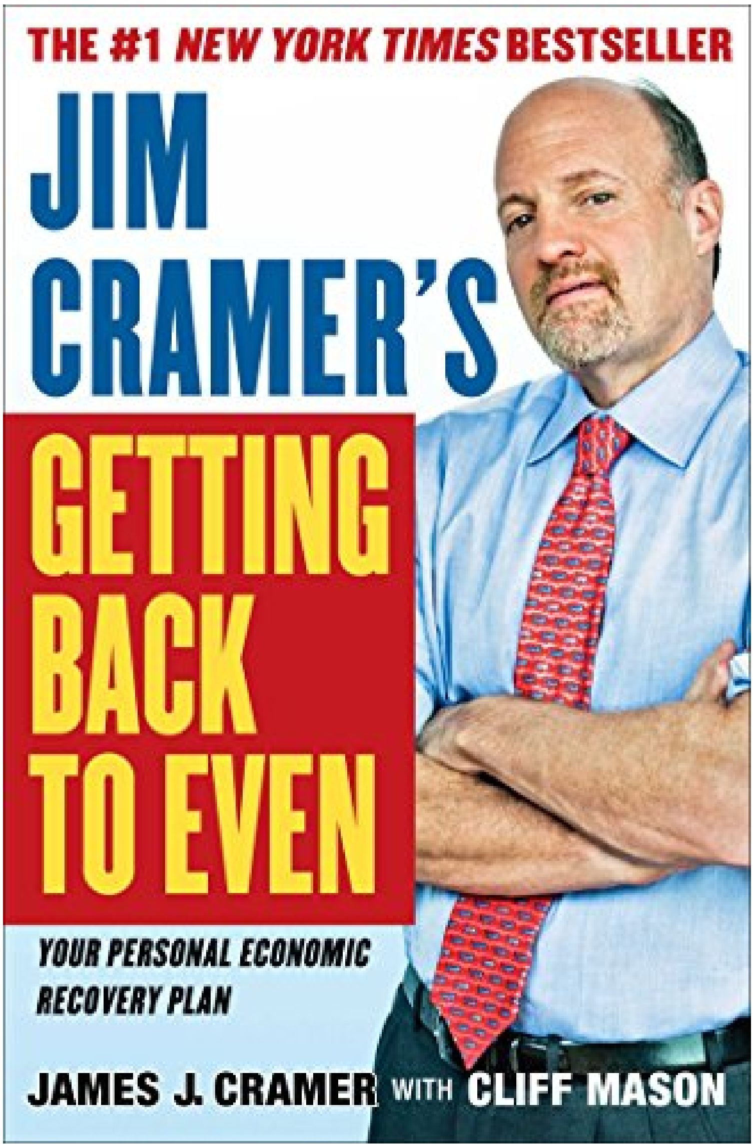
Jim Cramer's Getting Back to Even

James J. Cramer



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James J. Cramer : Jim Cramer's Getting Back to Even before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jim Cramer's Getting Back to Even:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Why You should Trust in Jim CramerBy Hansen AlexanderFor reasons that are not obvious to anyone who has lost money on shady business deals, US coins contain the phrase, "In God We Trust." In order to make money, you would be better off believing in the motto, "In Jim Cramer We Trust," because for all the cheap shots the man endures from a jealous business press and an annoyed public, most who don't actually trade stocks, nobody is more accurate in forecasting the market than Jim Cramer. To paraphrase Ernest

Hemingway's comment that Ezra Pound helped struggling young writers and mostly got a kick in the buttocks in return, Jim Cramer has helped thousands to make money, and except for a few who call in and thank him on his television show, "Mad Money," he mostly receives abuse in return.Nor is there anyone out there in business or television who is as fast and honest in admitting his mistakes in making a call on a stock than Cramer. His most recent book, "Getting Back to Even," is yet another effort to educate the public in the stock market, in this instance, in the wake of the 2008 crash.As he points out daily, and reiterates in this book, "There is a Bull Market out there somewhere," meaning there is no uniform stock market that goes up and down every day, but some good stocks and some bad stocks, no matter the news and conditions which influence stock trading.First off, let's get one thing straight. Jim Cramer did not make a couple hundred million dollars on Wall Street by being a dumb clown. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and has had a long and successful career making money in the market and writing and broadcasting about it. He was a professional journalist before going to law school. He did not con the American public because he was as unaware of the Lehman collapse or failed to predict the fall of Enron or any other situation where a company lied about its finances. Cramer has always waxed skeptical about a company where the information warranted it. Second, Cramer's "buy, buy, buy" advice is usually accompanied by the necessary caveats, such as waiting for a stock to fall to a certain price.Like his other books and his show, "Getting Back to Even" does share information about corporate chicanery. For example, he offers "the dirty little secret" that "any large enough company with halfway competent management" "can almost always ensure that its earnings per share beats the street's expectations, as long as its quarter isn't totally abysmal....such as firing people or using buybacks to generate earnings-per-share-based upside surprises."Cramer reminds us that market "Bears" who might seem more objective because they are negative on the market or a particular company are probably not. "People who criticize the market on television or in print are not necessarily trying to help you...this person might be shorting the market or underinvested in it hoping to knock stocks down in order to buy them at a lower price." And he cautions us to be skeptical of stocks that are owned by a lot of hedge funds that could be dumped in a down market.Cramer correctly saw the first Obama stimulus package as way to little to help the economy, and it remains so.Cramer has some good advice on the Baltic Dry Freight Index, something of interest to me because I follow shipping stocks. It is probably the best indicator of the all encompassing and all powerful Chinese market, he notes, because large goods are shipped in "dry ships," which are distinguished from oil tankers. As Cramer put it, "we'll all be paying very close attention to this index for years to come, as it's the best way to track imports to China..thus "I now regard the Baltic Dry Index as more important than almost all U.S. data save the monthly unemployment numbers."It is interesting to track the companies that Cramer predicted would recover and prosper after the 2008 crash. In oil drilling he recommended Schlumberger and Transocean. Schlumberger continues to lead the pack, as he predicted. Transocean has had its problems. Cramer raved about Under Armour over Nike and the company has continued to grow faster. In a similar manner recommended Con Edison in utilities and ATT in telecom. ATT has been the star of telecom, including its juicy yield. All utilities have not fared all that well, including Con Edison which has more or less been stagnant as the utilities industry, like many industries, seems to be in a transition period to cleaner fuels.Cramer was right on with 3M, which does 20 percent of its business in China, 25 percent in Asia Pacific, and 11 percent in Latin America, and has come off the bottom like a rocket since 2008. He was also right on about the success of railroads and Union Pacific, which he specified, and CSX have gone gangbusters, often by raising rates. As the oversupply of commodities and stalled recovery still plagues natural resources, Cramer's high hopes for ConocoPhillips, PHP Billiton, Hewlett-Packard and home Depot have yet to be realized.However, Cramer has been more accurate in his predictions, both for individual banks and credit card companies, in the financial sector. JP Morgan, and particularly Visa, have improved since the crash. Since he devotes an entire chapter to regional banks it must be mentioned that he has been proved a prophet in their steady growth since 2008. As a whole they have been better than the sum of their parts, as such Cramer picks as First Niagara (FNFG) have struggled to digest their rapid acquisitions throughout upstate New York and New England. I personally prefer Huntington Bankshares (HBAN). Cramer has subsequently declared his choice of First Niagara a mistake on "Mad Money," but I remain long on the bank.As always, Cramer's latest book offers a great overview of the stock market's fundamentals. And although critics continue to put down Cramer for writing for "the general public," there is no evidence that the general public fares any worse in picking stocks than the experts. Perhaps one of the reasons is the help given to us, gratis, by Jim Cramer.[Hansen Alexander is an attorney and author of "An Introduction to the Laws of the United States in the 21rst Century," an , e-book exclusive.]0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy to follow conversational style but quite basicBy Simon SpurgeonThe book is written in a simple easy to follow conversational style with any technical terms used clearly explained and supported by examples, so that even an absolute beginner can follow along.In regards to the content, it is quite basic with mostly common sense rules that may be essential for the newer investor, but if you have a moderate level of experience you are likely to be familiar with these concepts. These are simple concepts such as diversification, dividend paying stocks, investing a small portion of your funds in gold, focusing on the right themes and good CEOs.One aspect of this book that surprised me considering it is coming from Jim Cramer is his focus on the long term stock performance by picking the right themes and focusing on the CEO of the company. In a recent interview on this book Jim Cramer reinforced this by saying that he believes it is almost impossible for retail investors to trade the market profitably against professionals and that is why the focus should be on the long term.Although I felt this book was too basic for me , I gave it a high rating since it could be very useful for the audience intended, i.e.: absolute beginners in investing.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional Product!By Abigail HartzelJim Cramer is an amazing finance guy. Not big on scholarship winning, but he definitely likes Bristol Meyer Squibb as an investment. Great Book!

Jim Cramer, host of CNBC's Mad Money and bestselling author and financial guru, offers specific advice about how to overcome your fear of the markets and put your investments back on track to recover from the financial debacle of 2008-2009.You don't even look at your 401(k) statements any longer. When mail comes from your broker or your mutual fund, you throw it in a drawer unopened. You know how bad things are and you're just waiting for them to improve before you start thinking about your money again. But how long will that take? How many opportunities will you miss while you hide your head in the sand? Shouldn't you be doing something? Jim Cramer says that there are positive steps you can take to start the financial healing process. You can start to get back to even, then go from there. Cramer explains how to make the best of the bad situation you're in, and how not to succumb to fear and panic. He tell you what steps to take depending on your age and your financial goals. Getting Back to Even will include advice on refinancing a mortgage, recovering from job loss or downsizing, and making a new financial plan. It will include twenty new rules for investing that fit the current economic climate. Jim Cramer believes that the stock market is still the best long-term investment anyone can make. He'll offer guidance on which stocks to select, or how to find a reliable and successful mutual-fund manager, and how to spot the economic recovery when it happens. Whether you're 25 and investing to build wealth or 65 and hoping to restore your retirement savings, you'll need the advice Jim Cramer offers in Getting Back to Even.