



The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI

By Jonathan Beaty

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Two journalists with *Time* magazine provide a behind-the-scenes look at the BCCI scandal, describing a complex web of intrigue, kickbacks, corruption, and coverup and their cloak-and-dagger investigation into the case. 100,000 first printing. \$100,000 ad/promo. Tour.

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The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI By Jonathan Beaty Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The latest chronicle of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) is "about the biggest bank fraud in the history of the world," write the authors, reporters for Time magazine. They have tracked the story much as Woodward and Bernstein sniffed out Watergate. While there is some overlap between this and two previous BCCI books (James Adams's *A Full Service Bank*, LJ 3/1/92, and Mark Potts's *Dirty Money*, LJ 5/1/92), this one gives a far-ranging overview of BCCI's origins, how it became a financial powerhouse, and how it fell apart. Some of the new revelations indicate a major cover-up involving the U.S. government; there is a great deal of cloak-and-dagger activity involving late-night meetings and anonymous high-level government sources (one named Condor, who is reminiscent of Deep Throat during Watergate). Given the scope of this scandal and the ongoing investigations, more books on BCCI are sure to be written, but this is probably the best now available for general readers on the subject. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 11/1/92.

- *Richard Drezzen, Merrill Lynch Lib., New York*

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From Kirkus Reviews

An unconventional but thorough audit of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, by a pair of Time correspondents whose coverage of the stateless institution's scandalous collapse earned them a slew of journalism awards. Beaty and Gwynne (*Selling Money*, 1986) offer a four-part rundown on BCCI, the financial establishment of choice for arms dealers, drug traffickers, intelligence operatives, terrorists, Third World strongmen, and other scofflaws. The authors first recount how confidential sources tipped them on the biggest story of their professional lives. They then provide a concise, third-person briefing on the Arab-owned, Pakistani-run bank's origins and off-the-books operating procedures. Chartered in backwater venues like the Cayman Islands to evade oversight by regulatory authorities, BCCI (founded in 1972) resorted to money laundering, Ponzi schemes, secret ledgers, tax evasion, and allied misdeeds in catering to its criminal clientele. An accounting commissioned by the Bank of England finally exposed the extent of BCCI's deficits and offenses, impelling the bank's closing. Resuming the narrative as it unfolded from their points of view, the authors cover how they learned that BCCI was something larger and more sinister than a transnational depository institution. In conclusion, they address the failure of governments everywhere to clamp down on BCCI despite abundant evidence of its corruption. Throughout, Beaty and Gwynne make clear that the bank's capacity to suborn or use pillars of the political community played a crucial role in its success. The ranks of those tarnished include the prominent likes of Lord Callaghan, Jimmy Carter, Clark Clifford, and Bert Lance, while the much shorter list of good guys features Jack Blum (a former Senate investigator) and Gotham's D.A., Robert Morgenthau. The ringside format takes some getting used to, but it ultimately affords as vividly clear an explanation of the BCCI conspiracy as we're apt to get anytime soon. (Sixteen pages of b&w photographs--not seen) -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

From the Back Cover

The Outlaw Bank goes straight to the corrupt heart of the most spectacular financial scandal in history: the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. A riveting mix of *Dr. No* and *All the President's Men*, *The Outlaw Bank* tells the story of the collapse of the BCCI in a unique, revealing - and unforgettable - way. Time correspondents Jonathan Beaty and S. C. Gwynne didn't just report on the BCCI story; from the first tip, they became players in a game of journalistic three-dimensional chess - full of murky leads and shady sources who often were not what they seemed. Through their fastpaced, firsthand account, we are there as Beaty and Gwynne arrange back-channel rendezvous; find a way around government stonewalling;

and slowly begin to trace the web of kickbacks, corruption, and cover-ups that spanned three U.S. administrations and ensnared politicians and business figures around the world. The Outlaw Bank shows how the BCCI was more than a bank with a portfolio of bad loans and nasty clients like Manuel Noriega and the Medellin cartel. With offices and agents in every corner of the world, the BCCI had become a clearinghouse for almost anything: political bribes, untraceable cash, guns, tanks - even nuclear weapons. Beaty and Gwynne tell the real BCCI story with all of its amazing detail and mysterious characters. They go inside the mind of Agha Hasan Abedi, BCCI's messianic founder, whose vision of a Third World bank became twisted into a financial evil empire that moved effortlessly across national borders. They show how Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau and others mounted a massive inquiry - in the face of opposition from the U.S. Justice Department - that eventually led to the indictment of both the bank and former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford. They reveal how they unraveled the BCCI's labyrinth of connections in Africa, Europe, and the United States, and with the CIA - and how their investigation broke through the Washington cover-up that had protected the BCCI for so long. The authors explain why top White House figures in the last two administrations knew about the BCCI's criminal activities yet remained silent as the bank built an empire to service drug dealers. The Outlaw Bank is also the first book to go inside the BCCI's "Black Network", a shadowy organization that handled the bank's most sensitive transactions, including arms sales to Iraq, Syria, and other bellicose nations; stolen military secrets; drug deals; and even terrorism. Beaty and Gwynne show dramatically how the BCCI used the Black Network to export its special brand of corruption to the most powerful circles in countries around the world. Brilliantly detailed and wonderfully readable, The Outlaw Bank is the most authoritative account of one of the largest and most disturbing criminal conspiracies in history. It is also a detective story crammed with spies, mercenaries, and crooked bankers.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clarice Stephens:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want sense happy read one having theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI is kind of reserve which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Lloyd Schuler:

This The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI are generally reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The reason why of this The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you with information that might be will shock your preceding knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed people. Beside that this The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI giving you an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Madeline Cecil:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a publication then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI giving you another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful info for your better life on this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Elaine West:

The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial thinking.

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