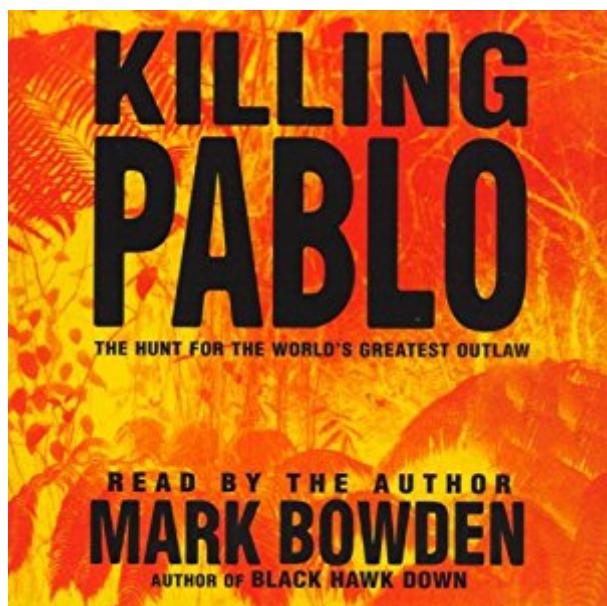


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# Killing Pablo: The Hunt For The World's Greatest Outlaw



## **Synopsis**

A tour de force of investigative journalism-Killing Pablo is the story of the violent rise and fall of Pablo Escobar, the head of the Colombian Medellin cocaine cartel. Escobar's criminal empire held a nation of thirty million hostage in a reign of terror that would only end with his death. In an intense, up-close account, award-winning journalist Mark Bowden exposes details never before revealed about the U.S.-led covert sixteen-month manhunt. With unprecedented access to important players—including Colombian president Cesar Gaviria and the incorruptible head of the special police unit that pursued Escobar, Colonel Hugo Martinez—as well as top-secret documents and transcripts of Escobar's intercepted phone conversations, Bowden has produced a gripping narrative that is a stark portrayal of rough justice in the real world. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I loved this book. Perhaps not told as well as Black Hawk Down but still very good. Probably it has a lot to do with the fascinating subject. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the subject matter.

Mark Bowden has successfully written an accurate account of the life and death of Pablo Escobar in a way that mesmerizes. It reads like a suspense novel and captures the reader's attention from start to finish. One must frequently remind oneself that the violence and horror of the drug traffic trade in South America was, and is, both real and terrifying. Congratulations, Mr. Bowden, on your in-depth

research and account of one of the most influential and corrupt individuals of the 20th century.

The book starts with a general narrative of the background of the Andean cocaine trafficking world which was at one point largely run by Pablo Escobar. That's Part one which provides some very useful information. Part two goes into specific actions taken to bring Pablo Escobar in dead. We learn that some of what you see in Narcos is simply not true such as Escobar firing guns while much is confirmed. It's an engrossing story and Bowden's writing makes it easy reading. I enjoyed and would recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about the life and death of Pablo Escobar.

Mark Bowden, author of "Black Hawk Down", delivers a tour de force account of the notorious leader of the Medellin drug cartel, Pablo Escobar. His sharp account details the rise of Escobar by examining the economic, political and social conditions underlying the sharp rise in cocaine production (and that of the rival Cali cartel) during the 1980s. Bowden details the deep involvement of the US in the attempted crackdown on drug shipments as cocaine, and then crack, consumption in the US soared. Escobar was a terrorist of the first order and the fear he sowed within Columbia through the brutal tactics that eliminated of enemies in the drug trade, those in the government, police, military and judiciary and even those in his inner circle whom he believed had betrayed him. The extravagance and sophistication of his operations that at one point made him one of the richest people in the world allowed him to buy off any obstacle in such an impoverished nation and engender loyalty among the masses because he used his dirty money to build infrastructure to provide schools, clean water and the like that the government had not proved capable of doing. The mass corruption his cartel undertook is staggering and the control and fear exerted on Columbian society is mind boggling to consider. Escobar's original capture was done on his terms and his jail was lavishly built and run by his cronies so he could run his empire in luxury and surrounded by his closest confidants. The final part of the book tracks the epic manhunt for Escobar by the Columbian military with strong clandestine and technological support from the US that culminated in the epic showdown and hail of gunfire that brought down the terrorist that traumatized Columbian society through the most pernicious, traumatic and violent means.

I was inspired to read this book which n I learned it was the inspiration for the Netflix series Narcos. The book covers the true events in Escobar's life. A man who grew up as a bully and used that bullying to create an enormously wealthy drug cartel, which became more powerful than the

Colombian government and US money, weapons, and military help could buy. Very pleased I chose to read this book.

Bowden gives a very gripping glimpse inside the world of the late Colombian drug lord, Pablo Escobar. This perspective is juxtaposed beside the tale of the military and police forces from the United States and Colombia seeking to put an end to his ruthless reign of terror. The author has done his research and it shows. You get the distinct impression from Bowden's writing that the author knows much more than he is actually saying in his account. Therefore, he is able to weave a story, rich with facts, and easily able to captivate the reader's attention at every turn. This is what I believe sets Bowden, Ambrose, and others apart among popular historians: They do their homework. They don't do their research, it seems, with the intent of getting just enough for their book. They research every angle of the book and then from that massive block of knowledge they sculpt a story that is both accurate and spellbinding. I came to this book with little or no prior knowledge of Pablo Escobar and the US involvement in the Colombian drug cartels, so I am unable to review this book from that perspective. You will have to rely on better-versed reviewers for that. However, from a consumer standpoint--somebody who loves a good story, especially if it is true--this book outperformed my expectations. I finished reading it in three nights; I could not put it down. Buyer beware, do not start reading this, unless you want to finish it quickly. I guarantee that you will never find yourself bored reading this one!

Detailed and accurate account of the rise and fall of Pablo Escobar. The writing and presentation though seem cramped and rushed. The style is more journalistic than artistic. This story read like a series of newspaper articles. The author is more concerned with getting the facts over than entertaining the reader. This is absolutely fine if you are reading just to educate oneself or to gain information: I do want to do that, but I also want a little suspense on the way and to feel more involved in the characters described. Bottom line is that I finished the book wiser, but it was a bit of a slog getting through it. A little more "novel" approach would have been good.

Mark Bowden, especially in the early days, knew how to keep his audience engaged! I was a child when the Pablo Escobar hunt was going on but I remember hearing about his death in the news. The entire background to it was absolutely fascinating!

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