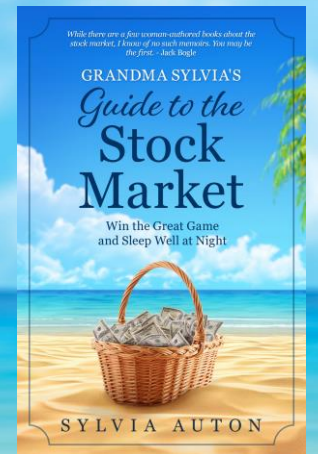


My Investment Journey...led to Writing a book

Sylvia Auton

GMU OLLI, September 27, 2023

OLLI Investment Forum



About You as an Investor

- Experienced with years of investing
- Beginning or still puzzling about your investments

About Me as an Investor

I STAYED AWAY from investing...and the stock market

- My childhood
- My husband
- My experience with the FCPS retirement board
 - Where was the sweet spot for me?

THEN MY HUSBAND DIED

- Had to do something
- Worked with two financial advisors (2 chapters)
 - Started to learn

EXPERIMENTED

- Individual stocks
- MFs, CEFs, MLPs
 - ETFs

RESOURCES

- Forum for ideas
- Internet, library
- Morningstar/Bogleheads

THEN I STARTED TO TEACH AT OLLI

- Kept learning
 - Learned from the best in the field
- Decided on simple passive investing: BUY THE ENTIRE STOCK MARKET (ETF)
 - My sweet spot
- Looked for books from ordinary investors
 - Wrote Jack Bogle

JACK BOGLE WROTE BACK

Thanks for writing and believing. While there are a few woman-authored books about the stock market, I know of no such memoir. You may be the first!

MEMOIRS IN OTHER FIELDS—WHY NOT THE STOCK MARKET?

- *Left For Dead: How I Survived 71 Days Lost in a Desert Hell: How I Survived 71 Days in the Outback*
- *How I Beat Cancer: My journey of overcoming the deadly disease in 90 days!*
- *Odyssey of High Hopes: An Immigrant's Tale Of Sacrifice, Courage, and Love*

MISSION--LOOKING TO REACH OTHERS *HOW COULD OTHERS AVOID MY YEARS OF FRUSTRATION AND TIME LOST?*

Women controlled \$10 trillion, or about one-third of the household wealth in the US in 2020. Yet, many women are reluctant investors. I certainly was and that's why I'm writing my story about my journey of discovery and joy.

- Wrote a blog
- Produced a YouTube Video
- Wrote a book

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GRANDMA SYLVIA'S
Guide to the
**Stock
Market**

Win the Great Game
and Sleep Well at Night



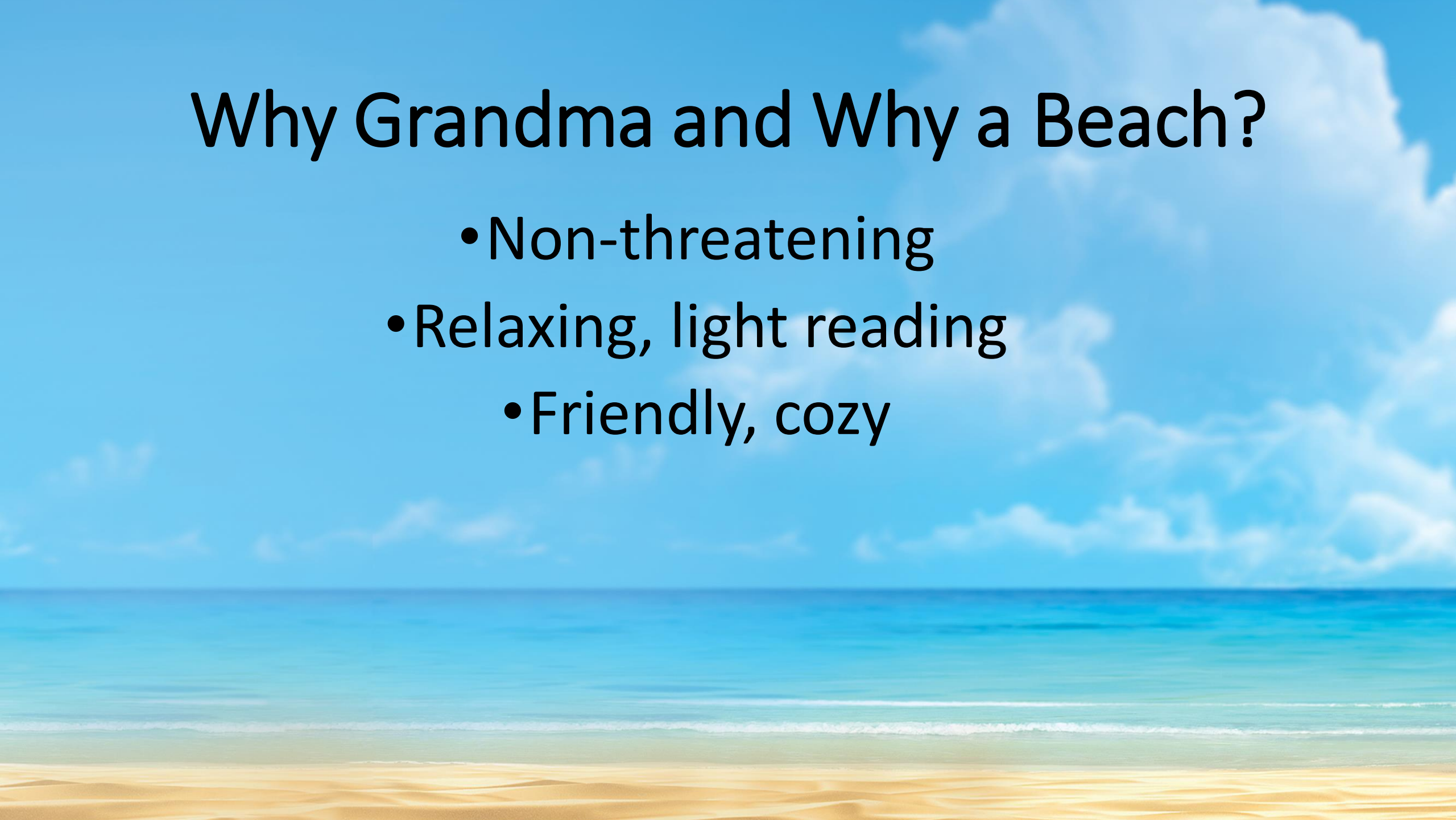
SYLVIA AUTON

How did I go about writing it?

- Wrote to William Bernstein, neurologist, author
- Wrote to Jason Zweig, WSJ Intelligent Investor
- Wrote to Bogleheads (Mel Lindauer, Taylor Larimore)
- Talked with Gus Sauter (Vanguard's first global chief investment officer)
- Taylor Larimore's Investment Gems
- OLLI: Al, Jan, Brenda, Ingrid, writers—writing coach Chuck
- GMU: Daniel Houser

Why Grandma and Why a Beach?

- Non-threatening
- Relaxing, light reading
 - Friendly, cozy





Sylvia Auton has always loved learning and in retirement shares her love of learning through writing and part-time teaching. She is a self-taught investor, wife, mother, and doting grandmother.

You have accomplished a beautiful story which deserves to be printed.

*Taylor Larimore, author *The Bogleheads' Guide to Investing*, and other *Boglehead* books.*

This book, and the companion video, offer a warm, friendly and accessible introduction to investing. Sylvia Auton's approach to this material is valuable to anyone interested in the basics of investing, and especially those with little experience in this area.

Dr. Daniel Houser, Professor of Economics, George Mason University.

I do believe in the importance of this book. Your personal experiences in investing and your journey in overcoming the fear of investing as a woman in a male-dominated field would be inspiring to so many women. Your story-telling style makes the book enjoyable and easy to read. The book— written by a woman and for women— would go a long way in empowering women.

Dr. Jia Liu, Senior Lecturer in Economics, Sheffield Hallam University.

Who's the audience?

- Investors who are beginners
- Investors who may be hesitant; intimidated with the idea of the stock market; unsure of their knowledge
- Maybe you
- Your children
- Your grandchildren
- Your younger friends and relatives
- Anyone with a longer timeline to invest

What is the main idea?

SIMPLE PASSIVE INVESTING: buy the whole market

- The stock market has yearly returns of over 10% since 1926.
- Compound interest over many years can grow your assets, even making you a millionaire if you start early enough.
- Simple passive investing is easy and helps you avoid big mistakes
- Whether you work with a financial advisor or on your own, you can be a better investor:
 - Understand yourself
 - Understand the market
 - Feel comfortable with the market
- It can be fun learning.

What's in the book?

- Stories mine and others, including members of OLLI
- Learning how to invest—buy the total stock market (maybe a sandbox of stocks)
- Feelings: uncertainty, fear, frustration, and joy
- Learnings and mistakes

REVOLUTION IN INVESTING

- A Revolution? —INVEST SIMPLY (Jack Bogle/Gus Sauter)
- Almost worry free in the long term
- Gives you your “fair share” of the market over the long run
- Invest in 3 ETFs:
 - Total stock market
 - Total bond market
 - Total international stock market

How is the book organized?

- Part I Learning the Great Game (Ch 1-16)
- Part II Playing and Winning the Great Game (Ch 17-22)
- Part III Players and the Playing Field (Ch 23-30)
- Appendices: Stocks, Bonds, Bundles of Assets
- Glossary
- References
- 287 pages

Part I Chapters

- Why I started
- Women and investing
- Being ordinary
- Becoming literate
- Lost time
- Purpose of Investing
- Beliefs about the market and myself
- Risk
- Today's knowledge
- Noise
- Financial Advisors
- Financial Planners

Part II Chapters

- Importance of cash
- Getting into the market
- Buying and selling
- Portfolios
- Changes in how I invested
- Mistakes I made

Part III Chapters

- Women changing the investment world
- Market history
- Giants in the field
- Market crashes
- Street Talk
- Robo investing
- Annuities & Insurances
- Great Beginnings

The End

*Amazon Book: Grandma Sylvia's Guide to
the Stock Market*

*YouTube: Grandma Sylvia's Investing for
Beginners*

Blog: Grandma's Investing for Beginners



Comments

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- **Daniel Hauser** *This book, and the companion video, offer a warm, friendly and accessible introduction to investing. Sylvia Auton's approach to this material is valuable to anyone interested in the basics of investing, and especially those with little experience in this area*
- **Jia Liu** *I do believe in the importance of this book. Sylvia Auton's personal experiences in investing and her- journey in overcoming the fear of investing as a woman in a male-dominated field would be inspiring to so many women. Her story-telling style makes the book enjoyable and easy to read. The book— written by a woman and for women— would go a long way in empowering women.*
- **Readers:** **Based on the author's own journey, being thrust into financial management unexpectedly and lacking confidence, this book is **a true gem for women - or anyone** - seeking a straightforward approach to investing in the stock market, especially through passive index funds. * Each chapter is full of great knowledge yet small and manageable, making for **a very easy read**. * This book is not just a guide to stock market investing and strategies. It is that and more. With Sylvia's analytical style and storytelling, **I'm also learning about myself and how I relate to my finances**. * Lots of good advice here, both for first time investors and those who have been investing haphazardly * It's not just about numbers and graphs; **it's a transformative journey** that subdues stereotypes and fuels confidence. * **Almost uniquely among investment books**, there are no formulas, and no graphs – but that in no way detracts from the usefulness of the insights offered. * "Grandma Sylvia's Guide..." provides a combination of **highly valuable financial advice with a unique format**. * I will readily admit that I have a lot to learn but this book inspired me to keep going and enjoy the process. **Who knew that the stock market could be such fun?***