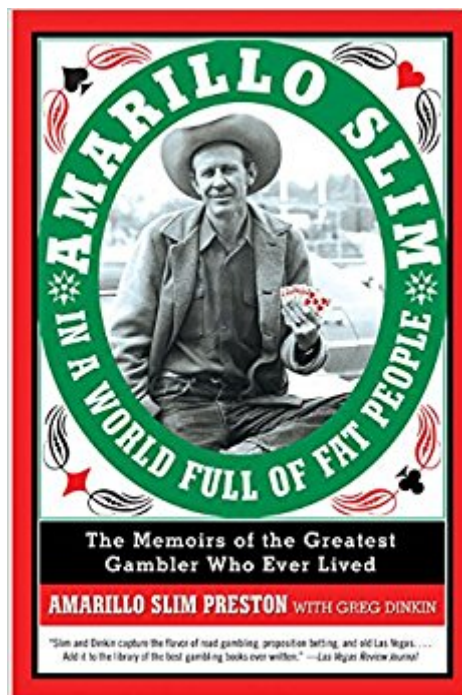


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# Amarillo Slim In A World Full Of Fat People: The Memoirs Of The Greatest Gambler Who Ever Lived



## Synopsis

Amarillo Slim Preston has won \$300,000 from Willie Neslon playing dominoes and \$2 million from Larry Flynt playing poker. He has shuffled, dealt, and bluffed with some of twentieth-century's most famous figures. He beat Minnesota Fats at pool with a broom, Bobby Riggs at table tennis with a skillet, and Evel Knievel at golf with a carpenter's hammer. Amarillo Slim has gambled with 'em all, and left most of them wishing they hadn't. The memoirs of a living American icon, *Amarillo Slim in a World Full of Fat People* is the story of life as a Texas road gambler and the discovery of the Wild West. It's also the story of how Slim won the World Series of Poker at Binion's Horseshoe, became a worldwide celebrity, and brought poker from smoky backrooms to mainstream America. Just let him tell it: "If there's anything I'll argue about, I'll either bet on it or shut up. And since it's not very becoming for a cowboy to be arguing, I've made a few wagers in my day. But in my humble opinion, I'm no ordinary hustler. You see, neighbor, I never go looking for a sucker. I look for a champion and make a sucker out of him ..." I'm fixing to tell you a few things that I've been keeping to myself for a lot of years. If you're not careful, you just might learn how to get rich without ever having a job."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Legendary gambler Amarillo Slim Preston, who captured the World Series of Poker in 1972 and has legitimately snookered more money out of more people than most of us make in a lifetime, steers clear of elaborating on the particulars of such games as Texas Hold 'Em in this off-the-cuff, even flighty tour through his often literally death-defying adventures. Since he's played with the likes of

Evel Knievel, Willie Nelson and Minnesota Fats, it is a smooth narrative decision on Preston's part to devote his folksy charm to describing the various characters he has encountered, not the mechanics of how he always beat them (his first rule for poker success is "Play the players more than you play the cards"). He was eventually able to make a career out of gambling, sending his three children to college and leading a comfortable life on his winnings (perhaps the most revealing episode arrives late in the memoir when the nationally known gambler who charmed the now-deceased drug lord Pablo Escobar talks about his joy in coaching his children's Little League team). Like all natural-born sharps, though, Preston knows the virtue of keeping his cards close to his chest, which is a fine strategy at the poker table, but a poor narrative one. Passing phrases such as "I got into some tax trouble" are left curiously unexplained while the author's more self-aggrandizing adventures garner elaborate attention. But when an author has won \$2 million from Larry Flynt, and tells the story of it so good-naturedly, readers will pardon the selective nature of his reminiscences. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pool hustler, sports bookie, and card player Amarillo Slim is a champion of the World Series of Poker, which he also helped create. But he's probably best known for the many outrageous "proposition" bets he's won--including playing one-pocket pool with Minnesota Fats using a broom handle, golf with Evel Knievel using a carpenter's hammer, and ping-pong with Bobby Riggs using an iron skillet. Although this autobiography is a bit heavy on the braggadocio, Slim and coauthor Dinkin provide a stacked deck of amusing anecdotes guaranteed to bring a smile to the toughest poker face. As readers follow Slim from his school days in Arkansas and Texas all the way up to a near-fatal fall he took in the Idaho backcountry last year at age 74, they'll pick up a gambling education as well, learning how to hustle the suckers by guessing which sugar cube a fly will land on, or by hitting a golf ball a mile. Frank Sennett Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the Bill Clinton School of Public Policy they make all new students recommend three books to the other students. This would be one of my three. It's not just about gambling but about strategy. It shows how winning isn't about luck but putting the odds in your favor or not playing at all. There are endless great stories in this book and I wish he'd of kept them coming because each one is a gem. This book is not about one man's personality but about the history of gambling mix with really good theories about life and making money. After reading this book I went out and immediately made

money by making sure I was a winner before I even bet. Every salesman and politician should have to read this book!

I've assumed risk my whole life, not taken risk. That's Amarillo Slim for sure: the master of assuming risk. Can't say anything bad about Slim - he does it while the rest of us just sit back and marvel at it all.... Sure he stacks the deck. Isn't that what the company you work for does to you? Isn't that how folks hold over us, by stacking the deck in their favor? Yup. You just have to learn the rules. Listen to Slim....

A real cowboy and gambler.

I was a little disappointed reading this. While it was entertaining I felt it was lacking depth and honesty. I would have liked to read a little more about the superbowl of poker and other aspects of poker in general. But, unless Slim was at the forefront and shone in a good light it was not to be mentioned. As I said earlier it was entertaining, a quick read and pretty well written.

Super entertaining read, about someone who lead a really extraordinary life. I was a bit saddened when I found out that he had passed away a couple of years ago. I sure would like to have met him. His adventures are legendary! The story is well written and keeps you wanting to read, hoping the book doesn't end.

I was hoping/expecting this to be a book filled with interesting stories - and perhaps a bit of insight into the gambler frame of mind. What I found was a tedious telling of trite tales by a sad character that never seemed to have developed much humanity or depth.

I've read the reviews of others and agree with some of their comments. Slim is arrogant and his stories are all self-serving. Would you expect any less from a Texas gambler? Secondly, does this minor annoyance diminish the entertainment value of the book? In this book you will get a little bit of history, some good stories (or tall tales), and nothing about his losses. Slim gives us an interesting perspective on the birth and growth of Las Vegas. It's from the user rather than the common mob, business, or political points of view. He tells us stories about some of the people he's gambled against (and won), from jailhouse thugs, Minnesota Fats, Jimmy the Greek, Pablo Escobar, and many in-between. Slim writes nothing about gambling losses and only hints at his battles with the

IRS. Though I think a balanced biography is not what the author was shooting for and would have diminish the book as a whole. Overall, this is a highly entertaining book. It's an easy read. Most importantly, you don't have to know how to play poker, pool, or gamble any other way to enjoy it.

For those who love brilliant, resourceful, engaging stories this book is for you! One of the great proposition bettors of all time shares the stories of the bets that made him rich! Amarillo Slim didn't look for a sucker. He looked for a champion and made a sucker out of him!

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