautiful views and exquisite amenities. She flew privately, dined at exclusive restaurants, hobnobbed with the heads of Hollywood studios, was courted by handsome leading men, and was privy to the world's most delicious gossip, until it all came crashing down around her.

*Molly's Game* is a behind the scenes look at Molly's game, the life she created, the life she lost, and what she learned in the process.

## Molly's Game Details

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Author : Molly Bloom

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## From Reader Review Molly's Game for online ebook

### Emer says

Molly's Game is a memoir written by Molly Bloom about her time as the *poker princess* when she was responsible for organising high stakes poker games among Hollywood's elite, business tycoons and other stonkingly rich types and how she subsequently fell foul of the FBI. Molly's story only recently came to my attention because this book has been adapted into a biopic written and directed by Aaron Sorkin and starring Jessica Chastain.

Molly's story is couched as that of a small-town girl who has spent her life in the shadows of her supremely talented brothers moving to the big bad city trying to prove herself. And though it makes for a fascinating read this character painting of herself that Bloom tries to create grated on me for the whole novel. Molly Bloom is clearly a savvy woman. She is supremely intelligent who could buy and sell us all with how much grit and determination she has shown in her life... But I couldn't help feeling that I was being slightly manipulated by her interpretation of the events. But I guess that is very much the way of life. That everyone sees themselves as some sort of victim type character. Granted, in the book's epilogue she does accept a certain amount of responsibility for her lifestyle.

The story she tells however, is utterly compelling and makes for a great read. While elegance of prose may not be her strongest suit the account she gives of her life as the *poker princess* is gripping. It's a fascinating insight into the murky world of gambling among the elite especially when it name-drops people such as Hollywood actors Tobey Maguire, Ben Affleck and Leonardo DiCaprio. Who doesn't want to know what life is like when you can risk exorbitant amounts of money without a second's thought. However, according to Molly she could have name-dropped a great many more people but she still believes in discretion. A sort of honour among gamblers. And has only revealed the names of people already known to have been involved in these sorts of games. However, if you're like me and you didn't know the story at all prior to reading the book then it's so interesting. Especially all she reveals about Tobey Maguire. He comes off looking like one heck of a jerk. There's a scene where he makes a very odd demand / request of Molly that is nothing short of demeaning and dehumanising.

Money, power, ego, sex, greed... It's at the heart of this book and when you sit back and think about the massive sums of money that all these gamblers were playing with it's rather unsettling. Especially the New York games with the more businessman types... Not nice to think about how these powerful men with so much say in society can be involved in such shady activity.

A book that I recommend more for the fascinating insight into this little known underworld rather than a book recommended for merit of writing

### three and a half stars

*\*An e-copy of this book was kindly provided to me by the publisher, William Collins / Harper Collins UK: 4th Estate, via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\**

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### BookGypsy says

Read this as part of my books to film 2018 challenge. Amazing and sad. What a situation this young girl found herself in. Amazing and very smart! I really loved the film and felt it was close to the book

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### **Melinda says**

Molly Bloom's story is eerily familiar to Piper Kerman's (Orange Is the New Black). The exception being Molly owns her misstep, nonetheless I'm confident Molly's book deal, and I'm sure a movie or TV series of her story will be on the horizon all enabling her to erase her debts and manage a lucrative profit. Another convicted felon turning their misfortune into a windfall.

Molly a sheltered small town gal from Colorado, raised by loving parents, privileged, educated, ventures to LA and finds herself lured by money, mystique and celebrities as she plays hostess in high stakes poker games, soon commandeering the games on her own.

Rather than relying on her brains and legitimate success, Molly feeling inadequate to the achievements of her siblings decides to pursue the 'gray' area of illegal poker games. Making a name for herself, a boatload of money, the 'Poker Princess' falls hard.

If you enjoyed Piper Kerman's self serving memoir, you'll adore Molly's tale. Similar to Piper's book, the writing is less than mediocre.

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### **Lisa Carlson says**

This is the story of an attractive, sheltered, spoiled young woman who grew up in Colorado in a family where success was expected not pursued. Even though she made the US national ski team she appeared to live in the shadow of her other siblings and it didn't seem good enough for her father. Arriving in Los Angeles with no goals it isn't surprising she began as a waitress and caught the eye of a pompous blowhard. What follows is a lucrative but demeaning job as his assistant and eventually leads to the secret high end poker game with the likes of mediocre movie stars. This book feels like there's many details missing and probably for a very good reason. The writing is sophomoric which screams a Hollywood movie in the distant future.

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### **Wendy's Thoughts says**

#### **3 Had To Check This Out Stars**

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**I recently saw a trailer for a film that caught me by surprise. Aaron Sorkin was involved and it has an all star cast. I was so impressed by what I had seen... I had to do some investigating.**

**When I dug a little into the person the story was about... I got a rush of recognition. In a past life, I lived in the area where this tale took place. I was involved with people/businesses filled with these types of personalities highlighted in this book. I remembered the publicity surrounding the main character when things got dicey.**

**The trailer was for Molly's Game. The woman is Molly Bloom. The story was a scandal involving**

**heavy hitters in the entertainment and sporting industry, the financial world and the Russian mob. Molly's story works backwards, with the Feds coming to take her in the dead of night...So we know what is at stake here....**

**All she knows....and she knows a lot.**

The book gives us everything a novel would if we were trying to write something with a determined young woman... who likes to identify with being an outsider and has a kinship with Greek Gypsies. She comes from a family of overachievers; two brothers who were at the top of their respective games...one a sports legend in the making and another who would become a well respected surgeon. Dad always drove the kids to succeed...and was proud of the boys' accomplishments... but for Molly ... whatever she did wasn't good enough, she felt.

So even after becoming an Olympic skier like her brother... she felt she only got a pat on her head... This led to her going on a break from college and traveling the world a bit. It was those Greek Gypsies who made a huge impression on her... they were free... in charge of their own lives and were not afraid to risk...

Molly decides to go to Los Angeles to see what was happening there...she was on a break after all and she had a friend who would let her use the couch for a limited time. She arrives and looks for a waitress gig because she knows she needs to work right away.

#### **Side Note-**

*This is someone who had skills, discipline and made it into college to be an attorney. Her point of view was how naive she was but also determined....*

What happens next is the fateful turning point for Molly. Her path crosses with a rich man who has his fingers in a lot of pies; Restaurants, Real Estate and other businesses. What he needs right now is a waitress for a new place opening tonight.... Bingo- Molly is hired.

Molly first works at the new place and she lets us know... she is a crappy waitress but fantastic with people. She can read them... anticipate what they will need next and she sees this is as her talent.

Time flies; Molly had some friends, was working a couple of gigs... getting by and working for the madman boss. He was nuts but he was teaching her things... business dealings and opening her eyes to the possibility...

The possibility of becoming more than she was... Successful, savvy, wanted and in control.

It all starts to take off when the crazy boss starts to run a private poker game in the basement of the Viper Room. Yes, The Viper Room... the Hollywood place where musicians would show up unannounced and play sets to shocked attendees. Yes, the same place where we lost River Phoenix.

These games became Molly's focus... besides doing all of the assistant work for her boss. The players were household names or names you never heard of but impacted your life without you knowing. In other words... really high level people who liked the risk of high stakes poker.

In this tell all which really doesn't tell a lot...or tells just enough to feel like it does... we go on this ride Molly is on. She hob nobs with movie stars... some nice, others not so much. She learns what makes all of these guys tick and tries to become indispensable to them to protect her position. She becomes "too big for her britches" and has her game taken from her by one of the power players.

She can't let it stand so she dusts herself off and goes to NYC to catch even bigger players with more cash to throw on the card table...She has become the "Poker Princess" and there are many wanting to put her in her place...

The book starts out engaging and seems to have a handle on how to tell her story... but then there is this consistent string of letting us know she still is an outsider, needs reassurance but is also strong, cunning and able. The first 2/3rds gave us the climb and had enough "meat" to keep me interested to see what the deal was going to be...But then her personal behavior was difficult to justify for me. She had relationships but didn't really work on them. Her main focus was getting the game bigger and higher stakes.

Eventually, bad stuff started to happen. The time frame is from her childhood for back story and then from 2005- 2011 broken into 6 parts. The parts are her progression up the food chain and then the fall.

Molly Bloom was convicted on May 3, 2014 of being a key player of an illegal \$100 million high-stakes gambling ring. She was sentenced to a year probation and a \$1000.00 fine.

Now Molly Bloom has sold the rights to this book and the story of her trial fight, which brings me back to the terrific trailer that sent me to Amazon to buy this book in the first place.

Am I sorry I bought and read it... Absolutely not... I wanted to see what the movie was going to do with this story. Now I will know what they used and what they didn't. I also have **NO DOUBT** Molly Bloom had enough dirt on the players in this town to line up her deal before the gavel had hit the wood.

Here is the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vu4UP...>

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## **karen says**

guess who made a list of molly's game readalikes that Ben Mezrich retweeted?

<http://www.rifflebooks.com/list/24099...>

## **FURTHER READING FOR FANS OF MOLLY'S GAME**

Poker? I barely know her!

Molly's Game is a memoir written by a woman who went from being a cocktail waitress to running an exclusive, but illegal, high-stakes underground poker enterprise and coming into conflict with entitled celebrities, mob bosses, and the FBI. It's one of those off-kilter American dream stories where an outsider takes initiative and enjoys success in a big glitzy celebrity-gossip-filled way and the criminal aspect just makes them that much more appealing. We do romanticize our outlaw figures.

Nonfiction book lists, even for highly narrative nonfiction like memoirs, tend to be closer to readarounds than readalikes, and this list is no different. It identifies some of the most prominent elements of the book:

poker, gambling, crime, secrecy, fringe people, etc., and provides thematic matches for readers interested in exploring these topics from different angles or perspectives.

This is my hand, you tell me if I won.

And don't miss our Molly's Game giveaway! Ahead of the movie adaptation release on Christmas Day, we're giving away tickets to see Molly's Game on the big screen, and copies of the memoir that started it all!

Click through to enter to win! <--- you'll have to actually go to the link above to do this part. do it! WIN!

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### **Brianna (The Book Vixen) says**

[The reason I gave this book 4 stars instead of 5 is because the reader is left not knowing how it all ultimately ends up for Molly. At the end of the book, Molly became a convicted felon and is awaiting her sentencing. Considering this happened on December 12, 2013 and the book was originally published in 2014, that makes sense. But the edition of the book I read was the movie-tie in version, s

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### **Jennifer says**

Blech -- I feel like I need a shower.

The issue with memoirs or biographies, is that I find myself not only making assessments of the book, but also the person who is the subject of the book. In this case, the subject is Molly Bloom -- a Type-A among the Type As -- ambitious to the extreme. The book chronicles her rise from waitress to organizer of some of the world's most expensive private poker games (and then, eventual arrest and downfall).

Her chutzpuh and work ethic quickly give way to greed. There aren't a lot of likeable (real-life) characters in this book. If nothing else, one could consider this book a good warning on what happens when people put money, power, and success ahead of integrity and family.

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### **Karen says**

This was a great story. The Poker Princess totally has won me over. Her life makes for a very entertaining read. Between the action of the game and the celebrity names involved, Molly's Game is one hell of a ride.

Molly starts off with a life of privilege. Her father pushes her and her siblings, so no wonder she ends up on the on the US Ski team and take a medal, even after back surgery. That isn't even the main issue in this story, it just shows her drive and determination not to fail. Once Molly hits LA for a year off of college she lands a job working for a hot headed hustler who gives her an education that takes her to the top of her game. Running games for him, she learns how to network and make the right contacts to eventually take over the game. What follows is a woman in her element and makes for one hell of an entertaining read.

Right from the start I was turning pages. This was a quick read but definitely worth it. I am sure there was a lot left out of this story. There was quite a bit of insider information and loads of celebrities in these games.

To think Spider-Man Tobey Maguire was such a dick. Now the truth is out. Ben Afflack seemed like a pretty cool guy, but her old boss Reardon has some issues. Of course, we are only getting her side of the story, and the fact that she didn't disclose in her book exactly what made her a felon was suspicious. Especially since she tried to follow the law throughout most of the story. It was a good read anyways.

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### Michelle Curie says

*"I wanted a big life, a grand adventure, and no one was going to hand it to. I wasn't born with a way to get it. I was waiting for my opportunity, and somehow I knew it would come."*

Molly Bloom has made headlines in 2013 when it came out that the *Poker Princess* has been running illegal poker games for celebrities like Ben Affleck and Tobey Maguire in Los Angeles and New York City, making thousands of dollars every night. The story only came to my attention when it was made into a movie, but the story intrigued me enough to reach for her memoir.

The story is one of those *American Dream* ones: Colorado-born Molly moves to Los Angeles and starts working as a cocktail waitress before a chain of events gives her the opportunity to host a poker game - the players including people like Leonardo DiCaprio and Todd Phillips (the director of *Hangover*). After making \$3.000 from tips that night, she realises that she's onto something.

The first few pages irritated me slightly - Bloom isn't the most eloquent writer and when she briefly covered her upbringing I had that suspicion she would put herself in the role of the victim, trying to make the public like her after all people knew about her upon release was how she had to spend a year in prison. But it didn't take long for me to be drawn into the story. Bloom was smart, she knew how to play the game and she did it well.

*"It wasn't just the game; there was a world of opportunities built into it. The game was my entry into a world I wanted to be part of. The hedge-fund world. The art world. I could do a game with politicians, artists, royalty. Every subset of every society had gamblers within it, and unearthing them was my speciality."*

I think what intrigued me most was the **look into celebrity culture** it allows. And it's an uncomfortable, business and money driven world. While she changed some names, others she talks about freely. The only one coming off as a *proper dick*, however, was Tobey Maguire. He's described as a bad tipper and worse loser as well as a manipulative control freak who on one occasion tried to make Molly bark for a \$1.000 tip. Ew.

*"You can tell a lot about a man's character by watching him win or lose money. Money is the great equaliser."*

So *Molly's Game* turned out to be a real page-turner that I read within a day, because I couldn't put it down. If the story itself interests you, it definitely won't disappoint you as a read.

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### notgettingenough says

Hard to imagine a characterisation of The American Dream which is more repulsive than this. Not to mention a movie which preserves for posterity the repellent nature of the game of poker. As one who has played games in serious ways at high levels, to watch dicks and pigs sitting there swilling around, chucking away hundreds of millions of dollars in a real 'mine's bigger than yours' comp is embarrassing. To think I once thought of learning this game - one mistake I have avoided in life. I'm used to an intellectual, rigorous quality to the games I play and poker doesn't begin to cut it. Ugggh. I mean, truly ugggghhhhhhhhhhh. I challenge anybody to come away from this movie and feel other than defiled. It was an incredibly unedifying experience.

Made worse by the discovery, upon checking that the movie had stuck to the facts that:

What is Molly Bloom doing today?

Molly is using her networking experience to reach fellow women and help them become successful. "I have a network, and I have a lot of lessons," says Molly. "I made a lot of mistakes. So I want to help women to be successful."

Recommended for: anybody sucker enough to be surprised that the US of A is itself.

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## David says

*You were workin' as a waitress in a cocktail bar  
When I met you  
I picked you out, I shook you up and turned you around  
Turned you into someone new*

*Now five years later on you've got the world at your feet  
Success has been so easy for you  
But don't forget, it's me who put you where you are now  
And I can put you back down too.*

Molly Bloom moved to Los Angeles from Colorado, seeking fame and glory. Working as a waitress in a cocktail bar, she stumbled into a job as personal assistant to an abrasive guy named "Reardon" with nebulous business dealings and connections to all sorts of rich and famous people. This leads to Molly running poker games attended by Hollywood A-listers and billionaires. At first working for tips alone (which could total tens of thousands of dollars a night in games where celebrities are dumping half a million dollars on the table), Molly climbs her way up until she is running the games herself, with an exclusive invitee list in LA and New York. This ultimately proves to be her undoing - when she is merely collecting tips, her job is in a legal gray area, but she's pretty safe (she actually retains a lawyer, makes sure to pay taxes on her earnings, and so on). But as she became more ambitious, and greedier, once she's actually organizing the games and collecting a "rake" (the house's share of any money bet), she has become the operator of an illegal gambling enterprise. And that's how the book ends, with Bloom given the full FBI home-invasion treatment and then awaiting trial.

As a casual poker player myself, I sometimes wonder how I'd do against celebrity poker players. While a few, like Ben Affleck and Tobey Maguire, have reputations for being very skilled players, most of the big

names known for playing poker probably aren't serious students of the game. You can see this when you sit down at tables with people who will make the most (statistically) ridiculous bets because they see poker as "gambling," and not a game of probabilities and long-term odds. Of course those people are really annoying when they get lucky and crack your aces with a 9-4 offsuit "because it's my birthday hand! Hahahah!" Grr, DIAF, you donkey.

Anyway, I found this book very interesting as a rags-to-riches-to-convicted-felon story of a former cocktail waitress, but *Molly's Game* is not really very much about poker. (Molly herself was never really a player, and I think her knowledge of the game never extended beyond what she needed to run it.) Instead, it's really a glimpse at celebrity culture and the world of the 1%-ers at play, and also a story about Molly herself, whom I found to be an interesting and somewhat sympathetic character, yet rather lacking in self-awareness for all that she writes a tell-all about herself.

One of the interesting things about her memoir is that she freely names names - big names. A few people she keeps obscured (like her original boss, the mysterious "Reardon"), but she talks openly about games involving Ben Affleck, Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire, A-rod, and numerous Hollywood executives and billionaires who also came to her games. Surprisingly enough, there really isn't a lot of "dirt" on any of them, since all she has to say is that they liked to play poker and play at being alpha males, as you'd expect.

Except Tobey Maguire, who really comes off as a dick in this book. According to Bloom, Maguire actually organized the games (using Bloom as his intermediary) for his own profit. His not-so-secret scheme was basically to go "whale fishing," luring very rich, very bad players to his game with his buddies like Leonardo DiCaprio, whose buy-ins he was actually paying for. It worked very well for Maguire, who has actually won poker championships, but as Bloom tells it, Maguire was cheap, a bad tipper, a sore loser, and eventually he squeezed Bloom out of the game because he resented the relatively small amount she was making for her work to keep it running. She tells about one night when he tried to make her "bark like a seal" for her tip after a game, and when she refuses, this seems to be the point where he starts moving to get rid of her.

All of that is interesting if you like celebrity gossip and poker stories, but I was also interested in Bloom's own development. She's never exactly *bad*, but it's clear that she went swimming with sharks, knowing what she was doing, and wanting to be involved in that world of money and glamour, but thinking she could somehow avoid becoming either a shark or shark-bait herself. The breakdown in her personal relationships, as she loses one rich boyfriend after another to her career ambitions, does not make her reconsider her life choices.

Eventually, having been essentially run out of Los Angeles (by Tobey Maguire, if her account of his behind the scenes machinations is correct), Bloom succeeds in starting up in New York City, running games for super-rich Wall Street types on a level above even what she was running in LA. Suddenly she is collecting a rake from games with \$250K buy-ins, and making millions.

This is the point where she runs into organized crime. What struck me was her naivete - did she really think she could be running games like this in New York City and not attract the attention of the big boys? Apparently she did. Even when a couple of goons corner her and explain to her that she's just acquired some partners and how things are going to be, she thinks she can just say no thanks.

This works about as well as you'd expect, though she is saved from her own stupidity by a fortuitous major FBI operation that rounds up all the guys who were about to continue her education the following week. She flees back to Colorado, but in the aftermath of the FBI operation, her name gets dropped and eventually the FBI comes after her too.

Following the publication of her book, Bloom ended up getting a mere slap on the wrist, since her only role was basically to organize poker games. Although she was theoretically facing prison time, she got only probation and a \$1000 fine. Of course, she'd also had all her previous proceeds confiscated, and now she's an unemployed ex-cocktail waitress with only a book to her credit.

My impression of Bloom, reading her own memoir, is that she was hungry for money and glory, but neither ruthless enough for that world nor scrupled enough to maintain boundaries. So it was no surprise that everything came crashing down. Still, it's clear she wasn't a hardened criminal, and the super-rich, entitled men she was organizing games for would certainly never face any consequences.

I'll be interested to see if Bloom is actually able to parlay this into any sort of meaningful future. According to her post-publication interviews, her current angle is trying to get it turned into a movie or TV deal... naturally.

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### **Leftbanker says**

Molly's Game walks a delicate tightrope between star fucking and drooling over rich people. This chick is just about the most materialistic idiot that you could ever imagine. Champagne, yachts, VIP lists, and everything and anything expensive dazzle her like a prehistoric fish to a shiny lure.

She tolerates her ex-boss, a guy who treats her worse than an animal. If ever there were a guy in need of an ass-kicking it was this creep yet she goes on to become actual friends with him. Then she branches off on her own, watching filthy rich assholes throw away fortunes on poker games. When the next revolution comes around, this gal's address book will provide the list of names to be first in line for the guillotines.

I realize that this book belongs on the crap pile but I liked the movie, which was a huge surprise for me. I hate gambling of any sort. It's a pastime for morons and hucksters. Aaron Sorkin did a great job of pulling a gem out of this turd of a book.

If Toby McGuire is half the asshole she makes him out to be in this book then someone should throw him down a long flight of concrete stairs.

If I had been in a room where he demanded a woman get up on a desk and bark like a seal to get a \$1,000 poker chip I would have beaten the living shit out of Spiderman. What a creep! Whatever, she put up with it instead of packing up and leaving. Instead of lumping her in with the #MeToo she needs to be in the "me total coward" group. Believe it or not, men often find themselves in situations in which they are the weak party. If they tolerate their situation without standing up for themselves they have no one to blame but themselves.

There is nothing glamorous about gambling. It's a pathetic addiction like smoking meth and every bit as destructive. The very idea that you can somehow get something for nothing is moronic and goes against every principle of what forms an adult human being. I never understood those Bond movies where he is wearing a tux and playing in a casino which is no different than rolling dice in a filthy alley. Would it be glamorous if instead of handing over a stack of chips the loser had to suck the other dude's cock? Maybe that's your thing, I'm not being judgmental. Your move, Mr. Bond.

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## Jim says

Molly Bloom is an ultra-motivated young woman who is used to achieving personal goals by overcoming obstacles. A member of a seemingly wholesome and similarly motivated family, she left Colorado for the west coast where by indenturing and ingratiating herself to the right people, she became hostess of a high stakes poker game at which movie stars and business barons wagered the lifetime wages of a working stiff like me on the turn of a card.

I found her book nicely structured and remarkably well-written, although the last quarter of the book seems rushed and not as detailed as the first part of the book. The politics involved in her keeping the game are fascinating; naturally as soon as people realized she was thriving unsavoury characters wanted to cut in on her action. Molly doesn't shy away from telling the reader exactly who is a jerk and who is solid; baby face Tobey Maguire is one chap who doesn't come out too well.

As much as I found the book hard to put down, I felt there were parts of the story not being told, and little sober reflection on morality was exhibited. Ms Bloom allowed people to denigrate and humiliate her in order to earn large quantities of cash, and I found that surprising when I consider her advantaged upbringing. I also thought that little consideration was given to the obscene hedonistic lifestyle of the principals involved in the games Bloom hosted...a lifestyle she wanted for herself. If you have enough cash for a \$50,000 ante in a poker game, more than the annual wage for a lot of folks, then you just have too much cash. Probably enough money was lost at her tables to build a city of houses for disadvantaged people.

Moralizing aside, Bloom has written a real page-turner here, or at least 3/4 of a page-turner. It's a highly entertaining quick read.

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## Mónica BQ says

I committed a cardinal sin: **I watched the movie before I read the book.**

In my weak defence I had no idea what any of it was about. I vaguely remember reading about the Tobey Maguire and Leo DiCaprio poker scandal a few years ago, but I don't think I paid much attention to any of it.

So after I watched the movie, **I was morbidly curious.** And I was not disappointed.

Look, Molly's Game won't be winning any literary awards. It's very obviously written by someone who's not a writer. The whole thing gets wonky at times and if you truly think about it, there's no much plot at all. The book is a straightforward, almost unbelievable memoir of the girl who for years organised underground high stakes poker games in Los Angeles and New York.

To say that I was glued to the pages is putting it mildly. I was completely riveted by the implausibility of it all.

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