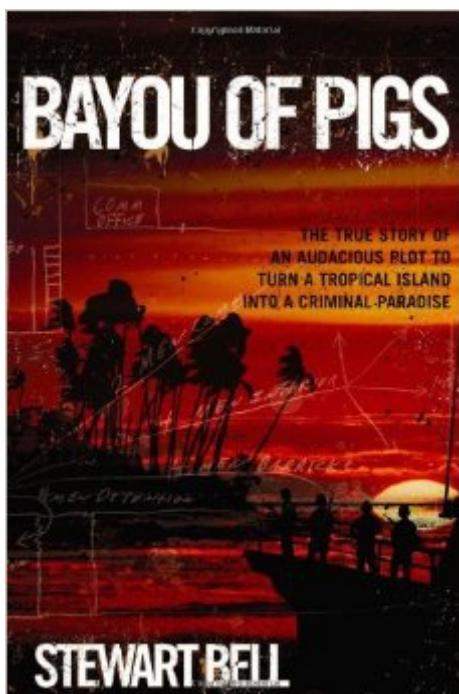


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Bayou Of Pigs: The True Story Of An Audacious Plot To Turn A Tropical Island Into A Criminal Paradise



Synopsis

The story of how a criminal Shangri-La almost happenedIn 1981, a small but heavily armed force of misfits from the United States and Canada set off on an unlikely mission: to invade the impoverished Caribbean island of Dominica, overthrow its government in a coup d'etat, and install a new bought-off prime minister. For two years, the gangleaders recruited manpower, wooed investors, forged links with the mob, stockpiled weapons, and planned their assault. They called it Operation Red Dog. They were going to make millions. All that stood in their way were two federal agents from Louisiana on the biggest case of their lives. Bayou of Pigs tells a remarkable story of foreign military intervention, revolutionary politics, greed, treachery, stupidity, deceit, and one of the most outlandish crimes ever attempted: the theft of a nation.Stewart Bell (Toronto, ON) is the author of Cold Terror (978-0-470-84056-6).

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Customer Reviews

Journalist, Stewart Bell's well-researched book fills a glaring gap in the recent history of this chronically misunderstood island nation. Bell focuses correctly on a group of errant, would-be mercenaries and their criminal conspiracy to turn Dominica into an international playpen for organized crime in the early 1980's. The author wisely avoids getting too much into the political machinations of local soldiers and politicians and instead exposes extreme right-wing groups in the US and Canada for the wrongheaded hypocrites they were and are to this day. These guys got off way too easily. They should have gotten 20 years to life for what they had done. As a veteran

anthropological researcher in Dominica, I found little to take issue with in this book except for a few minor inaccuracies not even worth mentioning. I particularly enjoyed Bell's pains to place the failed Dominican coup attempt within the context of the American invasion of nearby Grenada. Patrick John and the remnants of the Dominican Defense Force's desperation and embarrassment was aptly illustrated by one of the local conspirator's summation of their American/Canadian mercenary partners, "We had no idea who these guys really were!" In fact, they were American and Canadian nazis and Ku Klux Klan members. The only thing the author left out was the Nazi and Klan mercenaries' plan to turn Dominica into a military training camp for mercenaries employed under the auspices of the Apartheid regime in South Africa at the time.

A fascinating story and very well researched and written. It is hard to imagine that this could - nearly - happen. And although the plotters are painted as quite incompetent, you do wonder if, with a bit of luck, they might have succeeded. That is a scary thought. The story would make a great film. I read the Kindle version, which I recommend.

The good guys were a handful of patriotic American and Dominican citizens - mostly informants and law enforcement types. The criminals were a gaggle of American, Dominican and Canadian creeps - would-be soldiers-of-fortune, Rastafarians and a few unusual politicians as well as their operatives. The story is literary nonfiction as good as it gets, in this case Bell's gripping journalistic account of a ludicrous scheme to turn the island of Dominica into a base for international criminal enterprise. The story's timeline moves from the mid-1970s through the mid-1980s, while places oscillate to and from New Orleans, Houston, Toronto, Granada and Dominica. Action includes the communist takeover of Granada and a series of attempts by groups of Nazis, KKKs and drug dealers to take over the democratically elected government of Dominica. In the end, Granada and the American medical students are rescued, the Dominican government is protected, and ignorance is checked. Were they not tragic, the scoundrels and their evil schemes would provide a series of belly laughs. Bell's style reveals their greed, their ignorance, and that tragedy as well as the heroism of a few honest men and women.

A keeper for those of us who have strong ties to Dominica. A good synopsis of the events surrounding the time when the island was experiencing its worse days. After its new found independence, a devastating hurricane David and political upheaval. Cudos to the author Stewart Bell for all the research and a well written documentary. The facts speak for themselves.

This book is so exciting I couldn't put it down once I started. Mr. Bell writes a compelling story that moves forward at a breath-taking pace. And it is funny! This is my home country and I knew some of the people personally, so I was blown away.

I spent part of my childhood in Dominica, and still have much family there. The book shed light on the events that I remember hearing about on the radio as a child after leaving Dominica for the Virgin Islands. After I read it I sent a copy to my mother, who is from Dominica and grew up with some of the characters involved. Even she was not aware of the intricacies involved in the plot. Very well done!

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