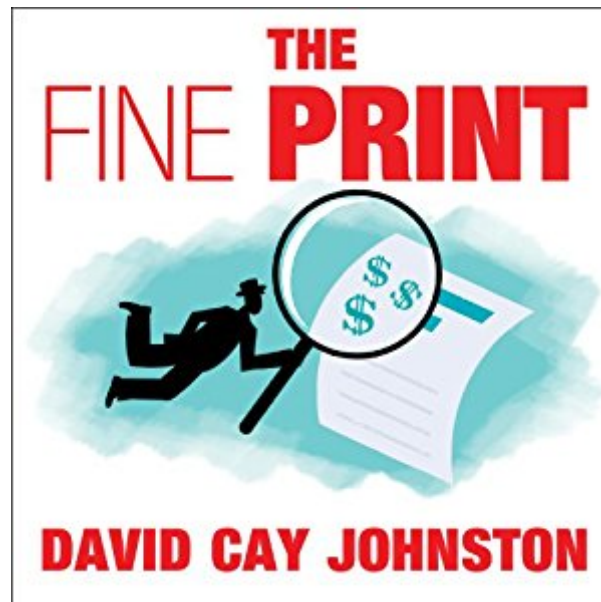


The book was found

The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use 'Plain English' To Rob You Blind



Synopsis

David Cay Johnston has made a name for himself as the defender of the common man, calling out the rich and powerful for cheating the system at the expense of everyone else. Whether he's exposing unjust loopholes in the tax code that help the rich get richer or pointing out how powerful corporations pocket government subsidies at excessive taxpayer expense, Johnston is an eloquent town crier for justice and equality. Now this best-selling author has turned his attention to the sneaky stipulations hidden in the fine print of just about every contract and government rule. Johnston has been known to whip out a utility bill - any utility bill - and explain line by line what all that mumbo jumbo actually means (and it doesn't mean anything good, unless you happen to be the utility company). Within all that jargon, disclosed in accordance with all requirements to you, the unsuspecting customer, lie the tools many companies use to rob you blind. Even worse is what's missing - all the contractually binding clauses that companies hide elsewhere, yet still enforce. *The Fine Print* is essential listening for anyone who wants to wrest power back from devious corporations and end their longstanding consumer abuse.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 14 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 15, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B009QUXY9E

Best Sellers Rank: #45 in Books > Law > Business > Consumer Law #112 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Business & Investing > Accounting #234 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Law

Customer Reviews

Investigative reporter and Pulitzer-winner Johnston reports how American consumers are gouged by practices that go on in plain sight. For example, 19 states let companies pocket the state income taxes withheld from employees for up to 25 years, sometimes simply for moving existing jobs from one state to another. State and local governments spend at least \$70 billion/year to subsidize

factories, office-buildings, etc., per research by Kenneth Thomas. Research papers suggest that the cost of handling bounced checks could be less than a penny - banks charge eg. \$35 fees for each one. BNSF is often the only rail line farmers can use, and routinely charges 2.5 - 4X variable costs. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) regulates some railroad prices, allows them up to 1.8X. Farmers bear the shipping costs, but grain companies contract for most shipping. The result - farmers can't sue for being 'railroaded.' The railroads also sometimes provide poor service to both their coal and grain customers - car shortages. One of the largest electric utilities is MidAmerican Energy Holdings, a monopoly owned by Berkshire Hathaway. MidAmerican benefits from profit-now, pay tax-later corporate tax laws. In 2009 it paid less than 17% tax on profits, while being allowed to charge customers the full 35% corporate tax rate. Similarly with Buffett's PacifiCorp utility. In 1996 the STB ruled that if any portion of a trip is on a monopoly rail line the monopoly rail can charge monopoly rates all the way. Railroads are also allowed to require that contract terms be kept confidential, supposedly to promote competition. Since 1995, average cable prices have been rising 2.6X the cost of living. Glasgow, Ky. has provided Internet service since 1987 at less than commercial rates.

Over the years, I have wondered why my bills kept going up in spite of promises from various industries and companies describing how they were going to pass the savings on to me, and my bills would be going down. By all accounts, my phone bill should have gone down once I started buying my own phones and making fewer calls. My electric bill from Consolidated Edison should have shown a steady decline, as they promised it would when they were freed from regulation. My cable bill should have remained pretty steady at \$30.00 a month like it was 15 years ago instead of appreciate to \$130.00 a month, especially with a bundle. Author David Cay Johnston was wondering the same thing, only he took it a number of steps further and began investigating how common such occurrences were across the land, and he found out plenty. Electric companies serving Louisiana and neighboring states were charging their customers for electricity from streetlamps that were not working, even from lamps that had never been installed, and they had been doing so for decades. The bottom line is that many of these big companies have "market power," the ability to raise prices in spite of competition and weak economies. Instead of the competition keeping prices low companies collude to keep the prices high, even raising them. They may not have to pay the corporate taxes to the government but can charge you for them as if they had. They are allowed to charge you \$35.00 for overdrafts even though it costs them less than a penny to make the adjustment. They can create their own oligopolies over municipalities, counties, states, even

regions. Companies that offer enormous sums to buy the local power or water company will make it up in increased charges even if they cannot justify them.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use 'Plain English' to Rob You Blind
Rob Neyer's Big Book of Baseball Blunders: A Complete Guide to the Worst Decisions and Stupidest Moments in Baseball History
Windows Vista; Plain & Simple (Bpg-Plain & Simple) Windows Vista(TM) Plain & Simple (Bpg-Plain & Simple)
Plain Fame (The Plain Fame Series Book 1) Plain Again (The Plain Fame Series Book 3) Plain Change (The Plain Fame Series Book 2) Plain Choice (The Plain Fame Series Book 5)
Robert's Rules in Plain English: A Readable, Authoritative, Easy-to-Use Guide to Running Meetings, 2nd Edition
Sinister Urge: The Life and Times of Rob Zombie
Linux Server Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips and Tools 1st (first) Edition by Flickenger, Rob published by O'Reilly Media (2003)
When to Rob a Bank: ...And 131 More Warped Suggestions and Well-Intended Rants
Job Escape Plan: The 7 Steps to Build a Home Business, Quit your Job and Enjoy the Freedom: Includes Interviews of John Lee Dumas, Nick Loper, Rob Cubbon, Steve Scott, Stefan Pylarinos & others!
Fine Motor Fun: Hundreds of Developmentally Age-Appropriate Activities Designed to Improve Fine Motor Skills (Key Education)
The Valuation of Financial Companies: Tools and Techniques to Measure the Value of Banks, Insurance Companies and Other Financial Institutions (The Wiley Finance Series)
Offshore Companies: How To Register Tax-Free Companies in High-Tax Countries
LLC: Quickstart Beginner's Guide to Limited Liability Companies (LLC Taxes, Limited Liability Companies Guide)
Big Data in Practice: How 45 Successful Companies Used Big Data Analytics to Deliver Extraordinary Results
Medicare Essentials: A Physician Insider Explains the Fine Print
Financial Fine Print: Uncovering a Company's True Value

[Dmca](#)