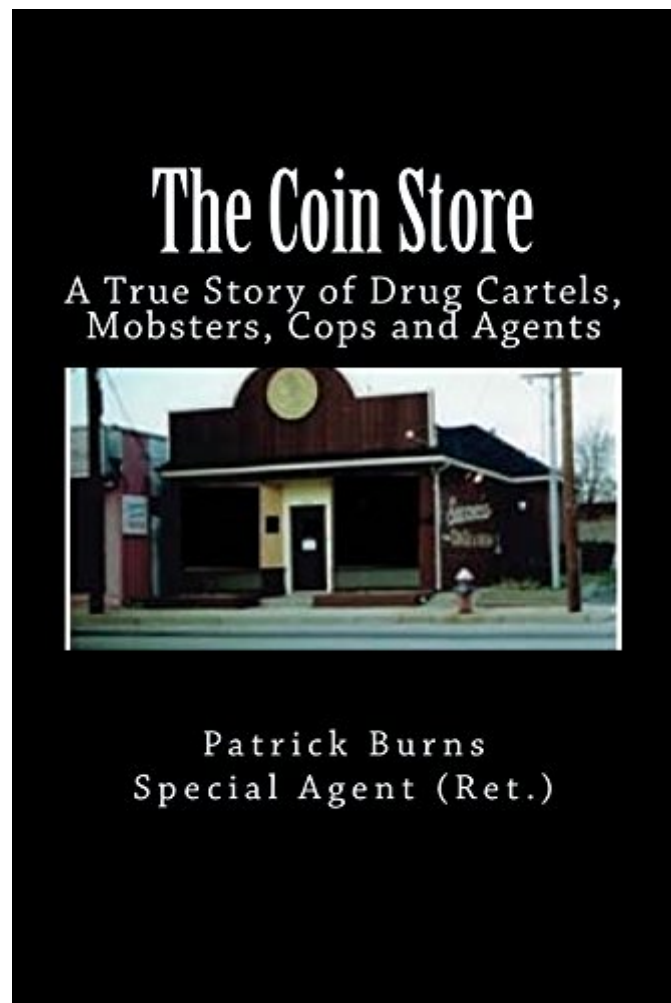


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The Coin Store: A True Story Of Drug Cartels, Mobsters, Cops And Agents



Synopsis

Before anyone knew "El Chapo", everyone knew Pablo Escobar. He was the King of Cocaine, the wealthiest and most violent criminal in the world. By the 1980s his Medellin Drug Cartel was responsible for smuggling several tons of cocaine into America each and every day, killing thousands of people along the way. The end result was hundreds of millions of dollars in cash profits. In response, and as part of President Reagan's War on Drugs, Congress created the Money Laundering Act of 1986. The goal was to take the profit out of Escobar's business. And the plan was working. Drug Money seizures went up. But as U.S. Agents became more and more efficient at finding the dirty cash, stashed inside ship bellies and truck beds at America's ports and land borders, Pablo and other Cartel leaders sought a more efficient method to get their money back to Colombia. They found the solution in an unlikely place, a dusty back room of a tiny, rare coin shop in the small town of Cranston, Rhode Island. The shop owner was a young, local mobster who had already been laundering much of the Mob's stolen gold. With a few minor adjustments, his coin shop evolved into a springboard for a new venture, a billion dollar money laundering scheme. The Italian Mafia's stolen gold was used to dispose of the Colombian Cartel's dirty cash. It was the perfect scheme, brilliant. As his customer base grew, the young mobster, known as Fat Man, a.k.a. Mr. Cash, set up a string of phony gold shops crisscrossing America. The end result was one of the world's largest, most efficient money laundering networks. By some accounts, Fat Man laundered more than a billion dollars of drug profits for Pablo Escobar and the other Cartel leaders. This is the true story of how it all happened. It is a step-by-step view of how the scheme worked and how it was ultimately uncovered. This story reveals conventional and at times unconventional tactics used by the government in its three-year, worldwide investigation. It is also a behind-the-scenes look at Fat Man himself and his crew, as well as the agents and cops who pursued them. It was unlikely that Fat Man, a small town gangster, would ever become an international money launderer for the Colombian Drug Lords. But what was more unlikely was the fact that it took a rookie agent to finally uncover the scheme. And more unlikely than that was the fact that the rookie agent was Fat Man's neighbor. Both were born within just a few days from each other, grew up just a few miles from each other, lived in similar blue-collar neighborhoods and even lived in all but identical homes. And both were influenced, in very different ways, by the New England Mob, which was headquartered nearby on Federal Hill in Providence, RI. While Fat Man relished a life of crime, I dreamed of becoming an agent. In 1987, while his scheme originally went unnoticed, I was at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy in southern Georgia. One year after the new Money Laundering Law was created, I began

work as a new U.S. Treasury Agent. My first post of duty was Providence, RI. My first assignment was to follow a lead, a suspicious cash deposit at a local bank. It was originally considered to be a dead end, "keep busy" work for a new, inexperienced agent with little to do. But that changed when I followed the lead to Fat Man's Coin Store. This is how it all happened.

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Customer Reviews

I recently finished this book and found it to be very enjoyable. I recently retired from the law enforcement profession last year. The conversational flow the author chose to tell his story was reminiscent of my youth when my uncle, a member of the NYPD, would recount his experiences on patrol with my father. These fond memories would be reinforced years later after I entered the profession. As a rookie I would sit in the squad room and listen to the contract guards, retired detectives, swap stories of their adventures. There have been criticisms in other reviews regarding the author's decision not to expand upon the background of some of the key people in his tale. I submit that the decision to write in this manner was appropriate. I am reminded of the Law & Order series, particularly the original. I thoroughly enjoyed the show and developed a thirst for more knowledge about many of the characters especially Brisco and Logan. The producer,

Dick Wolf, did not give in to the public demand, instead doling out nuggets sparingly. His preference was for the focus of the viewers be on each week's episode. However, the nuggets he did give viewers were invaluable insight into the character and the ongoing plot. I have listened to a sample of the audio version and I am excited to hear more. I feel that this is worthy of your time and look forward to Agent Burns's next book!

Being a Rhode Island resident I wish I could say this was a great book. Maybe a good book to some but closer to fair. The book lacked a lot of substance. It seems the book revolved more on Agent Burns and his band of misfit fellow agents. I did not dislike the book but it is not a page turner.

I played a small part in this investigation, so I read it out of curiosity to see how the characters (on both sides) were portrayed, and out of nostalgia for what was an important and exciting operation. Pat Burns has done a great job of combining historical accuracy with a highly readable and entertaining account of a large-than-life character, his low-life acolytes, and law enforcement professionals who split their time between fighting crime and fighting with each other. It's a good read for anyone who wants to see how a major federal law enforcement operation looks from the inside.

good story...horrible editing and story structure (like the previous post says)...could have been better.....the general read is pretty slow which leaves the reader bored and uninterested....i almost stopped reading it...maybe the author will revise it and publish again.....i love true crime books so i had to pick this up

Good book. Could tell a non-writer wrote the book which made it better.

Very interesting & worthwhile read. This book is well written & goes into great detail how persistent this Agent was.

Not a terrible book but it desperately needs an editor to clean up the story structure along with the numerous typos and punctuation mistakes.

I know all about that case. I knew the Special Agent. He did a great job with the investigation, and I found the book to be nothing short of excellent. Can't wait for the movie.

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