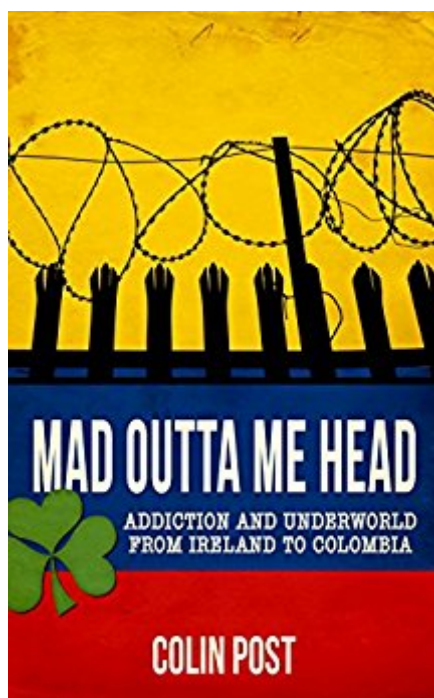


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Mad Outta Me Head: Addiction And Underworld From Ireland To Colombia



Synopsis

Mad Outta Me Head follows the life of Christopher Kavanagh from Dublin, Ireland to Bogotá, Colombia. Along the way is an unbelievable story of addiction and underworld. "The Mick" was the nickname given to Christopher Kavanagh when his stories first appeared on the Expat Chronicles blog. A case could be made that sexual abuse by Catholic priests or his IRA family connections contributed to his criminal path. But he would admit it all came down to his love of drugs and alcohol -- getting "mad outta his head." Christopher did time in Smiley's industrial school (the equivalent to juvenile detention in the United States), Mountjoy Prison (AKA 'The Joy'), Loughan House, and Arbour Hill. He befriended Dublin's leading criminal figures, including some of the Dunne family and "King Scum" Tony Felloni, who were instrumental in bringing heroin into 1970s Dublin. Christopher's criminal activities grew to be a full-time job when he became addicted to heroin. He and his girlfriend traveled to Bogotá with the intention of bringing four kilos of cocaine back to Ireland. They were caught by Colombian police at El Dorado airport. Christopher served three years in Colombia's largest prison, La Modelo, where he befriended M-19 guerrilla insurgents, the infamous Medellín Cartel assassins 'Los Priscos', and many more from the rank-and-file of Colombia's underworld -- mafiosos, thieves, conmen, killers, and more. Christopher was released in 1989 and traded his previous heroin addiction for debilitating alcoholism on the streets of Bogotá at a time when TIME Magazine called it the world's worst city, the capital of the world's most dangerous country. Prison rape, riots, murder, torture, bank robberies, scams, hardcore partying, addiction, hedonism, and a life of crime. It's Basketball Diaries meets Marching Powder in Dublin, Ireland and Bogotá, Colombia.

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Customer Reviews

I am familiar with this author, yet even still these stories left me with my jaw dropped. Seriously, it defies description, which points to the author's skills, bringing this amazing story together. I know the content to be legit and the style and sequence are strong. There were also a lot of great links for reference. I will just wrap up by saying that I could not put this book down and finished it in one day, which has not happened to me in years. I was thrilled, as I indulged into a story and a life I would not dare to lead myself.

Great book! It's both informative and highly entertaining.

Amazing read! It's like "Basketball Diaries" meets "English Teacher X". Chris "the Mick" Kavanagh went off the rails like few men have ever done, and somehow lived to tell about it. The book starts with Chris's ascent as a minor player in Dublin's drug scene, to his arrest in Colombia for drug smuggling. After spending several years in a Colombian prison, Chris finds himself exiled without a passport in Colombia where he still teaches English today. Along the way Chris introduces us to large cast of local Colombians, from tramps to major players in the booming 90s drug scene. Chris is brutally honest about some of his low-points, which include attempted murder, rape, and theft.

I had read a few excerpts of this biography but none of it prepared me for what is within the pages. The life of the Mick is one that needed to be told and gives an amazing account of 70's - 80's Irish underworld culture before diving deep into the crime-riddled Colombian lifestyles of the 80's - 90's. Really, truly fascinating. Well written and thoroughly fact checked with excerpts from newspapers to back up the Mick's claims. It's a wonder the guy is still alive. Highly recommended!

This book is hard to put down. You'll want to keep reading in order to find out what happens to Christopher Kavanaugh, an interesting and complex man who simply wants to enjoy life and get 'mad outta his head'. From Ireland to Colombia, the adventure and danger never stops. A side benefit to this book is that I learned a lot about the Colombian culture and its history.

This book follows the life of an Irishman named Christopher, which can only be described as "unbelievable". Christopher endures hardship after hardship - much owed to his own choices - in this captivating story of what life is really like living in the crime and drug-ridden underbelly of South America. I read this book in three sittings because it was so hard to put down. This is not my typical genre of literature, yet I'm glad I didn't allow that to keep me from giving it a read. Highly recommended!

A good read. Organized and well-written. Lots of entertaining anecdotes about the protagonist's life and the sordid characters that he's befriended during his time in and out of jail - in Ireland and in Colombia. And, lots of confirming details for someone with a casual knowledge of the recent history of Colombia and its capital, Bogota.

For an unbridled romp through contemporary Colombian history and using Christopher Kavanagh as the spine of this almost unbelievable tale, look no further. Drugs, murder, prostitution and all seen through the eyes of the affable and otherworldly Irishman is unlike anything you will have read before. Highly recommended.

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