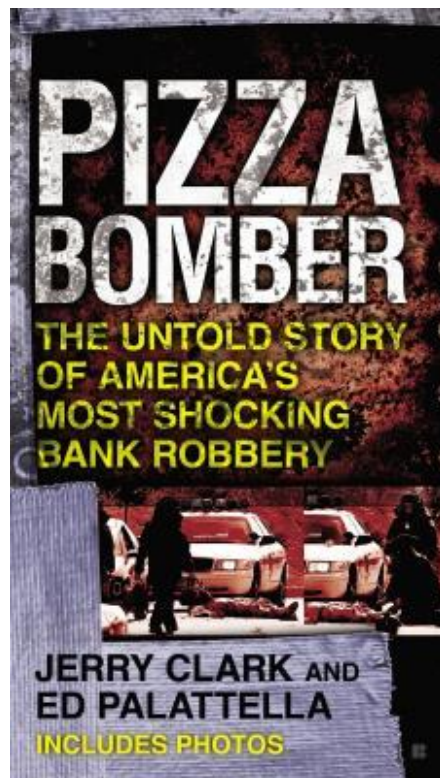




Pizza Bomber: The Untold Story of America's Most Shocking Bank Robbery

Jerry Clark , Ed Palattella

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On August 28, 2003, in the suburbs of Erie, Pennsylvania, a pizza delivery man named Brian Wells was accosted by several men who locked a time bomb around his neck. They then ordered him to rob a bank. After delivering the money, he would receive clues to help him disarm the bomb. It was one of the most ingenious bank robbery schemes in history, known as Collarbomb by the FBI.

It did not go according to plan.

Wells, picked up by police shortly after the robbery, never found the clues he needed. Investigating the crime after his grisly death, the FBI soon discovered that Wells was not, in fact, an innocent victim. He was merely the first co-conspirator to fall in a bizarre trail of death following the crime.

Jerry Clark, the lead FBI Special Agent who cracked what became known as the Pizza Bomber case, and investigative reporter Ed Palattella, who followed it from the beginning, tell the complete story, from the inside, for the first time.

INCLUDES PHOTOS

Pizza Bomber: The Untold Story of America's Most Shocking Bank Robbery Details

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Author : Jerry Clark , Ed Palattella

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From Reader Review **Pizza Bomber: The Untold Story of America's Most Shocking Bank Robbery for online ebook**

Angela Johnson says

My husband and I read this after watching the Netflix documentary Evil Genius. It takes a different point of view, as it is written by the lead FBI investigator on Major Case 203, Jerry Clark.

If you know anyone from Erie, I'm sure they've told you where they were when the Pizza Bomber case was on the news... especially after the documentary aired. I'll be different in saying, I was 13 so I don't remember! I vaguely remember news reports and then I remember, as a completely separate event, breaking news that a body was found in a woman's freezer. That's the extent of my memory.

However, during my Master's study I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Clark during my assistantship at the Dean's office. He was friendly and personable. A big presence - but put you at ease... and this is just an impression from one brief encounter. It was after that I had learned who he was and that he had written a book. It piqued my interest but... grad school... so, I hadn't thought of the book again in years.

The documentary paints a picture of a bipolar woman, calm one minute, manic the next; an eccentric man who lived life in bib overalls and big black framed glasses who were once engaged. Both highly intelligent they were surprisingly unsuccessful in life. She battle mental illness and a father who wanted to "squander" her inheritance. He was never motivated enough to get out of his childhood home and make something of himself.

Majorie Diehl-Armstrong and Bill Rothstein. Key players in a bank robbery that involved more conspirators, a victim, a scavenger hunt, and a collar bomb.

If you've watched the documentary, you know the details. But what you don't know is why the FBI pursues a connection between James Rosen's murder and the Wells case. Or why Robert Pinetti wound up deceased. Or why they don't believe Brian Wells was a totally manipulated, innocent, and unaware victim.

This was a relatively easy read and extremely informative. An new insight into the case from what we've already heard and worth the read, in my opinion.

Kate says

Based on the cover, this book looks like it is going to be super corny, but it is honestly quite a page-turner and very well-written.

The reporter and FBI agent who authored this story did a good job of explaining a very complex case that was notorious and will be remembered by anyone from my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Donny says

This book could have been a lot better had it been written from a first-person perspective. It dragged on and continued to repeat itself. Halfway through the book it almost felt like I was reading it over again. The writing seemed amateurish and some of the facts would change throughout the book. The story itself was interesting, but the way it was written made it boring.

Charles Reimler says

Bizarre Strange Cast Of Weird Characters In Twisted Plot! **Who Would Think An *Unassuming Brian* *Humble Pizza Delivery's Man* End Up With A *Genuine Bomb* *Around His Neck* Under "Threateningly Conditions *Force Robbery Of A Bank! *Reality*Evil People "Heads Of Garbage" "Wickedness Lifestyle"!

Amanda Jaczkowski says

As the first true-crime novel I have read, I cannot properly evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this novel in the context of the genre. Therefore, this review is solely based on my personal opinion.

The writing style was incredibly straightforward, laying out facts and characters as if I was actually following this case closely in the media. It was an intriguing robbery, quite fitting of the subtitle "most shocking bank robbery". Perhaps I was too young when it actually happened, but I had not heard anything about this crime until the title of the book caught my eye.

The overall deviousness of the plot is disturbing. The book clearly follows real-life events, but successfully manipulates them into a careful rising action, climax, and resolution as a typical novel model.

I'd recommend this book to someone looking to expand their boundaries, and look forward to picking up more true-crime novels in the future.

Read as book 26 of the 2014 50 Book Challenge.

Sydney says

Although the story was extremely informative on the investigation, there were many times where I felt it sidetracked into irrelevant cases. It seemed at times the purpose was not to go over the case, but instead to pat Jerry Clark on the back as it would go into detail about his life and other things not related to the case. In the end, I was interested in the book to learn about the case, not about Jerry Clark's childhood and college life.

Kristin says

Nobody can write a true crime story like Ann Rule, that's for sure!

Although I found the pizza bomber case fascinating, the book was repetitive. The case was mentioned in detail multiple times. Also, there were so many people involved in the plot that it became confusing at times.

Kelly says

This book chronicled the FBI's investigation into one of the most fascinating and bizarre crimes in modern history. The book was overwrought in some areas and the authors tended to be on the repetitive side, but readers are treated to front row access into a filthy world of greed and deceit populated by a bitter and mentally ill murderess, drug dealers, sex offenders, prostitutes, a borderline genius and one incredibly unlucky pizza delivery man at the heart of an unbelievably deranged bank robbery plot. True crime buffs will enjoy this book despite its minor flaws.

Cara Blakeslee says

An excellent follow up to Evil Genius on Netflix. Written by the detectives who worked the case. Would highly recommend, especially if you binged the entire series on one sitting like I did.

Amber Matha says

The content, in terms of the case was very well written and corroborated the new Netflix documentary, Evil Genius. However, the execution of the writing could have been better. I found it odd that Palattella, a journalist, found it acceptable to incorporate himself into this book, despite the fact that when he was mentioned the information stated was usually frivolous and unnecessary. He could have been left out of the text all together. Maybe this book was a way for Palattella to get recognition he felt he was unable to achieve at the time of the case?

Fritze says

I'm not sure how to review a book like this. Pizza Bomber outlines the evidence found by the lead FBI agent (co-written by the local reporter covering the case) who investigated. The writing is a bit dry, but I found that appropriate for the subject matter. Here are my random thoughts upon finishing.

Words I kept using to describe this to my friends: grim, bleak, sad.

This tells the tale of several sad lives that have sad endings, the most striking of which is that of Brian Wells, the man who died when the bomb collared to him went off. It seems clear that he was forced, at gunpoint, to wear the bomb, but how he got involved in the plot is much less clear. The authorities seem to believe that because he was at a party that the other conspirators were at he was obviously in on the plot. I don't see that as obvious. However, that combined with a few other details strongly suggests he had agreed to do something with these people. Exactly what we'll never know.

This book highlighted something to me that I had not thought much about before - the role of plea bargaining in the US justice system. When investigators pit conspirators against each other, they do get the suspects talking. I understand the value of this as an interview technique. It just seems wrong that the two people who seemed to have similar levels of involvement - Barnes and Stockton - got opposite sentences. Barnes got 45 years (lessened by half for his cooperation), while Stockton got full immunity. The prosecutors felt they didn't have enough evidence to convict him, so they offered the immunity in exchange for info, but it's so uneven.

Diehls-Armstrong got life + 30 years, which from the information present, she deserved. Especially in light of her past killings.

Who actually built the bomb is unclear. Was it a collaboration?

Of the people involved:

4 died before indictments were made (including people killed by other conspirators)

2 were convicted

1 went free

Which brings me back around to Wells. I can see why investigators believed he was involved. My one disagreement with the authors of this book is their insistence on including the detail that his pubic hair was shaved. His grieving family believed that he was somehow an innocent victim. Maybe they were wrong, but surely making this private detail public was disrespectful. They list "Wells' shaved pubic area" among other things as "attributes [that] indicated Wells had enough of a deviant and devious side to have willingly signed on." I don't think robbing a bank clearly follows shaving your pubes and sleeping with a prostitute. I think that's just a lonely guy with an interest in sex, and I wish I hadn't learned that about him.

In this same sentence, the authors mention "Wells' psychopathic and paranoid tendencies as a teenager," but never go over this again. No character witnesses, no hint where this "evidence" came from, no details.

It's kinda disappointing that there weren't more details on Wells' life, because I read this out of curiosity about him. It seems to end with a big "Oh well, I guess we'll never know."

Erin Conway says

I didn't expect much out of this book but I was pleasantly surprised! Very well written and quiet the page turner. It gives you a lot of insight into the case that the general public never got from the new coverage. I was young when the incident occurred but remembered enough to enjoy this book.

Erica says

This is the story about the crime from 2003, where a man delivered a pizza, had a bomb strapped to him and was forced to rob a bank. Then the bomb went off and he was killed. I always wondered what happened, what the story was behind that weird crime. This book provides the answers, and describes the weird cast of characters in detail and the events before and after the crime. It is better written than many true crime stories, although you would not choose this book for the writing but rather for the story it explains.

stephanie says

Kinda boring book, it went on and on
And went on with some other cases!

maria helena says

Interesting topic but was a disappointing read: dry, repetitive and overall felt like an unfinished draft.
