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# SECRET MONEY: LIVING ON BITCOIN IN THE REAL WORLD

## SECRET MONEY



**LIVING ON BITCOIN  
IN THE REAL WORLD**

By Kashmir Hill

A Forbes Original



## Synopsis

Bitcoin has become known for its use to gamble, buy drugs and arrange hits, but that's not why it was originally set up. The first white paper on the currency, published by the mysterious Satoshi Nakamoto, enthused about the ability to send money around the world easily and without transaction fees, and that's why now, five years after its creation, it's gone from being worth pennies to hundreds of dollars. Forbes Senior Online Editor Kashmir Hill explores the cryptocurrency's rise through the lens of her trying week surviving on the digital coin.

## Book Information

File Size: 3307 KB

Print Length: 72 pages

Publisher: Forbes Media (January 15, 2014)

Publication Date: January 15, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00HSTM7W0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #619,008 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #60

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Business > Commercial #107 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Business > Franchising #107 in Books > Computers & Technology > History & Culture > Computer & Internet Law

## Customer Reviews

I follow Forbes on Twitter and they often tweet links to Bitcoin stories. I usually ignore these stories, but one day I clicked on one and I immediately became fascinated with Bitcoin. A Google search revealed a ton of articles. The problem is that the articles on the internet are all over the place in terms of quality, accuracy, and technical depth--especially if you just want an introduction to Bitcoin and a realistic account of what you can do with this digital currency. This book solves that problem. It provides the best non-technical introduction to Bitcoin that I've read. And more importantly it provides an authentic account of what it's like to try to live off of Bitcoin for a week. The author starts

off describing what Bitcoin is: a new form of currency that is digital instead of physical, & that you can transfer electronically & instantaneously to other people just like encrypted e-mail. She then goes into great detail about what it's like to try to buy things with Bitcoin--because despite the hype surrounding it, there just aren't very many merchants that accept it. Those stories were awesome. You really feel sorry for the author and share her anxiety as the value of Bitcoin fluctuates.

Thankfully, the Bitcoin community is extremely helpful towards the author in terms of their time and sharing their knowledge. Anyway, I would have given this five stars, but I felt it needed at least one picture sequence showing a transaction (holding up her iPhone to the merchant's QR code, entering the amount to transfer, showing the remaining balance). If you want an excellent big picture, realistic account of Bitcoin, this is \*the\* book to get. Highly recommended.

This book is all about bitcoin in today's world. A very practical view of what bitcoin is now, and what it MIGHT be in the future. Bitcoin could go a lot of places. In any case, you should read this book. You'll learn more from this story than reading hundreds of speculative articles online. Just pony up the dough and buy this book already. Just a shame you can't buy it in Bitcoins...yet

The tale of living on a virtual currency not broadly accepted, even in techie San Francisco, is heart pounding in its way. One feels for the author as she struggles to provide herself with food, shelter, transportation...and coffee. The bits of biography and technical data with which she parallels her adventure story detail the fascinating development of Bitcoin itself. The grand finale is a Bitcoin community triumph I recommend it to anyone who lives in 21st Century.

I had not heard of bitcoin other than the fact that I recently met a guy who's really into it, and has made a lot of money with it to boot. I was mildly interested by this, and I randomly picked this ebook to read up on it. As a diary of the author's attempt to survive on bitcoin for a week, it's surprisingly funny and engaging. She did a great job of explaining what a bitcoin is, detailing the pros and cons, and profiling the various people who are involved in the bitcoin community. I'd certainly recommend giving this one a read.

Part prime, part experiment, Hill provides context to the opportunities and challenges facing Bitcoin. Filled with interviews from pioneers and players in the BC movement, her insights make Bitcoin relevant to the uneducated, placing it in a grander conversation about the future of currency in a global, interconnected, always-on world. And she does it without venturing too deeply into the

complex technologies behind Bitcoin, making it easy to digest for those simply wanting to understand what fueled its rise, who is behind it and where it might fit in our future.

Fantastic book. It gives lots of information about Bitcoin to the uninitiated, all in a novel-like setting that isn't short of hilarious moments. A great way to get started in the world of this potentially revolutionary idea that could deeply change the way we think about what really gives money its value.

A great read from Kashmir Hill. It provides a necessary primer on Bitcoin, while also providing a well referenced, well quoted and very personal one-week journey of using only Bitcoin. Highly recommended.

Very good book, informative, factual, very well written. Enjoyed every single page, congratulations to the editor for suggesting the author going out and trying to live only of bitcoins!

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