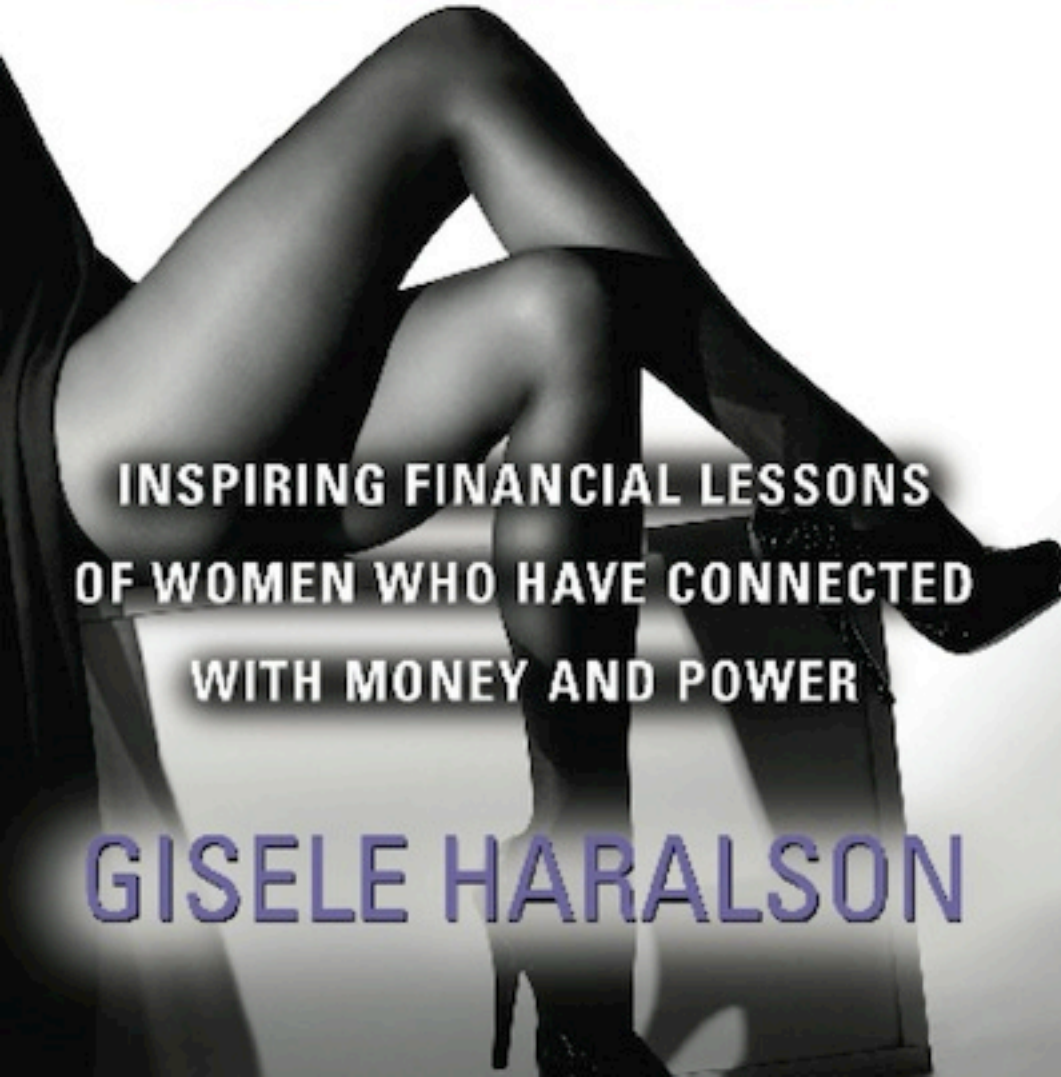
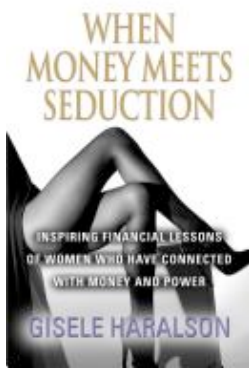


# WHEN MONEY MEETS SEDUCTION



INSPIRING FINANCIAL LESSONS  
OF WOMEN WHO HAVE CONNECTED  
WITH MONEY AND POWER

GISELE HARALSON



*When Money Meets Seduction* reveals how love, money, and seduction have a way of shaking us to our very core. You will come to recognize that love is inherently not a level playing field and that those with money often play by a different set of rules. The book will motivate women to stand bold and take action in regard to their finances.

# When Money Meets Seduction

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**When Money Meets Seduction:  
Inspiring Financial Lessons of  
Women Who Have Connected  
with Money and Power**

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## **Chapter One**

### **The Key Is to Believe**

Rags to riches, is when an individual can rise from poverty to wealth or sometimes from obscurity to fame. These types of inspirational stories give people hope that they can also overcome their struggles and rise to fame or fortune. As Americans, we live in a society where we have the privilege and confidence in our ability to move between social classes, and these opportunities are the key to the American Dream.

I have always enjoyed reading success stories about people doing amazing things in life and given the fact that I have spent the vast majority of my professional career educating and encouraging women to be the best that they can be in the areas of parenting, family, finances, and career. It is my goal to inspire women to follow their dreams and know that if you apply yourself anything can happen, and this idea of finding Prince Charming to take care of you could be quite tricky. Therefore, it would only be fitting that I dedicate this chapter to those women who are trying so desperately to find their way and have it all. Balancing work and family is not an easy task, and many women wonder if it is possible to have it all.

Some of the stories I reviewed were women who took opportunities, talents, ideas, or challenges and turned them into success. What seemed to be astonishing to me and what I recognized was that there were common and powerful threads running through all their stories and accomplishments. If you

look and focus, success often leaves clues, but you have to be wise enough to find them.

In the next chapter I write about the influence my father had on my drive to succeed in life. He always said “You gotta get it.” What that phrase taught me was if I want anything in life I had to work, and that work would not always come easy. I would also come to learn you must not only take action but you have to stay focused because you will encounter many distractions along this journey.

Success is not difficult and there are many levels of success; people who have accomplished great things basically did the same things that all of us could do if we put our minds to it, which is go to school, dedicate ourselves to our studies, connect with like-minded individuals, become educated in your chosen field, and just get out there and do it. This is how many individuals have learned the secrets to success. You have to be persistent and always keep your eyes on the prize.

The *Women Who Dared* stories consist of women who would not take no for an answer and who knocked on doors until they were opened. But it must be understood that not everyone wants the same things in life and success is not always measured by what you have or don’t have but by your sense of happiness and contentment with your life.

These women were emotionally invested in the outcome and would not stop until they accomplished their goals. Although I’ve read and studied their rise to the top and was truly moved, I have only given a sample of their accomplishments, because I encourage you to find those stories that motivate you to follow your dreams. As you will see, not every woman’s desires are the same, but within their stories are lessons. This book is not about

### *When Money Meets Seduction*

any one woman's life or journey to success but about the importance of women forging their own way, being independent, but understanding as mothers, wives, daughters, and employees our lives and dreams are sometimes interrupted for the advancement of our families. Nevertheless, it is how we deal with that interruption that will determine our financial future. The key to your financial future is to focus on a plan, communicating openly with your partner, if you have one, and find the right balance for you and your family.

#### **I Believe**

I have been so fortunate to be able to work in a field I love for over sixteen years. It has been a privilege and a blessing to work with so many wonderful parents, children and families. My message is always encouragement. Therefore, I urge women everywhere to be confident in knowing how to take their dreams to fruition and not be afraid. I have always believed in positive thinking. I know that God has always been the guiding force keeping me and protecting me, and He is who I continue to believe in.

I believe that all you need to know is what you want to do and what you need to do to make it happen. Yes, there is a lot that will come between the two, but as the saying goes, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." No matter how long you have had a dream, it can come true if you persevere.

I also believe that in order to succeed in life, or get to a place where you can feel comfortable about your future and your future accomplishments, you have to really focus on the present and to release yourself from what others think. Yes, there are women who have had advantages that others have not. There is also a segment of women who have taken these advantages and

made the best of them while others were not so lucky. As women, we need to start learning from the experiences of others. In every chapter of this book, you will find financial tips which can assist you on your quest to financial peace of mind. You will see as you read through the pages there is no such thing as something for nothing. You have to be willing to roll up your sleeves and put in the work.

I was always trained to take care of myself. There was no other way to live but to work and make a way for myself. When I got married, I didn't think nor did my husband give me the impression that I would be a wife of leisure, I knew I had to get it. There were too many things I wanted to do, places I wanted to go, and people I wanted to meet. True success is the feeling you get when you achieve your life's purpose, whatever that may be. I recognize that I am a work in progress. Have I accomplished all the things that I would like? No, but I am a believer, who never stop setting goals and working toward them.

### **Here Is What Happened**

*The death of my father and husband each left me in a place of darkness and despair. I knew that I had to take the knowledge I had gained from these extraordinary men and allow it to help me reach my fullest potential. I could not let grief get the best of me. I knew that my life was about to take a new direction, and I was the only one responsible for me.*

*As a mother, author, advocate, and educator, what I have learned about myself is that I will never stop dreaming, never stop evolving, never stop believing, and never stop thinking outside the box. Even though sometimes my dreams have not always worked out exactly as I had planned, I've always been determined to try something new. I believed that there's a reason*



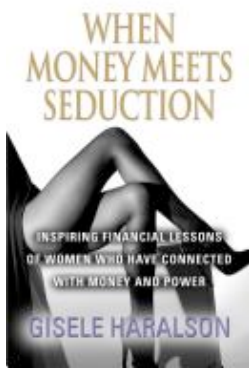
*When Money Meets Seduction*

*for everything that has happened in my life which has taken me to this amazing place.*

*Although my professional career has granted me personal as well as financial fulfillment, it was not until the birth of my son that I truly understood the greatest fulfillment of all, which was not to be afraid to unleash what lay with me. I have come to understand that my best reward at this time is my son. Even though I believe in women working, and having their own money and identity, I also know the importance of being there for your children, especially during their first few years of life. I believe, and research has shown, that for children the first three to five years are very critical in regard to their development, and to be able to be in a position to give my son that strong foundation and allow him to bond with his mother is priceless. Therefore, in my new role as mother, I knew that I had to be creative when it came to my work. It had to be flexible or it was not going to work.*

*Consequently, writing gave me that ability to be creative and exhilarating. This was in essence the perfect outlet for me, and therefore, I have begun a new chapter in my life. This new place allows me through meditation and prayer to hold on tighter to my God, and as a result I've become stronger, more confident and empowered with new possibilities.*

*As I sit and write, I am so emotional about the exciting newness of this, how Gavin came into my life and helped me rebuild myself. At this time in my professional world, motherhood offers me perspective; I don't stress like I did early in my career. This little boy has balanced me and given me a new outlook on life.*



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