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## The Big Four The Curious Past And Perilous Future Of The Global Accounting Monopoly

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'The Big Four' will appeal to all those interested in the future of the profession--and of capitalism itself.--Jane Gleeson-White, Wall Street Journal With staffs that are collectively larger than the Russian army and combined revenues of over \$130 billion a year, the Big Four accounting firms--Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG--are a keystone of global commerce. But leading scholar Ian Gow and award-winning author Stuart Kells warn that a house of cards may be about ...

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Both colourful and authoritative, this account of the past, present and likely future of the Big Four is essential reading for anyone perplexed or fascinated by professional services, working in the industry, contemplating joining a professional services firm, or simply curious about the fate of the global economy.

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Stuart Kells & Ian Gow | The Big Four

↑"Messrs. Gow and Kells have made an invaluable contribution, writing in an amused tone that nevertheless acknowledges the firms' immense power and the seriousness of their neglect of traditional responsibilities. 'The Big Four' will appeal to all those interested in the future of the profession--and"

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↑The Big Four offers a provocative lens to consider the evolution and role of the largest global accounting firms. This book can catalyze a needed discussion about what the accounting profession should deliver , what it appears to currently deliver , and how it should innovate moving forward.↑

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— Leonard A. Schlesinger, Harvard Business School Across the globe, the so-called Big Four accounting and audit firms — Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG — are massively influential. Together, they earn more than US\$100 billion annually and employ almost one million people.

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"Messrs. Gow and Kells have made an invaluable contribution, writing in an amused tone that nevertheless acknowledges the firms' immense power and the seriousness of their neglect of traditional responsibilities. 'The Big Four' will appeal to all those interested in the future of the profession--and of capitalism itself." —Jane Gleeson-White, Wall Street Journal With staffs that are collectively larger than the Russian army and combined revenues of over \$130 billion a year, the Big Four accounting firms—Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG—are a keystone of global commerce. But leading scholar Ian Gow and award-winning author Stuart Kells warn that a house of cards may be about to fall. Stretching back to the Medicis in Renaissance Florence, this book is a fascinating story of wealth, power, and luck. The founders of the Big Four lived surprisingly colorful lives. Samuel Price, for example, married his own niece. Between the world wars, Nicholas Waterhouse collected postage stamps while also hosting decadent parties in his fashionable London home. All four firms have endured major calamities in recent decades. There have been hundreds of court cases and legal prosecutions for failed audits, tax scandals, and breaches of independence. The firms have come so close to "extinction level events" that regulators have required them to prepare "living wills." And today, the Big Four face an uncertain future—thanks to their push into China, their vulnerability to digital disruption and competition, and the hazards of providing traditional services in a new era of transparency. This account of the past, present, and likely future of the Big Four is essential reading for anyone perplexed or fascinated by professional services, working or considering working in the industry, or simply curious about the fate of the global economy.

Across the globe, the so-called Big Four accounting and audit firms — Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG — are massively influential. Together, they earn more than US\$100 billion annually and employ almost one million people. In many profound ways, they have changed how we work, how we manage, how we invest and how we are governed. Stretching back centuries, their history is a fascinating story of wealth, power and luck. But today, the Big Four face an uncertain future — thanks to their push into China; their vulnerability to digital disruption and competition; and the hazards of providing traditional services in a new era of transparency. Both colourful and authoritative, this account of the past, present and likely future of the Big Four is essential reading for anyone perplexed or fascinated by professional services, working in the industry, contemplating joining a professional services firm, or simply curious about the fate of the global economy. Stuart Kells is a Melbourne-based author. His history of Penguin Books, Penguin and the Lane Brothers, won the Ashurst Australian Business Literature Prize. Ian D. Gow is a professor at the University of Melbourne and Director of the Melbourne Centre for Corporate Governance and Regulation. He previously taught at Harvard Business School.

With staffs that are collectively larger than the Russian army, the Big Four accounting firms are a keystone in global finance --but do they really provide stability and safety? Leading scholar Ian Gow and award-winning writer (and former KPMG director) Stuart Kells warn that a house of cards may be about to fall. Across the globe, the so-called Big Four accounting and audit firms - Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG - are massively influential. Together, they earn more than \$100 billion annually and employ almost one million people. In many profound ways, they have changed how we work, how we manage, how we invest and how we are governed. Stretching back centuries, their history is a fascinating story of wealth, power and luck. But today, the Big Four face an uncertain future - thanks to their push into China; their vulnerability to digital disruption and competition; and the hazards of providing traditional services in a new era of transparency. Surprisingly colorful and unquestionably authoritative, this account of the past, present and likely future of the Big Four is essential reading for anyone perplexed or fascinated by professional services, working in the industry, contemplating joining

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A bestselling modern classic—both poignant and funny—about a boy with autism who sets out to solve the murder of a neighbor's dog and discovers unexpected truths about himself and the world. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

Enron killed Arthur Andersen in 2002, leaving only Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC. Now the Big Four, with a total revenue of \$127 billion, face major threats that need immediate attention. Count Down looks at today's model and proposes a new Big Audit, fit to serve the capital markets of the 21st century.

A walk through George's world, with hundreds of new words to learn! Now toddlers can explore all over George's world—and theirs. Each page of this book features a different concept: counting, shapes, opposites, emotions, family, jobs, homes, transportation—and lots of new words! From morning to night, city to country, home to town and back again, little readers can follow George as they learn more about the people, places, and things they encounter every day. Just the right book for toddlers learning to talk to help build their vocabulary. The audio for this Read-Aloud ebook was produced and engineered by Perry Geyer at Cybersound Recording Studios (349 Newbury St., Ste. 201, Boston, MA 02115). Music theme composed by Cybersound Studios (Perry Geyer, Silvio Amato, Michael Africk, Greg Hawkes). Engineers: Perry Geyer (music production and sound design), Rob Whitaker (editing and mixing engineer), Samuel Creager (editing, sound design, and mixing engineer), Marcus Clark, Corey Rupp. Assistant engineers: Dave Chapman, Mike Pekarski, Justin Sheriff, Daniel Wrigley, Andrew Sardinha, Mami Ienaga, Kevin Notar, Maria Goulamhousen. Sheridan Willard, John Huang, John Schmidt. Voiceover by Nikki Lu Lowe.

Academy Award-winning producer Brian Grazer and an acclaimed business journalist examine the weekly "curiosity conversations" that have inspired Grazer to create some of America's favorite and iconic movies and television shows—from 24 to A Beautiful Mind.

Need a new show to binge? Want to learn behind-the-scenes insights about your favorite series? Then Mental Floss: The Curious Viewer is for you! From Mental Floss, the premier online destination for curious minds, comes a deep dive into the greatest television shows from the last 20 years. Filled with little-known facts and lists of must-see shows, this fascinating collection includes: The hardest role to cast on Game of Thrones • The DEA's involvement in Breaking Bad • The lost Black-ish episode deemed too divisive for TV • The real-life inspiration for Mad Men's Don Draper • The identity of "Ugly Naked Guy" on Friends • When George Lucas sued Battlestar Galactica • How Curb Your Enthusiasm saved a man from the death penalty • When Doctor Who's TARDIS went to court • The story behind Law & Order's iconic "dun-dun" sound effect Mental Floss: The Curious Viewer also contains many of Mental Floss's famously fascinating lists, such as Actors Who Asked for Their Characters to Be Killed Off, The Most-Watched TV Series Finales Ever, TV Characters Who Were Inspired by Real People, Bizarre TV Crossovers, Amazing One-Season Shows, Important Moments in LGBTQ+ History on TV, and Unforgettable Television Cliff-Hangers.

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Today it seems we have the world at our fingertips. Thanks to smartphones and tools such as Google and Wikipedia, we're able feed any aspect of our curiosity instantly. But does this mean we are actually becoming more curious? Absolutely not. In *Curious*, Ian Leslie argues that true curiosity—the sustained quest for understanding that begets insight and innovation—is becoming increasingly difficult to harness in our wired world. We confuse ease of access to information with curiosity, and risk losing our ability to ask questions that extend our knowledge gap rather than merely filling it. Worst of all, this decline in curiosity has led to a decline in empathy and our ability to care about those around us. Combining the latest science with an urgent call to cultivate curious minds, *Curious* draws on psychology, social history, and popular culture to show that being deeply curious is our only hope when it comes to solving current crises—as well as an essential part of being human.

Chart your progress, organize your library, and get inspired with this journal for avid readers from Mental Floss! Having trouble keeping track of the books in your life? Ever buy a book you've already read—or recommend one book when you meant another? The *Curious Reader Journal for Book Lovers* helps organize bulging bookshelves, provides space to record and rate titles, and helps you reflect on past favorites. The Mental Floss team also entertains and inspires bibliophiles with prize-winning book lists, quotes about writing and reading, and the tomes famous authors admire, along with guided entries such as: "My Favorite Books This Year," "Titles Ideal for a Book Club," "Literary Places I'd Like to Visit," "Books I Loved as a Child," "Who I'd Invite to a Literary Dinner Party," "Books I Hate That Everyone Loves," and "The Most Romantic Book I've Read." The *Curious Reader Journal for Book Lovers* is a perfect gift for Goodreads addicts, book club members, librarians and teachers, and all lovers of literature.

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