



# Escobar

*Roberto Escobar Gaviria*

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**Escobar** Roberto Escobar Gaviria

Murderer, philanthropist, drug dealer, politician, devil, saint: many words have been used to describe Pablo Escobar, but one is irrefutable - legend. For the poor of Colombia, he was their Robin Hood, a man whose greatness lay not in his crimes, but in his charity; for the Colombian rich he was just a bloodthirsty gangster, a Bogie Man used to scare children in their beds; for the rest of the world flush with his imported cocaine, he was public enemy number one. During his reign as the world's most notorious outlaw, he ordered the murder of thousands - at one point even bombing a passenger jet - smuggled drugs into the US in mini-submarines inspired by Bond films, was elected to parliament, staged midnight escapes through the jungle from whole army battalions, built his own prison, consorted with presidents, controlled an estimated fortune of over \$20 billion, and for over 3 years outwitted the secret American forces sent to kill him. His ambition was as boundless as his violence, and neither was ever satisfied. This is the first major, and definitive, biography of this remarkable criminal life, told in jaw-dropping detail by the one man who, more than any other, can understand just how far he came and just how low he fell: his brother, Roberto Escobar.

## Escobar Details

Date : Published March 15th 2012 by Hodder (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Roberto Escobar Gaviria

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# From Reader Review Escobar for online ebook

## Kieran White says

A great narrative detailing the side of Pablo Escobar not often seen in the media. A less dramatised version of the story, more likely closer to the truth. Roberto tells just how it was being that close to one of the world's most notorious criminals. Definitely worth a read.

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## Barrie Smith says

A fascinating insight into the Medellin Cartel that ran from the 80s until Pablo Escobar's death in 1993. As it's from the point of view of Pablo's brother and accountant a lot of it needs to be taken with a pinch of salt as it's not always to tell who's telling the truth - Roberto Escobar or all the American documentaries that have been made about El Patron. I couldn't put this book down - some fascinating stories from over the years about how they smuggling drugs, bribing the police and government officials, running from the police, army and US forces.

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## Ayush Oza says

This book incorporates the vast majority of Escobar's life and the political events surrounding his rise. While this is both gripping and shocking, I found the book could have been written in a more engaging manner. Moreover, in my opinion, having visited Colombia, I found the book to be heavily biased towards his good actions.

Overall, the book does a great job of documenting Escobar's life, in many places in great detail. However, in more than one respect, the book could have been written better.

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## ????? ?????? says

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recollection and intensity. I found the last portion of the book very satisfying”

“The bomb exploded in my face. My eyes were gone. The explosion had lifted me off my feet to the ceiling, breaking the ceiling tiles with my head. The world was black. I smelled the blood. God, I thought, don't let me die here.” – Roberto Escobar on a failed attempt on his life whilst incarcerated.

Overall, ESCOBAR is informative and insightful and has me interested to read more about Pablo and his exploits.

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### **Adam Noor says**

An insightful and interesting book that personally documents the personal side, upbringing and the meteoric rise of Pablo Escobar ("Pablo") until his eventual death.

Unsurprisingly as it's written by Roberto Escobar ("Roberto"), the book does feel rather apologetic and tends to portray Pablo in a rather patronising light instead of the murderous and violent drug trafficker that we often associate Pablo with.

The book may also seem superficial at times and tends to breeze through the events instead of articulating the factors or reasons for why the events unfolded. Although Roberto acts as the accountant to the infamous Medellin Cartel and claims to have been with Pablo most of the times, he had never truly sheds the light into some of the eventful incidents revolving around Pablo's murderous activities such as the ill-fated Avianca flight, the executions of Moncada and Galeano and the reason for Los Pepes' campaign against the Medellin Cartel.

Another drawback in the book is the simplistic notions on how Pablo is regarded as the "good guy" always out there defending the poor, protecting the defenceless, donating his monies for the well-being of others and the Medellin Cartel are regarded as the "victims" who are been hunted, assassinated, executed etc whereas the Columbian government are regarded as the "bad guys" who are always kidnapping and gunning down anyone associated with the Medellin Cartel.

All in all, it's understandable that this is a book based on the memoirs of Roberto and events as seen through his perspective and not genuinely a book on Pablo per se. An interesting read in which I was unable to leave the book alone, nonetheless.

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### **Harshita says**

Overall a good read! The book offers a fairly good insight into the functioning of the cartel. There are bits of it that get slightly annoying as the brother tries to prove his innocence far too many times. Fascinating at first but a few chapters in between make it a bit wearisome. Also, would have liked more emphasis on the personal traits of Pablo Escobar which was expected as the title suggests it to be an account of the man. Nonetheless, its a book you wouldn't put down till the very end.

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## **T.M. Lakomy says**

Not impressive at all ...preferred reading the account by Escobar's son, seemed more genuine.

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## **Scott Ian William Beckwith says**

### **A true insight to Pablo escobars reign**

As much as the bad he done, he also did great things for many people. A very very clever man who knew what he wanted and got. A great read for anyone interested in Pablo and the narcos trade

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## **Wanderer says**

Roberto, Roberto

I liked this book because it was a fast paced read that pulled me in and wouldn't let go of me until the very end. I however disliked that its shallowness and lack of particulars. There were so many times when I wished that the author could expound more on certain things but I guess it would have been difficult for him to give a detailed expose since he was also implicated in the crimes and he also wanted to get as much out of the whole affair as he possibly could.

I also disliked the fact that the book, which was supposed to be about Pablo Escobar, kept shifting focus from Roberto to Pablo through the eyes of his big brother, the author. It is interesting that I learnt much more about the brother's marriage more than the main characters. Further, Roberto could only see Pablo in the best of lights, the ambitious self-starter, the giver, the organiser, the charter of new frontiers, the family man, the patriot and so on. I am not doubting that he wasn't all this and more, I just feel robbed of personal insights into the more, the violence, the greed, the adultery, the corruption, the deal making, the doubts, the fear.... all that went into the making of the criminal legend.

All in all, I was not very convinced as to the innocence of the author or his lack of involvement in the violence and the drug trade or his denunciation of the government as corrupt since such an elaborate criminal enterprise could not have existed in the absence of corruption . Why denounce the very state of affairs that facilitated the billionaire status they enjoyed so much ?

Unfortunately, I couldn't also bring myself to pity those who profited from such heinous crimes. People lost lives, others were reduced to shells of their former selves and I'm expected to be saddened that the families of the people responsible were denied asylum? I am truly unable to extend such grace.

As I have said, the author glossed over the untidy bits (which I was most interested in to be honest) and tried to sanitise the drug enterprise as a charity movement but he still delivered an enjoyable read. I just wish it was as illuminating as it was exciting. (less)

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## **Agnieszka\_hotmail.Co.Uk says**

Great

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### **Toby Ruder says**

For what should be one of the most interesting real life stories in modern history it is surprisingly dull and pedestrian. The constant attempts at revisionist history by his brother to portray Pablo and the other Cartels as Robin Hood type characters whilst massively underplaying the brutal and bloody part they played in Columbias drugs industry becomes tedious after awhile... disappointing read.

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### **Alex Temple says**

Escobar by Roberto Escobar is the story of Pablo Escobar's life told through his brother Roberto Escobar. Roberto Escobar informs the reader of Both his brother's and his own child hood struggle growing up in Columbia. Coming from a poor background, both Roberto and his brother struggled early on in life due to his fathers loss of cattle from disease. Pablo Escobar's criminal life began with his involvement of moving contraband items through Mendellin, Columbia. Pablo Escobar's experience and involvement with contraband allowed him to understand and apply new methods of smuggling goods whether it was by bribing corrupt police officials or packaging goods in double lined jackets. Pablo was introduced to dealing cocaine by a friend and was only participating in trafficking the drug after losing a large amount of money and contraband from a raid. After generating a larger profit from trafficking cocaine compared to smuggling contraband items, Pablo Escobar became addicted. Pablo Escobar wasn't addicted to the high and buzz given off of Cocaine but the amount of money generated from producing and distributing the drug. From there on, Pablo Escobar had expanded from being a small contraband smuggler in the little town of Medellin to the Worlds biggest drug cartel. During the course of his life, Pablo Escobar was described by some people as a saint, criminal, politician, murderer, philanthropist and devil. Of course due to his background of creating a drug cartel and ordering hits on his enemies and competition, he was called a murder, criminal and devil. But coming from a poor background, Pablo Escobar always gave back to the community. He created 1,000s of public soccer fields and donated to numbers of charities.

I personally enjoyed reading this book because of the pace the book is written. It wasn't hard to get interested in the beginning and was able to grab my attention. I found it interesting to read about Pablo Escobar's poor back ground and disruptive child hood and see how he himself completely transformed his life style. The diction used was very easy to understand and help keep on track with the book. Not only did Roberto Escobar tell the story of his brothers life, but I was also able to gain a larger perspective on Columbian society. Reading about Pablo Escobar was an exciting change of pace since the majority of the books I read or are given to read involve a character or story that ends up having a positive impact or image. Reading about one of the world's largest drug cartel allowed me to get a better glimpse on the world and how its ran.

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### **James Barker says**

For a book about 'the World's Most Powerful Criminal' this is decidedly pedestrian. It was no doubt stupid of

me to pick up a book (any book) that includes in the subtitle the words 'AS TOLD BY..' Roberto, the brother, spends half the time stressing his own innocence, the fact that he was kept in the dark when it comes to most of Pablo's murderous activities.. and yet he is telling his brother's story. It doesn't add up. There's also plenty of shoddy make-believe.. like when he insists a good colleague, being tortured by the police, didn't want to give out information, only doing so when his family was threatened. But then the man is killed anyway and you wonder- well, who knows he didn't want to give out the information at first..? He is dead and can't tell his own story.

There is no doubt Escobar, the Infamous One, was an interesting, complex character. But his brother Roberto comes across as the less-popular boy at school, the one walking in his brother's (overweight) shadow, the one without a story to tell of his own. He mentions reading up about cancer and AIDS in an effort to find cures and I find it as difficult to believe as his other attempts at vainglory.

Avoid and watch 'NARCOS' on Netflix instead, bearing in mind bias is everywhere.

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### **Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says**

Easy and quick read. Story of Escobar Pablo narrated by his brother.

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