



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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Download and Read Free Online **The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI** By **Jonathan Beaty**

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:

Linda Pinkerton:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Pierre Winter:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a publication. The book The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Barbara Folsom:

Reading can called imagination 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 each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The *The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of BCCI* giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Hayden Wolfe:

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