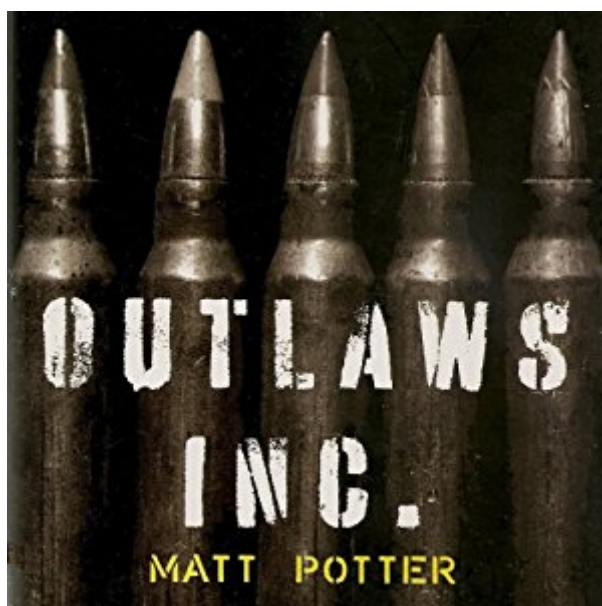


The book was found

Outlaws, Inc: Under The Radar And On The Black Market With The World's Most Dangerous Smugglers



Synopsis

This riveting account reveals the secret corners of our supposedly flat world: black markets where governments are never seen but still spend outrageous amounts of money. Journalist Matt Potter tells the story of Yuri and his crew, a gang of Russian military men who, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, found themselves without work or prospects. So they bought a decommissioned Soviet plane - at liquidation prices, straight from the Russian government - and started a shipping business. It wasn't long before Yuri, and many pilots like him, found themselves an unlikely (and ethically dubious) hub of global trading. Men like these are paid by the U.S., the Taliban, and blue-chip multinational companies to bring supplies - some legal, some not - across dangerous borders. In a feat of daring reportage, Potter gets onto the flight deck with these outlaws and tells the story of their fearless missions. Dodging gunfire, Potter is taken from place to place by men trafficking everything from illicit weapons to emergency aid, making enemies everywhere but no reliable friends. As the world changes, we see the options for the crew first explode, then slowly diminish, until, in a desperate maneuver, they move their operations to the most lawless corners of Africa, where they operate to this day. The story of these outlaws is a microcosm of the world since the end of the cold war: secret contracts, guerrilla foreign policy, and conflicts too thorny to be handled in public. Potter uses the story of these men to articulate an underground history of the globalized world. At once thrilling, provocative, and morally circumspect, this book is a must-listen for anyone with an interest in espionage, or in how the world works today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The books, "Outlaws Inc." and "Merchant of Death" cover much the same ground, except that Merchant of Death focuses mostly on Viktor Bout while Outlaws Inc. covers everyone else along with Bout. I bought and read both, and my suggestion is that those interested in the topic but not a fanatic about it, just buy one of the two books. Reading both was something like overkill, but I enjoyed both despite the overlap of material. Outlaws Inc. you can't put down and turned out to be my favorite of the two, because the author took the time to actually go on some of the flights around the world with the guys who fly IL76 aircraft. As mentioned in my review of Merchant of Death, news stories of smuggling operations often contain as both propaganda and truth because government smears help prepare the public to judge and convict accused persons before a trial. Nightly t.v. news media always has talking heads and public officials condemning enemies of the state before guilt or innocence has been determined at trial (Google: "Operation Mockingbird" and its current progeny), so one has to remember that everyone is presumed innocent until after a fair trial. As the Bout case illustrates, getting "a fair trial" in the US for a foreigner accused of violating a US law while he was in a foreign country isn't likely to happen. The Bout case begs the question of why US laws should apply to foreign citizens living outside the US. What part of the US Constitution said that US laws govern the entire planet?

Interesting read but really hard to separate fact and what is exaggerated- which makes sense due to the nature of the topic and the people being written about; even if it's not embellished from the authors point of view- who knows if the stories he was told by the people involved are accurate and not just told for amusement? Perhaps better read as an adventure story than complete nonfiction.

Reading the Reader Digest extract of this book immediately seized my interest. But after reading the book cover to cover, I felt over sold. The book has far fewer interesting stories than I would have expected, and is predominantly a geographic/economic/political commentary. The book also tends to be repetitive, rehashing the same ground over and over again without providing the gripping stories that initially attracted me to it.

While I was aware of the influx of Russian mafia and ex-KGB into the US, I had no idea as to the extent of smuggling of former Russian military goods. This book provides an eyewitness account of the seriousness of the smugglers, former Russian military in military aircraft. Moreover, they are providing weapons and other contraband throughout the world. The book is certainly timely in light

of the current US administration's lies concerning Fast and Furious and the percentage of guns in Mexico that came from the US. The book is relatively well-written and the story is fascinating. Lastly, the book reports on a subject that has been basically ignored by the media, who only reported on the positive aspects of the break-up of the USSR.

The subject was very interesting. The writing was horrible, and the story milked for hundreds of unnecessary pages. Easily one of the worst books I've read in the past decade. In the words of the author, "One day, somebody will write a real book about these men."

Starts out great by page 100 reads like a broken record. I would recommend at half the current price only need to read first 75 pages on a e reader. it just repeats the same first 75 pages for the rest of the book in different ways

My 70 year old dad recommended this however I didn't enjoy it as much as he did. The writer did a good job putting you in the cockpit and his stories were pretty wild sometimes, but repetitive also. It is fascinating that these people walk the planet and use their talents for good and evil. A head shaker for sure. If you like to read about bad guys this is a good book, however, the same story seemed to be repeated over and over.

Author's unfamiliarity with aircraft materials is apparent throughout the book's pages. If Russian aircraft frames and skins are of the magnetic material iron with ability to rust, as the author infers... not the usual lightweight non-magnetic aluminum which rejects application of magnetic ID signage, and is subject to corrosion (common term)... Then this is not an incongruity that runs throughout the book giving way for less credence to other info/detail provided.

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