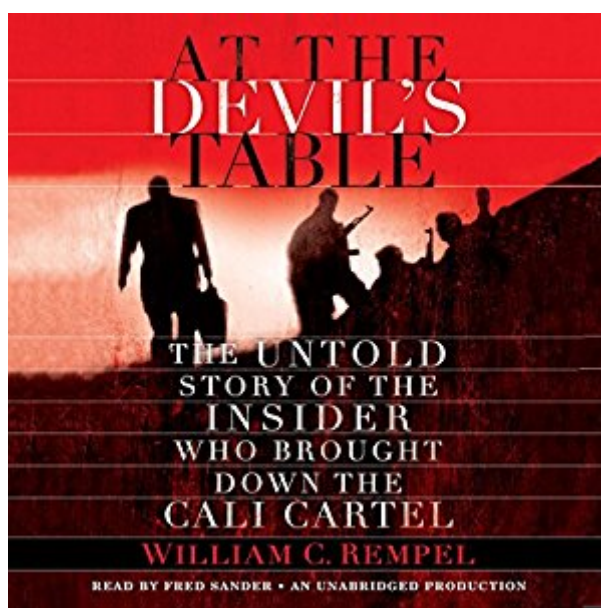


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At The Devil's Table: The Untold Story Of The Insider Who Brought Down The Cali Cartel



Synopsis

In this riveting and relentless nonfiction thriller, award-winning investigative reporter William C. Rempel tells the harrowing story of former Cali cartel insider Jorge Salcedo, an ordinary man facing an extraordinary dilemma—a man forced to risk everything to escape the powerful and treacherous Cali crime syndicate. Colombia in the 1990s is a country in chaos, as a weak government battles guerrilla movements and narco-traffickers, including the notorious Pablo Escobar and his rivals in the Cali cartel. Enter Jorge Salcedo, a part-time soldier, a gifted engineer, a respected businessman and family man—and a man who despises Pablo Escobar for patriotic and deeply personal reasons. He is introduced to the godfathers of the Cali cartel, who are at war with Escobar and desperately want their foe dead. With mixed feelings, Jorge agrees to help them. Once inside, Jorge rises to become head of security for Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela, principal godfather of the \$7-billion-a-year Cali drug cartel. Jorge tries to turn a blind eye to the violence, corruption, and brutality that surround him, and he struggles privately to preserve his integrity, even as he is drawn deeper into the web of cartel operations. Then comes an order from the godfathers that he can't obey—but can't refuse. Jorge realizes that his only way out is to bring down the biggest, richest crime syndicate of all time. Thus begins a heart-pumping roller-coaster ride of intensifying peril. Secretly aided by a pair of young American DEA agents, Jorge races time and cartel assassins to extract damaging evidence, help capture the fugitive godfather, and save the life of a witness targeted for murder. Through it all, death lurks a single misstep away. William C. Rempel is the only reporter with access to this story and to Jorge, who remains in hiding somewhere in the United States—even the author doesn't know where—but has revealed his experience in gripping detail. Salcedo's is the story of one extraordinary, ordinary man forced to risk everything to end a nightmare of his own making.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So many stories are about the Medellin side and Pablo Escobar. These tell of how Pablo had a heart, gave much of his money back to the people of Colombia, built hospitals and educational facilities, and created jobs. Although he was a bad guy, in these books he is described as a family man who hated violence. His greatest competitor, the Cali cartel is depicted as instigators, murderers, and thugs. So now we have this story from the Cali side, telling it all differently. The tension builds from the beginning and I found myself flying through the pages and trying not to skip anything. Jorge Salcedo is the double agent who is often in a no-win situation, but in spite of the danger to him and his family he absolutely toughs it out until the end. He overlooks some things which if discovered would have had deadly consequences. The straw that breaks the camel's back boils down to his life or someone else's. There are moments of utter frustration when flushing out the drug lord goes wrong because of corruption and rules being broken by the Colombian authorities. The story points out that this is the one time when the last thing they need is an honest cop! I would highly recommend also reading "The Man Who Made it Snow" by Max Mermelstein which is every bit as compelling as "Devil's Table". Then you might to take a deep breath read something funny to release all the tension.

This book was both informative and a very entertaining read. WCR knows how to provide the information in a very entertaining fashion. Reads like a novel, yet very detailed and well researched. I got this after watching an 80 episode telenovela that was based on the book called "En La Boca del Lobo" which was an amazing show. Highly recommend both, I've learn so much about Colombian political corruption history and how it related to the narcotics trade by reading this book.

I really enjoyed this book by William C. Rempel. The Cali Cartel was notorious but who wouldn't be in that type of business. It is what it is. Of course being a snitch and living your life forever in hiding, has to make one crazy. But that is the life one choose's in the drug business.

This book is an outstanding source of information about the Cali Cartel. You need to read this book.

Inform yourself about this period in time. It's still happening in Mexico our next door neighbor.

Completely engrossing true crime story about the fall of the Cali cartel from within. How has this story not been made into a movie?

Columbia's history of corruption, drug trade & violence all clearly exposed thanks to the strength of one man, Jorge. Fascinating read.

Incredibly interesting and informative. The influence the cartels had not only on Columbia, but around the world was phenomenal. This book is extremely well written by a true "insider" who suffered severe anxiety as his position grew within the cartel.

Besides being about an edgy and thrilling subject, the drug smuggling business in Colombia in the '80's and 90's, the actual writing was great! I read it in just a few days; it was that engrossing. Having lived in Colombia in those years, I can attest to the accuracy and clear description of events that took place. I put this work at the top of my pyramid - one of the best books on the subject and written with perceptive depth. This book revolves around the Cali Cartel. If you want a similarly fine work based on Medellin, read 'The Infiltrator' by Robert Mazur. Forget fiction books! In the case of 'At the Devil's Table' and 'The Infiltrator', the point gets driven home that true history is often more amazing and unbelievable than fiction.

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