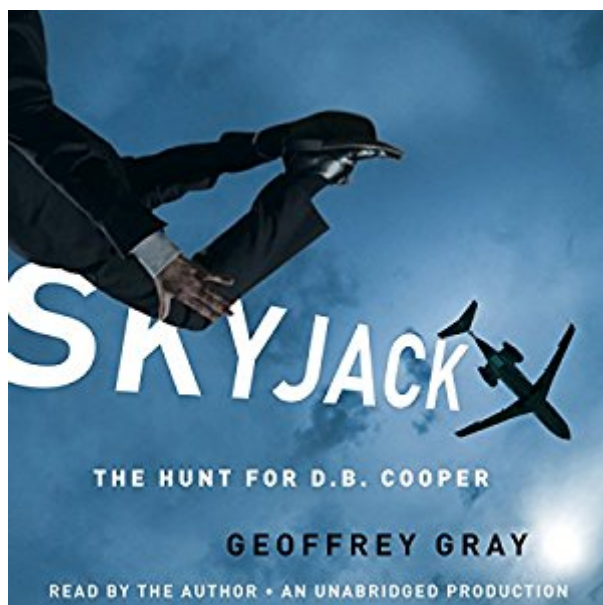


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Skyjack: The Hunt For D. B. Cooper



Synopsis

I have a bomb here and I would like you to sit by me. That was the note handed to a stewardess by a mild-mannered passenger on a Northwest Orient flight in 1971. It was the start of one of the most astonishing whodunits in the history of American true crime: how one man extorted \$200,000 from an airline, then parachuted into the wilds of the Pacific Northwest and into oblivion. D. B. Cooper's case has become the stuff of legend and obsessed and cursed his pursuers with everything from bankruptcy to suicidal despair. Now with *Skyjack*, journalist Geoffrey Gray delves into this unsolved mystery uncovering new leads in the infamous case. Starting with a tip from a private investigator into a promising suspect (a Cooper lookalike, Northwest employee, and trained paratrooper), Gray is propelled into the murky depths of a decades-old mystery, conducting new interviews and obtaining a first-ever look at Cooper's FBI file. Beginning with a heartstopping and unprecedented recreation of the crime itself, from cabin to cockpit to tower, and uncanny portraits of characters who either chased Cooper or might have committed the crime, including Ralph Himmelsbach, the most dogged of FBI agents, who watched with horror as a criminal became a counter-culture folk hero who supposedly shafted the system. With explosive new information and exclusive access to FBI files and forensic evidence, *Skyjack* reopens one of the great cold cases of the 20th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great initial writing on the skyjacking case. I did not know too much about this case. The initial one third of the book describes how the hijacking took place, and how Dan Cooper escaped by jumping

out the back of the airliner. Northwest Orient paid 200,000 dollars to ransom the passengers and airplane. When the plane landed in Reno, the crew did not find the skyjacker. The book goes off course when it talks about the possible candidates for the skyjacking. Any of those people could have done the skyjacking. The author allows himself to be caught up with the people who still live in awe of this crime. If the skyjacker didn't die in the fall, he most certainly died of old age. This is one crime that will probably never be solved. There is a lot of good writing in this book, most centered toward the beginning. The last portion talks too much like a conspiracy theory and alternative history.

Geoffrey Gray's writing style makes this book difficult to read. It's as if someone took scribbled notes written on a page and published them. The book is still entertaining but could have been presented differently and more coherently. The writing feels rushed and clumsy.

Previous reviewers did a pretty good job of explaining why this book is terrible. I wish I had paid more attention to reviews before shelling out money on this. I really didn't like the writer's style of prose. It felt cloying, disjointed and fictional. In regards to facts, the author plays unforgivably fast and loose. I was hoping for a factual, detailed account of actual events. What I got was a mess of self-congratulatory nonsense. There's a lot of irrelevant information, the author skips around willy-nilly, and presents no new information. Furthermore, he makes ridiculous presumptions and puts words and thoughts in the mouths of characters which I had expected to be represented as they actually were, since this is supposedly based on fact. It was painful to read and a real disappointment.

Interesting read, but I approached the book assuming I would walk away with a clear picture of the main search, and of the current state of the investigation. I did not. All the stories of the author himself, not to mention the jumping from first person to narrator and from past to present, really left things in a jumble.

This one started out with the promise of being interesting, but quickly descended into boredom. Too many characters with too little connection to one another to make any kind of engaging narrative. I expected, if not a definitive solution to this four-decade mystery, at least some new possibilities in that direction. Instead I found myself mired in the author's disjointed rambling and speculation about basically dead ends. I had to struggle to finish the book. I probably should have given up sooner, as

by half way through I realized there were going to be no answers.

Even after reading this book in its entirety I still am not sure where D.B. Cooper is.

Very interesting book about a possible suspect that could be Cooper.

Interesting and fun to read, though towards the end of the book, I felt as if the author himself was beginning to vanish into Cooperland with a variety of conspiracy theories that would rival the JFK assassination.

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