

INTRODUCTION

THE AMERICAN DREAM, and the American Reality, are very different. The first truly is a dream; the second is a probable nightmare. A continual promise by our nation's political, financial, and business leaders for endless economic growth, accompanied by ever greater consumption and wealth, is the third biggest lie ever told (right behind "the check's in the mail," and "we'll take a nice vacation next year"). The promise of endless economic growth, however, ranks as an absolute standout for the #1 *most believed* lie ever told — proof being that millions of American families have put their trust and faith in that assurance; a promise that plainly cannot be kept.

So why would our leaders knowingly steer us down a dead-end road? Our leaders aren't planning to ride on our bus. They're taking the limo. And, it isn't a dead-end road at all for the upper echelons of our society. High-ranking American politicians and Big Business leaders bask in a life of implausible wealth and privilege. They plan on continuing that lifestyle long after the American Dream hits the proverbial wall. But, in the meantime, the lap of luxury is provided by the great majorities' continual belief that the American Dream is alive and well — without end.

It is US then, who facilitate the lifestyle of the rich and famous simply because *WE* want to believe the biggest lie ever told so badly that we simply don't question the feasibility of our current lifestyle to continue. "Oh, so now it's our fault huh?" I would never have brought this up had you not asked, but indirectly, yes, it most definitely is our fault, including yours truly.

In a nutshell, "The Biggest Lie Ever Believed" is that endless growth is possible. It isn't. And yet, endless growth and, more importantly, *exponential* (ever expanding) endless growth is the very cornerstone of *your* future. Do *you* believe the "Biggest Lie Ever Believed?" Let's go find out. And if you do determine that you have been duped, it's never too late to exercise your right to freedom of speech, as in, "take this plan and shove it." This

is still America, and in America anything is possible with the right plan.

All sage knowledge and advice does not come from institutions of higher learning, nor from corporate heads residing high above the big city sprawls, or for that matter, politicians (I get the idea that this doesn't surprise you). Most of the truly memorable advice that I have received thus far in life has come from those common people whose real life experiences and homespun wisdom presented me with both sound reason and unexpected perspective. Such wisdom as, "Never get mad at a person because they are smarter than you; it isn't their fault."

My goal in this book is to demonstrate three things:

One, that the economy cannot maintain status quo if predicated on exponential growth, which it is.

Two, that buying things that we don't need, with money that we don't have, is absolutely contrary to happiness, regardless of what the incessant claims of advertisers are.

And three, that there is still a way to live simply and live well in America, regardless of the inevitable decline that will take place in our current economic system.