

# Hazards Of The Trade

Back in 1999, when I was expecting our first child, I remember having the WGN Chicago news at noon on the tv in our teeny-tiny downtown (Rockford Illinois) apartment. I was in the (hallway of a) kitchen making lunch, when I heard a long screech of tires coming from the tv. The fact that I was able to get from the kitchen into the living room to see the tv even in my expanded pregnant state should tell you how small that apartment really was... So I made it back in front of the tv to see the reporter **get hit by a car** – scary! Luckily she was ok, but the news anchors at the studio were a bit shook up and forced to forge ahead in the newscast, not knowing the fate of their co-worker. Every now and then, I remember this incident, and I've looked for a clip of it on the internet to no avail – until the other day when I finally found it. And just because it took me so long to find it, I will post it – perhaps others are looking for it also, who knows. Remember, the reporter was not seriously hurt in the accident – she hurt her leg and has since recovered from her injuries. Unfortunately, she was laid off last year, but the lay-off had nothing to do with the accident that had happened almost a decade earlier and everything to do with the station's budget cutbacks because of the terrible economy.

When searching for the above clip, I came across the following video of a Dutch weatherman getting nailed by a car, but don't worry – this is not as graphic as it seems because it is a fake clip; it's actually a commercial for tires.

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# 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.