

# **Biography About Phil Ivey And The Wager By David Grann**

## **Phil Ivey: The Enigmatic King of Poker and the Saga of "The Wager"**

Phil Ivey. The name itself conjures images of unwavering focus, calculated aggression, and a seemingly impenetrable poker face. For decades, he's been the undisputed king of the felt, a legend whose name is synonymous with high-stakes poker and unparalleled skill. But Ivey's story isn't just confined to the cards he's dealt. It's a narrative woven with audacious gambles, personal triumphs and tribulations, and a fascinating foray into a historical wager that has captured the imagination of many, particularly through David Grann's compelling narrative, "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder."

While "The Wager" by David Grann chronicles a gripping 18th-century tale of survival and desperation, the title itself, and the very essence of a high-stakes wager, resonates deeply with the spirit of a poker legend like Phil Ivey. It's this intersection - the audaciousness of a significant gamble, the human drama, and the strategic brilliance involved - that makes exploring Phil Ivey's biography alongside Grann's captivating account so intriguing.

## **The Genesis of a Poker Icon: From Riverside to the High Stakes**

Born in Riverside, California, in 1977, Philip Dennis Ivey Jr. didn't have a silver spoon in his mouth. His childhood was far from the opulent casinos he would later dominate. Yet, even in his formative years, a keen intelligence and a competitive spirit were evident. It was a chance encounter with poker in his late teens that ignited a fire within him. Starting with low-stakes games among friends, Ivey quickly discovered a natural aptitude for the game. His ability to read people, coupled with a remarkable understanding of probability and strategic thinking, set him apart.

The early days of Ivey's career were spent honing his craft in Atlantic City's casinos. He wasn't just playing; he was learning, observing, and refining his game. He absorbed the nuances of different players, understood the psychological warfare of the poker table, and developed an almost preternatural ability to make the right decisions under immense pressure. This relentless dedication and self-improvement laid the groundwork for his ascent.

## **The Rise to "The Tiger Woods of Poker"**

It wasn't long before Phil Ivey's name started making waves in the professional poker circuit. His fearless play, often characterized by bold bluffs and relentless aggression, earned him the nickname "The Tiger Woods of Poker" – a testament to his dominance and widespread appeal. He conquered major tournaments, including multiple World Series of Poker (WSOP) bracelets and World Poker Tour (WPT) titles, amassing millions in winnings. His presence at the final table became an expectation, and his ability to navigate the complexities of No-Limit Hold'em, Pot-Limit Omaha, and other variants solidified his status as one of the greatest to ever play.

What made Ivey so captivating to watch was his stoicism. While other players might show their emotions through their actions or facial expressions, Ivey remained a picture of calm. His "poker face" was legendary, a mask that hid the intricate calculations and strategic decisions unfolding behind his eyes. This enigmatic quality only added to his allure, making him a figure of both admiration and intimidation on the poker scene.

## **Beyond the Cards: The Audacity of a Different Kind of Wager**

Phil Ivey's life has been punctuated by more than just poker victories. He's known for his love of high-stakes gambling in various forms, including backgammon and even sports betting. His willingness to put significant sums on the line, not just in traditional poker but in other competitive arenas, speaks to a core personality trait: an insatiable appetite for risk and a deep-seated belief in his ability to prevail. This is where the parallels with David Grann's "The Wager" become particularly potent.

While Ivey's wagers are typically modern and within the realm of financial transactions, the underlying principle is the

same: a calculated gamble, a bet against the odds, with the potential for immense reward or devastating loss. The stakes may differ, but the human drama of facing uncertainty and making high-pressure decisions is a shared thread.

## **David Grann's "The Wager": A Maritime Masterpiece of Grit and Deception**

David Grann, a master storyteller renowned for his meticulous research and gripping narratives, transports readers to the unforgiving seas of the 18th century in "The Wager." The book recounts the harrowing true story of the HMS Wager, a British naval vessel that, in 1741, was swept off course and wrecked on a desolate island off the coast of Patagonia. What unfolds is a brutal saga of survival against impossible odds, where hunger, disease, and despair threaten to consume the shipwrecked crew.

Grann meticulously details the desperate attempts to survive, the infighting that erupted amongst the survivors, and the eventual, improbable journeys of different factions of the crew to find their way back to civilization. It's a tale of mutiny, of moral compromise, and of the sheer, unyielding will to live.

### **The Central Bet: A Nation's Fortune and a Captain's Reputation**

At the heart of "The Wager" lies not just a struggle for survival, but a literal wager. The HMS Wager was part of a squadron tasked with a critical mission during wartime: to capture a treasure-laden Spanish galleon, the \*Nuestra Señora de la Luz\*. The prospect of this immense prize was the driving force, a significant financial gamble for the British Empire. The success of this mission was paramount, and the failure of the Wager, and its subsequent wreck, had far-reaching implications.

The narrative brilliantly explores the subsequent court-martial of the Wager's captain, David Cheap, and the conflicting testimonies that emerged. Each survivor's account was a gamble in itself, a desperate attempt to shape their own narrative and avoid blame. This is where the echoes of high-stakes decision-making, so familiar in Phil Ivey's world,

become particularly resonant. The weight of expectation, the fear of reprisal, and the desperate need to present a winning hand, even when facing overwhelming odds, are universal themes.

## **Shipwrecked Souls: Human Nature Under Duress**

Grann's prose brings the raw emotions of the shipwrecked crew to life. We witness acts of extraordinary heroism and profound despair. The delicate balance of society breaks down, revealing the primal instincts that lie beneath the veneer of civilization. The constant struggle for food, shelter, and survival tests the very core of human morality. The differing perspectives of the survivors, their loyalties, and their betrayals create a complex tapestry of human behavior under the most extreme pressure.

This unflinching look at human nature under duress is a stark contrast, yet strangely complementary, to the controlled environment of a poker game. While Ivey operates within the rules and strategies of a game, the survivors of the Wager are battling against the unwritten, brutal rules of nature and their own baser instincts. Yet, in both scenarios, intelligence, resilience, and the ability to adapt are crucial for survival and success.

## **The Echoes of "The Wager" in Phil Ivey's Persona**

What does a 18th-century shipwreck have to do with a modern poker legend? The answer lies in the shared DNA of high-stakes risk and the unwavering pursuit of a win. Phil Ivey, like the captain and crew of the Wager, has consistently placed himself in situations where the outcome is far from guaranteed.

Ivey's willingness to play in the highest stakes cash games, often against the best players in the world, is itself a monumental wager. It's not just about the money; it's about the challenge, the intellectual battle, and the thrill of pushing his skills to their absolute limit. His successes, much like the potential prize the Wager was seeking, represent the rewards of audacious gambles. Conversely, like the shipwrecked crew, he too has faced setbacks and losses, though often far more discreetly and with less dramatic public spectacle.

The mental fortitude required to withstand the swings of poker, to remain calm and focused after a significant loss,

mirrors the resilience needed by the survivors of the Wager to endure their harrowing ordeal. Both require an extraordinary capacity to absorb pressure, learn from mistakes, and continue forward with a determined resolve.

## **The Art of the Gamble: Strategy, Psychology, and Luck**

Both Phil Ivey's poker career and the events chronicled in "The Wager" are masterclasses in the interplay of strategy, psychology, and luck. For Ivey, poker strategy involves intricate calculations, understanding betting patterns, and exploiting opponents' weaknesses. Psychology is paramount – reading tells, bluffing effectively, and maintaining an unreadable demeanor. Luck, of course, plays its part in the cards dealt, but Ivey's consistent success suggests a masterful ability to mitigate bad luck and capitalize on good fortune.

In "The Wager," strategy was dictated by survival. The crew had to devise plans to find food, build shelter, and navigate treacherous waters. Psychology was a brutal, often destructive, force as fear and desperation led to conflict. And luck, or fate, played a capricious role in the initial wreck and the subsequent events. Yet, the survivors who managed to endure often displayed remarkable strategic thinking and an unwavering mental fortitude.

## **Conclusion: Legends Forged in the Crucible of Risk**

Phil Ivey's journey from a young poker prodigy to an international icon is a testament to dedication, skill, and an innate understanding of risk. His life on the poker felt, characterized by audacious plays and unshakeable composure, has cemented his legacy as one of the greatest poker players of all time. While his wagers are different in nature from the desperate fight for survival depicted in David Grann's "The Wager," the underlying themes of courage, strategic thinking, and the human capacity to face overwhelming odds resonate powerfully.

Both narratives, in their own unique ways, explore the thrill and terror of the gamble, the complexities of human nature when pushed to its limits, and the enduring quest for victory, whether it's a pot of chips or a return to civilization. Phil Ivey, the modern-day poker king, and the shipwrecked souls of the HMS Wager, though separated by centuries and circumstances, are both legends forged in the crucible of risk, reminding us of the extraordinary feats humans are

capable of when they dare to bet it all.

**Biography about Phil Ivey and The Wager by David Grann** Phil Ivey is widely recognized as one of the greatest poker players of all time, renowned for his exceptional skills, strategic mind, and remarkable success at high-stakes tables worldwide. His life story is one of relentless pursuit of excellence and resilience, making him a compelling figure in both the gambling community and mainstream media. On the other hand, "The Wager" by David Grann is a captivating non-fiction book that explores the extraordinary true story of a shipwreck, survival, and the moral dilemmas faced by those trapped in extreme circumstances. While seemingly unrelated, both subjects embody themes of risk, decision-making, and resilience, making this article a comprehensive exploration of Phil Ivey's biography and David Grann's compelling narrative. -- Biography of Phil Ivey Early Life and Introduction to Poker Phil Ivey was born on February 1, 1977, in Riverside, California. From a young age, Ivey demonstrated a natural aptitude for games of skill and strategy. Growing up in Roseville, California, he developed an initial interest in pool and other competitive games before discovering poker as a teenager. His early ventures into the game showcased his sharp analytical skills, setting the stage for a future career that would revolutionize professional poker. Rise to Prominence In his early twenties, Phil Ivey quickly gained recognition on the professional poker scene. His first major breakthrough came in the early 2000s when he began attending high-stakes tournaments and consistently outperforming his peers. Known for his calm demeanor and exceptional playing style, Ivey earned several notable titles, including multiple World Series of Poker (WSOP) bracelets and World Poker Tour (WPT) victories. Key Achievements: Winning 10 WSOP Bracelets Securing 10 WPT Titles Accumulating multimillion-dollar earnings Playing Style and Strategic Prowess Phil Ivey is often hailed for his intuitive reading of opponents and adaptability at the table. His playing style combines aggressive betting with an almost psychic ability to read hands, making him unpredictable and dangerous to opponents. He is also a pioneer in the use of disguise and deception, which keeps opponents guessing about his true holdings. Controversies and Challenges Despite his success, Ivey's career has not been without controversy. Notably, he was involved in legal disputes regarding edge sorting techniques used in casino play—a method deemed to give him an unfair advantage. These disputes have raised questions about the morality and legality of certain strategies used by professional gamblers. Phil Ivey's Impact on Poker Beyond his personal achievements, Phil Ivey has significantly contributed to popularizing poker worldwide. His stylish play and success have inspired countless amateurs and pros alike. Additionally, Ivey has

appeared in various media, including poker documentaries and television shows, further elevating his status as an iconic figure in the sport. -- **The Wager by David Grann Background and Overview** "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder" by David Grann is a riveting non-fiction narrative that recounts the true story of a 19th-century British ship, the HMS Wager. The vessel wrecked on a treacherous South American coast during a fierce storm in 1741, leading to a harrowing struggle for survival among the ship's crew. **Summary of the Story** The book traces the events following the shipwreck, highlighting the brutal conditions faced by the survivors. As resources dwindled and internal dissent grew, mutiny and violence erupted, testing the limits of human endurance and morality. Grann meticulously reconstructs the story through detailed research, exploring themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the moral dilemmas encountered in extreme survival situations. **Key Elements:** The shipwreck on the wild coast of South America Mutiny and power struggles among the crew The moral decisions made amidst chaos Long-lasting consequences for the survivors and their stories Themes and Significance Grann's narrative delves deep into human nature under duress, examining how survival instincts often clash with personal morality. The book also raises questions about leadership, justice, and the thin line separating civilization from savagery. **Critical Reception** "The Wager" has been praised for its rigorous research, compelling storytelling, and vivid portrayal of maritime history. Critics and readers alike have lauded the book for its ability to bring a historical event to life while exploring profound questions about human resilience and morality. -- **Comparing Themes: Risk and Resilience** Both Phil Ivey's life and the story in "The Wager" touch upon integral themes of risk, strategy, and resilience. **Risk and Decision-Making** Phil Ivey: Continually assesses risk during high-stakes poker games, balancing aggression with caution to maximize gains. "The Wager": The crew faced life-and-death risks following the shipwreck, requiring split-second decisions amid chaos and uncertainty. **Resilience in Extreme Circumstances** Phil Ivey: Demonstrates mental resilience, bouncing back from setbacks and controversies to maintain his status. Shipwreck Survivors: Endured months of hardship, illness, and moral dilemmas, showcasing extraordinary resilience and adaptability. **Strategy and Human Nature** In both stories, strategy is pivotal—whether in the calculated betting of poker or navigating the moral gray areas during survival on the coast. Both narratives explore the depths of human nature when pushed to the limits. -- **Conclusion** The biography of Phil Ivey offers a glimpse into the life of a man who has redefined professional poker through his skill, intuition, and resilience. His story exemplifies how strategic thinking and mental toughness are crucial for success in high-stakes environments. Meanwhile, "The Wager" by David

Grann transports readers to a different kind of challenge—survival against the odds amid one of history’s most compelling maritime disasters. Both stories highlight resilience, decision-making under pressure, and the complex interplay between morality and risk-taking. Whether exploring the intellect and bravado of a poker legend or the moral complexities faced during a shipwreck, these narratives enrich our understanding of human endurance and the enduring quest to prevail against formidable challenges. Together, they underscore the universality of resilience and strategic thinking in overcoming life's most demanding trials.

**Croissant - Wikipédia, a enciclopédia livre** Maria Antonieta, originária de Viena, introduziu e popularizou o croissant na França, a partir de 1770. Hoje, ele é um elemento tradicional do desjejum francês, tomado junto com café com leite

**Croissant a História e Receita do Pão Francês Mais Amado** Este delicioso pão, com sua textura crocante por fora e macia por dentro, carrega consigo séculos de história e tradição. Neste artigo completo, você descobrirá as fascinantes origens do croissant,

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**História do Croissant: da Áustria à França + como escolher o melhor** Neste artigo, você vai ver como o croissant saiu da Áustria, foi refinado na França e virou referência mundial. No final, há um guia rápido do que observar antes de levar o seu para casa — ou para a

**A História Fascinante do Croissant Francês - Listologia** Apesar de muitas pessoas ainda acreditarem na lenda do “pão de Viena”, a verdadeira história do croissant é bem diferente. Como já mencionado, o croissant foi criado pelos franceses, inspirados no

**Croissant artesanal: história e tradição da panificação - Casa Victoriana** Descubra a história do croissant artesanal, sua tradição na panificação francesa e o processo que transforma esse clássico em uma experiência

**A incrível origem do croissant - 1001 Fatos Curiosos** O croissant, um dos ícones da pâtisserie francesa, tem uma

origem extraordinária que remonta ao século XVII. Acredita-se que sua história começou em Viena, na Áustria, durante o

**Histórias da culinária: o croissant e a arte de transformar** Mas, como quase tudo na culinária europeia, sua história é menos linear — e mais híbrida — do que o imaginário francês costuma admitir. A origem do croissant remonta à Áustria do século XVII, mais

**Origem do croissant - Conheça a história deste doce tão popular** O croissant tornou-se uma parte icônica da culinária francesa ao longo dos anos, embora sua origem esteja ligada à Áustria. É importante notar que a história dos alimentos muitas

### **Compatibility Tips**

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### **Final thoughts on compatibility, security, and archiving**

Managing Biography About Phil Ivey And The Wager By David Grann effectively requires attention to compatibility, security, file organization, and archiving. By ensuring device support, downloading from trusted sources, organizing files systematically, and maintaining reliable backups, users can protect their digital libraries and maximize long-term value. These best practices create a safe, efficient, and sustainable environment for accessing and preserving Biography About Phil Ivey And The Wager By David Grann in the digital age.

Biography about Phil Ivey and The Wager by David Grann: A Comprehensive Review The world of high-stakes gambling and extraordinary personal stories are vividly brought to life through the compelling biographies and narrative works of influential authors. Among these, the biography of Phil Ivey and David Grann's *The Wager* have gained significant attention for their gripping storytelling, in-depth character explorations, and vivid depictions of risk and resilience. Together, they offer readers a fascinating look into the worlds of professional gambling and historical adventure,

providing insight into the human spirit's capacity for daring and endurance. This review will explore each of these works in detail, examining their themes, storytelling prowess, and their significance in contemporary literature and biography.

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## **Phil Ivey: The Biography of a Poker Legend**

### **Overview and Background**

Phil Ivey, often heralded as one of the greatest poker players of all time, has a story that encapsulates raw talent, mental resilience, and an insatiable appetite for challenge. Born in 1976 in California, Ivey's journey from a young kid playing poker on the streets to a global icon is inspiring and complex. Several biographies and autobiographies delve into his rise, meticulously detailing his strategic mind, personal struggles, and the controversies that have often flanked his career. The biography of Phil Ivey typically chronicles his early beginnings—his affinity for card games, his relentless pursuit of mastery, and the moments that catapulted him into the professional realm. It accesses his tournaments, his signature playing style marked by almost superhuman focus, and his ability to read opponents in ways that border on the extraordinary.

### **Key Themes and Features**

The biography's narrative is heavily centered on the themes of genius, risk, and the psychology of gambling. It explores the following: **Mastery and innovation:** Highlighting Ivey's unique approaches to poker, including his ability to manipulate the game through deep psychological insight. **Controversies:** Covering legal disputes, including the famous allegations of edge-sorting techniques used at casinos, leading to lawsuits and debates about morality in high-stakes gambling. **Personal life:** Providing insights into Ivey's personality, his relationships, and his approach to wealth and fame. **Features and Pros** Rich, detailed storytelling combined with insider interviews and firsthand accounts. Offers a nuanced understanding of both Ivey's genius and human flaws. Uses vivid descriptions of major tournaments as backdrop for personal and professional struggles. Contextualizes the culture of high-stakes poker and its ethical

dilemmas. Cons Some readers may find the legal disputes complex or less engaging. The focus on gambling's darker aspects may detract from understanding his full personal story. A certain level of familiarity with poker terminology enhances comprehension; novices may feel lost at times.

## **Significance and Impact**

The biography of Phil Ivey does more than recount his achievements; it invites reflection on broader questions: What defines genius in a game of skill versus luck? How do personal ethics shape the perception of winners and losers? What is the cost of relentless pursuit of excellence? By analyzing these issues, the biography serves as both an inspiring and cautionary tale for aspiring gamblers, professionals, and anyone interested in the psychology of risk. --

# **The Wager by David Grann: An Adventurous Narrative of Human Endurance**

## **Overview of The Wager**

The Wager by David Grann is a non-fiction narrative that chronicles a gripping maritime adventure from the 18th century, recounting the ordeal faced by sailors shipwrecked on a desolate island during a British naval expedition. David Grann, renowned for his investigative storytelling and meticulous research (notably in works like *The Lost City of Z*), transports readers into the harrowing world of survival, moral dilemmas, and human resilience in extreme circumstances. The book details how the crew of the ship *The Wager* faced storms, starvation, mutiny, and treachery, highlighting the thin line between order and chaos in the face of nature's brutality. Grann interweaves personal stories of leadership, betrayal, and sacrifice that make the narrative deeply human and compelling.

## Major Themes and Features

The *Wager* touches on themes such as: Human endurance and survival: Depicting how individuals adapt physically and psychologically to relentless hardship. Leadership and morality: Examining the choices made by captains and crew in moments of crisis. Moral ambiguity and justice: Delving into the ethical gray areas that emerge when survival is at stake. In terms of storytelling strengths: Grann's vivid, cinematic prose immerses readers into the storm-wracked ship and the deserted island. The narrative is punctuated by testimonies, letters, and official reports, lending authenticity and depth. The detailed historical context enriches the reader's understanding of naval practices, British imperial ambitions, and maritime technology of the era. Features and Pros Grann's meticulous research provides a comprehensive and nuanced account. Vivid descriptions create an immersive reading experience. The narrative balances factual accuracy with engaging storytelling. Explores profound philosophical questions about justice, morality, and human nature. Cons The dense historical detail might challenge casual readers. Some sections may feel lengthy or overly detailed for those seeking a faster-paced story. The complexity of characters and events can be overwhelming without careful reading.

## Significance and Cultural Impact

The *Wager* exemplifies Grann's mastery in turning historical incidents into compelling narratives that resonate universally. It raises essential questions about what drives human beings to extreme actions when faced with death and desperation. Its relevance extends beyond maritime history, touching on leadership, moral judgment, and the human condition under duress. --

## Comparison and Final Thoughts

While the works about Phil Ivey and *The Wager* differ in subject matter—one being a modern biography of a legendary poker player, the other a historical adventure of survival—they share a common thread: an exploration of human resilience, strategic thinking, and the complexities of moral decision-making. Key points to consider: Both works are

deeply researched, with narratives that blend factual accuracy with compelling storytelling. They appeal to different audiences: *The Wager* for history and adventure enthusiasts, and the Phil Ivey biography for fans of sports, psychology, and personal success stories. They serve as reflections on how individuals confront risk—whether at the poker table or in the face of nature’s fury. *Final Assessment: The biography of Phil Ivey* offers an intimate look into a living legend’s mind, exposing the brilliance and controversy behind high-stakes gambling. It is insightful, well-rounded, and provides a balanced perspective on talent and ethics. Meanwhile, David Grann’s *The Wager* stands out as a masterpiece of investigative storytelling, revealing intense human drama amid the chaos of survival and moral ambiguity. Together, these works enrich our understanding of perseverance, risk, and the human experience. They serve as excellent references for anyone interested in the extraordinary feats of individuals who push the boundaries of possibility—whether through mental mastery or raw survival instinct. In sum, both works exemplify powerful storytelling ability and thoughtful exploration of what it means to challenge the limits of human capacity. They are highly recommended for readers seeking inspiration, intrigue, and meaningful reflection on the nature of human endeavor. In today’s rapidly evolving digital landscape, the way people access information and educational resources has changed dramatically. The ability to download [Biography About Phil Ivey And The Wager By David Grann](#) in digital format has become an essential part of modern learning, research, and personal development. Digital books are no longer just an alternative to printed materials; they are now a primary source of knowledge for students, professionals, educators, and lifelong learners across the globe.

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## **Questions & Answers About biography about phil ively and the wager by david grann**

<b>No</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
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1	Who is Phil Ivey and what is he known for in the world of poker?	Phil Ivey is a renowned professional poker player, often regarded as one of the greatest in the game's history, known for his exceptional skill, strategic mind, and multiple World Series of Poker titles.
2	What are the main highlights of Phil Ivey's life covered in his biography?	His biography highlights his rise from a young poker prodigy in California to achieving international fame, his signature playing style, significant wins, controversies, and contributions to the poker community.
3	How does David Grann's book 'The Wager' relate to Phil Ivey's story?	Actually, 'The Wager' by David Grann is a historical narrative about a 1741 shipwreck and survival story, and it does not directly relate to Phil Ivey; perhaps there's a confusion. However, if discussing rivalry or risk in Grann's writings, it can metaphorically connect to high-stakes gambling stories like Ivey's.
4	What controversies or legal issues are associated with Phil Ivey as discussed in his biography?	Phil Ivey has been involved in notable legal disputes, including a high-profile lawsuit over using 'edge sorting' techniques to win millions at baccarat, which raised ethical questions about advantage play and gambling regulations.
5	What insights does David Grann offer about risk and human nature in 'The Wager' that can be applied to understanding poker legends like Phil Ivey?	While 'The Wager' is a narrative of survival and human resilience, it explores themes of risk, decision-making under pressure, and human ambition—concepts also central to the high-stakes world of poker and players like Phil Ivey.
6	How has Phil Ivey's career influenced modern poker, according to his biography?	Phil Ivey has had a significant influence on modern poker through his innovative strategies, popularizing advanced techniques, and elevating the profile of professional poker as a competitive sport.
7	Are there thematic connections between 'The Wager' by David Grann and Phil Ivey's story of risk and resilience?	Both stories explore themes of risk, uncertainty, and human perseverance—'The Wager' through a maritime survival tale and Ivey's story through the high-stakes world of gambling, reflecting deep insights into human nature when facing adversity.

Phil Ivey, David Grann, The Wager, poker biography, gambler life story, high stakes poker, professional poker player,

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