

Title: Ken Griffin, Financial Terrorist

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<https://www.forbes.com/sites/maneetahuja/2022/04/01/billionaire-trader-ken-griffin-navigates-a-flock-of-black-swans/?sh=6235911b9567>

He must've paid Forbes a nice chunk to write nice things about him. (ie, no bedpost, no mayo stories, please).

>In February 2021 Griffin was hauled before Congress to testify in hearings concerning a halt in trading in ****GameStop****, the poster child for the “meme stock” frenzy roiling Wall Street at the time. An army of unsophisticated traders, mostly from Robinhood, were bidding the past-its-prime video game retailer to unprecedented heights and, in the process, catching some pros with their pants down. New York City–based hedge fund Melvin Capital was caught in a short skueeze and nearly forced to liquidate. Griffin’s hedge fund and Steven A. Cohen’s Point72 saved Melvin with a \$2.75 billion emergency investment.

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>A few days later, Robinhood made it impossible for its customers to buy meme stock shares, which in addition to GameStop included struggling movie theater chain AYY EMM SEE and big box retailer Bed Bath & Beyond. The price of GameStop plummeted, effectively throwing Melvin another lifeline. After investors filed numerous lawsuits and the SEC launched an investigation, Griffin told Congress under oath that he had no communication with Robinhood. Citadel and Robinhood were cleared of conspiracy charges, but Griffin became the subject of relentless ridicule in memes on Reddit and Twitter.

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>“The vilification of payment for order flow might score political points. But what a disgrace if it detracts from retail investor confidence in the stock market and the allocation of capital to companies that create jobs,” Griffin says. “When I was in college, trading commissions were \$19 or \$20. Today they’re free. I mean, the amount of value that we have shifted to retail investors has been stunning—and my firm has been one of the biggest drivers of that phenomenon.”