

Easy Money

How I wish I were talking about real life, but 'Easy Money' is the title of a board game we've recently discovered. As you may have read in the past, my husband and I collect board games. We used to go to thrift stores and pick up any games we saw that were missing from our collection. We fashioned ourselves a large game closet where we keep them all, and there are some games in there that we haven't yet had the chance to try. A few weeks ago, we pulled out the board game Easy Money and gave it a whirl – we all loved it!

According to the instructions, the first thing you do to prepare the game is to count out millions of dollars (fake of course, but still too bad) and bundle them into various amounts. This does actually add a fun element to the game; for some reason, it's much more fun to bet a million dollar bundle than it is to wager a million dollar bill – go figure. Had we purchased this game new, we would have had to do all the money-bundling ourselves, and knowing our general lack of patience, we might have quit right there. But we're glad we purchased this game used since all of the money had been pre-bundled for us. What I don't understand, however, is why the people who bundled all the money then got rid of the game, especially without seeming to play it much given the game's relatively good condition. Once the bundles of money are made, each player takes his or her turn, all moving the same pawn around the board until the bank runs out of money. Each player follows the instructions on the space they land upon, and usually some sort of gambling or betting is involved. I really like the game's Lottery concept, but the Wall Street spaces are not my favorite. I've played 3 games of Easy Money, and the Lottery was responsible for letting me win 2 of those games at the very last minute. When someone lands on the Wall Street space, every player has to predict whether the market will go up or down and bet accordingly. Since the

chances of winning the Wall Street bets are 50-50, you'd think I would have made some money. But I have some sort of terrible Wall Street luck, and I'd bet (pun intended, hehe) that I've only won the Wall Street gamble under 5 times throughout all 3 games I've played. I take it in stride though, the rest of the game is so fun and great for the whole family. Its only negative is the fact that it only accommodates up to 4 players, therefore it is not a contender for the crowded game nights we have with friends.