

KIRKUS

REVIEWS

TITLE INFORMATION

TRADE SECRETS

Rozner, Holly

hollyrozner.com (380 pp.)

ISBN: 9780986016301; August 9, 2012

BOOK REVIEW

Rozner's debut novel peeks into the high-powered world of insider trading.

Hoping to discover more about her father's mysterious death in a car crash, Remy Masterman enters the secretive, male-dominated world of stock trading, where she learns to assert herself and value her femininity. Readers will be captivated by her journey, and also by the men whom she falls in love with and the conflicted, sometimes erotic relationships that develop between them. When Sarna, the high-strung wife of a fellow trader, joins the Chicago Stock Exchange, Remy at first feels as though she's been displaced as the sole female at the Exchange. However, the women's lives intimately intersect as a striking female friendship is born. With multiple storylines and finely tuned characters, the elegantly fashioned novel amounts to more than its pieces would suggest. Rozner skillfully creates complex, provocative characters, with particularly strong female leads. Women call the shots; Rozner subtly indicates that, although the stock exchange appears to be a man's world, women possess an intoxicating, seemingly irresistible power: their allure. At times, however, the vivid, sometimes gratuitous sex scenes may distract readers from the well-crafted plot. Female characters—specifically Sarna and Rosa—utilize sex to achieve their goals, with men like putty in their hands. For instance, in one explicit scene, Sarna convinces her husband to let her trade stocks simply by having sex with him. For the most part, though, shrewd, sharp-witted intelligence parallels the steamy sensuality. Fans of *Fifty Shades of Gray* (2011) will approve.

A smart, sexy debut.