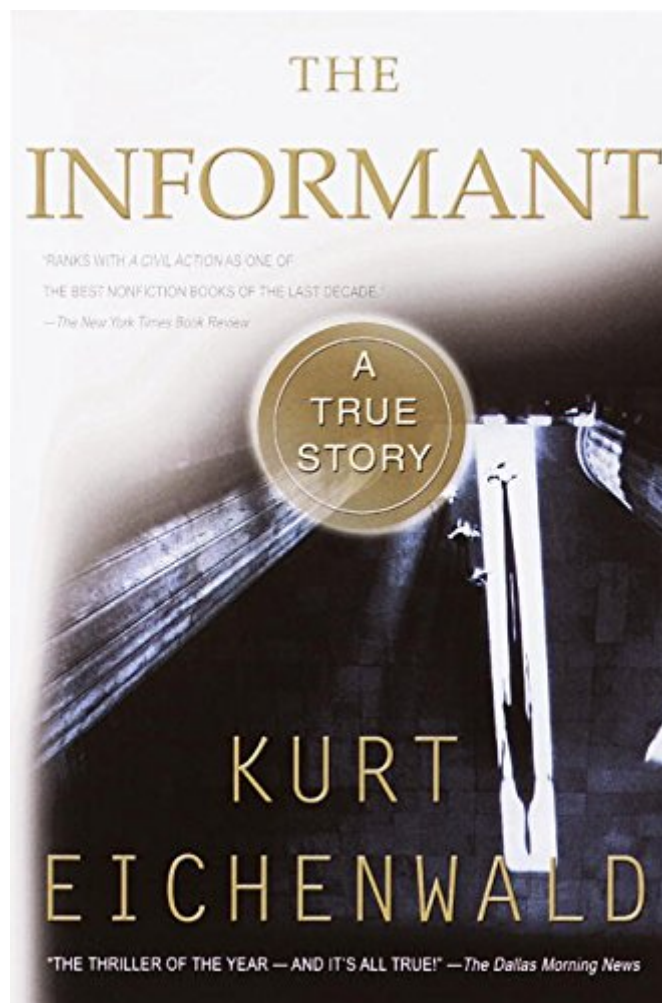


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The Informant: A True Story



Synopsis

From an award-winning New York Times investigative reporter comes an outrageous story of greed, corruption, and conspiracy—•which left the FBI and Justice Department counting on the cooperation of one man . . . It was one of the FBI's biggest secrets: a senior executive with America's most politically powerful corporation, Archer Daniels Midland, had become a confidential government witness, secretly recording a vast criminal conspiracy spanning five continents. Mark Whitacre, the promising golden boy of ADM, had put his career and family at risk to wear a wire and deceive his friends and colleagues. Using Whitacre and a small team of agents to tap into the secrets at ADM, the FBI discovered the company's scheme to steal millions of dollars from its own customers. But as the FBI and federal prosecutors closed in on ADM, using stakeouts, wiretaps, and secret recordings of illegal meetings around the world, they suddenly found that everything was not all that it appeared. At the same time Whitacre was cooperating with the Feds while playing the role of loyal company man, he had his own agenda he kept hidden from everyone around him—•his wife, his lawyer, even the FBI agents who had come to trust him with the case they had put their careers on the line for. Whitacre became sucked into his own world of James Bond antics, imperiling the criminal case and creating a web of deceit that left the FBI and prosecutors uncertain where the lies stopped and the truth began. In this gripping account unfolds one of the most captivating and bizarre tales in the history of the FBI and corporate America. Meticulously researched and richly told by New York Times senior writer Kurt Eichenwald, *The Informant* re-creates the drama of the story, beginning with the secret recordings, stakeouts, and interviews with suspects and witnesses to the power struggles within ADM and its board—•including the high-profile chairman Dwayne Andreas, F. Ross Johnson, and Brian Mulroney—•to the big-gun Washington lawyers hired by ADM and on up through the ranks of the Justice Department to FBI Director Louis Freeh and Attorney General Janet Reno. A page-turning real-life thriller that features deadpan FBI agents, crooked executives, idealistic lawyers, and shady witnesses with an addiction to intrigue, *The Informant* tells an important and compelling story of power and betrayal in America. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I like true stories. This book shows a lot of what goes on behind the scenes. It is complex, and keeps you wondering to the very end. It also makes me ashamed of those who profess to serve - isn't that what government officials are supposed to do? But the FBI do serve well.

Good read, keep's your interest.

This book truly showed the ugly side of corporations and their level of greed. The Informant is a heavy read.....It takes a while to get into the book and characters. In order to keep the information straight you must not expect to speed read.

I liked this book very much. A true story that reads like a novel. Underscores the accuracy of th old saw 'truth is stranger than fiction'

Great book describing the real life events of the scandal.It's amazing these kind of things can happen in society today.

There were too many characters to keep straight, too much detail.

Slow start to the book but, excellent reading the more you read. Would recommend this book to all who are interested in the effect big business has on our day to day lives.

I would change my review to 5 stars, if allowed. The minute Mark Whiteacre, of ADM, lost his nerve and talked to the FBI he was going to prison. Granted the guy was due some serious shrink time but unlike "Prince of the City," he was no cop. He was outside of the brotherhood and should have known better. This book is an indictment of the criminal justice system where prosecutors win points by winning convictions instead of searching for the truth, investigators extract every bit of information from their informants and then feed them to the dogs. This book also describes the unbelievable influence these companies wield in the houses of power. The utter arrogance of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and their foreign competitors was shocking. ADM steals a microbe from the Japanese, suspects they're being sabotaged by them and calls the CIA who defers to the FBI --- that's how this got started. But the boldness of the collusion between competitors, their guile in manipulating the price of chemicals was shocking. As ADM believed then, as now, and as Mark Whiteacre relayed to the FBI, they believe, "Our customers are our enemies and our competitors are our friends." As it all turned out, Mark Whitacre got the longest sentence. The president of ADM only got a few years --- and the family still runs the company! How's that for arrogance? Now, with the "Go Yellow" campaign, they are grasping for more of your hard-earned dollars to build more ethanol plants. Wow! You've got to read this book! If this review was helpful, please add your vote -- Thanks.

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