

FROM GAMBLER TO ENTREPRENEUR

From Gambling to Success Strategy



CIPRIAN IPATE

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I shared hard-learned lessons and personal experiences in the book "From Player to Entrepreneur". I have made difficult decisions to change my life instead of choosing easy choices for the hard life that awaits me. How did I get involved in gambling? What are the factors that have affected my life? How did we overcome these challenges? Now, I have made a promise to myself that I will help others by sharing my experiences and tips with readers so they can escape the curse of gambling addiction and also for a brighter future.

This book is dedicated to those who struggle with gambling addiction. It is for those who are exhausted by gaming habits and who want to break this vicious circle.

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Introduction: From player to entrepreneur

This book was written with the aim of highlighting the dark side of gambling addiction and how it can destroy lives. I see it as a personal mission to be a support for those struggling with this problem and to initiate a movement against this devastating addiction.

Gambling addiction is a severely underestimated and often misunderstood problem. My goal with this book is to change this perspective and realize the importance of deeply understanding this addiction. I committed to sharing everything: my tumultuous journey, lessons learned and mistakes made, all with an open heart and honesty. I hope this will inspire and offer hope to those struggling with this difficult issue, guiding them towards a path of transformation.

This book is not just a text, but a guide that will accompany you through the maze of gambling addiction and give you a clear plan to success. My book is divided into three parts.

The first part presents my own story about gambling addiction, starting with my first experience with bookmakers and the immersive atmosphere of gambling, describing the picture of temptation that finally caught me. After numerous struggles throughout this journey, navigating the heights and depths of addiction, I was finally able to regain control of my life.

Part two of my book focuses on ways to prevent gambling addiction and even overcome it. Here you'll find actionable steps and tested methods to quit addiction and keep yourself on track. It is important to understand that giving up and maintaining abstinence is an ongoing process, requiring long-term commitment.

Finally, part three reflects the complete transformation from gamblers into successful entrepreneurs. Here, you'll find guidance and tips on how to thrive in life. Sales can build a successful career and improve personal relationships.

This book gives you the tools to overcome your gambling addiction, rediscover yourself, and create a fulfilling and successful life. The path to this transformation can bring challenges, but together, we can face anything and move towards a more enlightened and satisfying life.

My little wish? I hope that these words will be able to change at least one person's life. Of course, I dream of a bigger impact, but to make a positive change at least one life would be like a jackpot for me. Let's be honest, we're not born with gambling addiction in our DNA any more than we're born alcoholics or substance users. It is the influence of the world around us, publicity and social pressures that can influence us.

This promise is about fighting gambling addiction, ending this vicious cycle and starting a new era. Through this book, I hope that by sharing my own learning journey and methods of quitting gambling, I can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

So this is just the beginning of the adventure I offer in this book. I hope my story and commitment to this fight will inspire as many people as possible, guiding them to a more prosperous and fulfilling life.

"You'll never succeed if you don't start. But once you start, you'll never be the same." – Zig Ziglar.

Part 1: Promise

Buckle up for the first part, in which I will share with you my experiences and mistakes. There is no judgment here; I simply expose them. I hope my stories will give you real insight and an edge in understanding the network of gambling addiction.

A bright hope for a life without gambling. Looking back at the pain caused by gambling and reinforcing your commitment to breaking free from the vicious circle, emphasizing that quitting gambling is not a one-time decision, but an ongoing process. Sharing this rollercoaster ride is expected to be a guiding light for others going through similar storms.

Be careful: it's not just about gamblers. Families, friends and neighbors are all caught in the crossfire. This book isn't just about problems. It is a toolkit for solutions. Together, we will kick this curse and paint the picture of a healthier and more balanced life.

Let us walk this journey together, with the hope that my words will shake and inspire those who fight against this brutal addiction. Let's be honest, it's not easy at all. But we can master it and gain some control. And yes, I have a backpack full of my own mistakes and failures that I throw at you so you can avoid them.

The sad truth is that many people begin to experience these sins as they take their first steps into adulthood, tasting freedom and trying to decipher life's responsibilities.

This promise is not just a promise; It is a vibration, a guiding light for anyone who is entangled in the shadows of addiction. It is a testimony to the belief that together we are stronger and that overcoming gambling addiction is not a job for one person. It's a group effort.

In this book, I will tell you that there is always hope of recovery from any challenge, be it gambling or not.

Yes, I gambled. Now, the reason I started gambling is because I started playing with the negative effects of my social circle. It took

me an impossibly long time to realize I had a problem and find a way out.

In the past, people around me influenced me and I got involved without realizing the dangers that awaited me. How deeply I was absorbed. It is a discouraging and bittersweet feeling that you are now trapped in an evil from which you cannot escape. Recognizing the problem was a crucial and challenging moment for me. I had to accept that I had an addiction and that I needed to control it. Despite the misunderstandings around me, I need to take serious steps to achieve this.

The main idea is to introduce you to my world, giving you a deep perspective so that you can learn to organize your own activities more effectively. By sharing my experiences, I open the book of my life so that you can draw valuable lessons from my errors. We are all travelers in this tumultuous adventure called life, aren't we? If I can make you understand this innovation, I feel like I've won a lot.

Even though it seems complicated and sometimes impossible to avoid this evil, I assure you that with determined confidence, we can find ways to take control and recover in order to recover our lives and live a whole of contentment.

It's like shouting on the rooftop, "I'm here to stay and I care." It's not just a personal discussion; It is a joint effort to face the challenges that come with the enticing claws of gambling, fully aware that they can turn lives upside down.

This promise is not a solitary mission. It's a statement to stand up against the odds. It's an outstretched hand to those stuck in the sticky nets of addiction, saying, "I'll cover you."

Imagine this promise as a journey of understanding and recovery. The person who makes the promise to help others is like a beacon, guiding others through the stormy seas of addiction. It's not just about personal power; It's about having an entire community ready to throw a lifeline.

Taking on a gambling addiction is more than just words. It's a vow to break the cycle of bad choices. It's about changing destructive habits

with a fresh start, a commitment to healing and rebuilding. It's like saying, "Compassion, understanding, and a backbone of steel. We will turn this ship around."

My story

Making a decisive decision at 16, after completing the school year, I started working in a bakery. Coming from a family with limited financial possibilities, this step represented my entry into the adult world. It was an experience that attracted me enormously, giving me the opportunity to earn my own money. This opportunity instilled in me a deep desire and an unwavering determination to succeed. I felt I was gaining financial independence and strength, and I was determined to achieve even more.

Every day, I passionately learned every step of bread making, from preparing the dough to removing the bread from the oven and placing it in crates. I enjoyed every moment I turned simple ingredients into a satisfying end product. Over time, my bosses began to appreciate me for my bread-making skills.

When I look back, I wonder if it was a decent decision. I chose to drop out of school to earn a monthly income and advance my career. I decided to leave school because of my desire to grow up. I tried to be the best at my job, but upbringing and education were just as important.

This skill taught me that success is not only measured in money and positions, but it is essential to find a balance between our desire to win and the realization of our true passions and ideals. We should remember to take care of personal development and fully enjoy life. Today, as I write this book, I understand that it is essential to be the best at what we do, but it is equally important to listen to our feelings and be consistently excellent.

"True wisdom comes from recognizing that education is a lifelong process and that our personal development never stops." – John Dewey

At the age of 17, I started to get involved in the world of gambling. I was dating older boys in a neighborhood in Romania, where people lived without big dreams; In a way, it was neighborhood life.

During a discussion with a friend, I discovered a job opportunity as a salesman in a certain place, Constanta, by the sea, and the idea of working in such an attractive environment, with beautiful girls on the beach and parties, immediately attracted me. I didn't hesitate to say it was an opportunity I couldn't miss.

I was excited that day. My friend had spoken to me only the day before, but my resolve was so firm that I felt no hesitation in acting. I went home and told my mom about my decision to go to the beach, but she initially thought I was joking. In the evening I tried to tell her that I would leave tomorrow, but for her it was something she couldn't believe. I woke up early on the morning of my departure when my mother expressed concern. It's hard to accept that sometimes our decisions affect our loved ones, but my decision was firm then. I knew I had to follow this path. When he saw that I woke up in the morning and I wasn't joking, he started talking to me and thinking again, because when I had something in my head to do, it was hard to change my mind. After several discussions, she started crying and brought me some clothes and a towel to take with me. And he made me some sandwiches, just like in school.

In addition to the excitement and determination to go ashore during this time, I also had a concern about my six-year-old younger sister and did not fully realize at the time that I was influencing her. And I was going to be away from her at such a critical time for her development. I was wondering if I would participate in the sea or how this decision would affect our relationship. It was a challenge to associate my dream with my desire.

Although it was difficult to take an unknown step away from my daily routine, I am grateful for the courage to accept this opportunity to earn my own money and be responsible for my journey, which gave me freedom. I really felt like an adult. Although this decision came with challenges and uncertainties, it was a time full of enthusiasm and opportunities for personal development and interaction with people from different backgrounds. It helped me understand myself better and discover my passion for sales and interacting with people. I can't describe the difficult times I went through, but I also admit that this adventure taught me many valuable lessons. I learned to take risks, follow my passion and create a story. Not everything was perfect, but I grew up and learned a lot about myself and life.

"Life is where your comfort zone ends," Neale Donald Walsch said.

At work, I had the opportunity to meet a member of the team who introduced me to the world of gambling, in a different way than I had learned in the neighborhood, especially with the slot game, which played an important role in my evolution in the field of gambling. He was a man full of life and enthusiasm, always ready to explore and experiment. With each day we spent together, we began to share the same passion for adrenaline and excitement that these games offered. My partner fascinated me with stories about impressive winnings and the intensity of emotions he felt in the presence of slot machines. He was passionately telling me about those moments when the reels were spinning madly, giving rise to victorious combinations on screen. These stories fueled my curiosity about those capable of generating such powerful feelings, and the desire to be around them became more intense day by day.

So, one day, we decided to go to a huge casino together to try slot games. It was a vibrant and lively place, where the distinctive sounds of slot machines and the enthusiastic voices of players resounded. Looking around, I felt like an explorer in a new universe, ready to discover the secrets of these games. In front of me lay rows of slots,

each with unique themes and features that appealed to different people. I carefully selected a slot machine to try out the big options and prizes, put money into it and couldn't wait to start my journey into the world of gambling.

As the symbols lined up on the screen, I felt a wave of emotions engulf me. Every moment was a mixture of excitement and suspense; Even a short win brought immense joy. I was losing track of time in front of the machine, hoping for that perfect combination and trusting that luck was on my side. I didn't know that gambling is a bit like a cunning trick. They trick you into thinking it's easy to win, but reality often brings negative consequences, and the thrill of winning is quickly followed by disappointment. In my youthful naivety about gambling, I fell into the trap of believing that quick and easy winnings can last forever. Without knowing it, I became addicted to gambling.

It is essential to understand that, despite occasional gains and some successes, relying solely on luck and youth is not a sustainable plan. The perks may seem tempting, but they can wreak havoc on your life, affecting relationships, finances, and emotions.

My journey into the world of gambling marked a turning point, pushing me to face my weaknesses and regain control of my life. Winning a few times fueled my excitement, but I knew it wasn't a path to continue. The new lifestyle brought a sense of freedom and adventure, especially the excitement and adrenaline that captivated me.

However, the danger of this obsession with gambling began to grip me. Instead of focusing on education and building a future, I got lost in the game, constantly looking for more gains. It took me a while to realize that I had jeopardized my future and lost myself. This addiction caused problems in my relationships and mental health and pushed me to a point where I could no longer ignore the problems. It took serious steps to regain control.

Imagine what I could have done with the money I spent on gambling, getting a driver's license, investing in education, saving for a house,

traveling and discovering the world. Our lives teach us to listen to our parents or teachers, but we lack enough guidance on managing money and making wise financial decisions.

This is my perspective, and others may have different experiences with financial education. In my case, the lack of proper education left me vulnerable. I therefore stress the importance of financial education and maintaining a healthy balance between entertainment and finance. Despite my mistakes, I hope my story serves as a warning and encourages others facing a similar struggle to make wise decisions about money and life.

In the years that followed, I dedicated myself to hard work and excellence. Every day, I strived to learn and hone my skills, aiming to be the best on my team. Success quickly came to work, but every night I got lost in the maze of casinos. Small gambling halls were no longer enough; I looked for bigger casinos, where temptation and danger lurked. Gambling has hindered my personal and professional development, despite traveling and meeting new people.

Chronic fatigue caused by sleepless nights in casinos affected my work, preventing me from focusing on projects. Losing money for rent has become increasingly common, which has led to increased financial pressure. I spent sleepless and adventurous nights with my friend, often without money for accommodation. I vividly remember an extremely cold winter night when we could not afford to pay for a hotel. The train station became our shelter, with radiators providing warmth on that freezing night. It was one of the worst nights I've had. We spent all our money that day at the casino and couldn't pay for the hotel afterwards. Away from home, without anyone knowing.

We had argued over who would sleep first and for how long. A train controller came because he had heard a noise at one point and wanted to kick us out. That was the last thing I needed. Even though it was one of the worst nights I've had, now I smile when I think of her. And it wasn't the only misfortune or punishment for our actions. With the same friend, after losing all the money at the casino, we had to return to another city where we already had accommodation. But

having no money, we hitchhiked to find a car to head to the city we were supposed to reach. And, unfortunately, it was winter again. When we left, the morning was sunny and pleasant, but in the evening there was a terrible blizzard. He was wearing a thin jacket, while I had a thicker one. It was so cold that he started crying and we decided that until we could get out of there, we would swap jackets so he could warm up a bit.

In the following periods, forced to face financial shortages, we ended up sleeping on park benches. People say hardship is part of the road to success, but I realized I was self-destructive through my obsession with gambling. Those difficult nights were the result of addiction, jeopardizing stability and well-being.

Time passes relentlessly, leaving no opportunity to back down.

My birthdays are not occasions I look forward to. They often bring a sense of sadness, seeming to be the loneliest day of the year. Why celebrate the passing of another year? What have I really accomplished by simply adding another year to my life?

Instead, I find more value in the other 364 days—times for reflection and faithful planning. My birthday becomes a time of introspection rather than celebration, a time to meditate on the passage of time and the changes in my life.

My birthdays varied dramatically, influenced by circumstances and the people around me. Some were just days of contemplation, a chance to think about the time that has passed and my choices. You can't make up for time spent or undo past mistakes, but you can learn and grow from them.

Despite this birthday, I console myself in moments of real change, such as New Year's Eve and Christmas, when hope and goodness prevail. My birthday may be overshadowed by sadness, but it's encouraging to know that there are times when the world lights up with positivity and creates unforgettable memories.

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