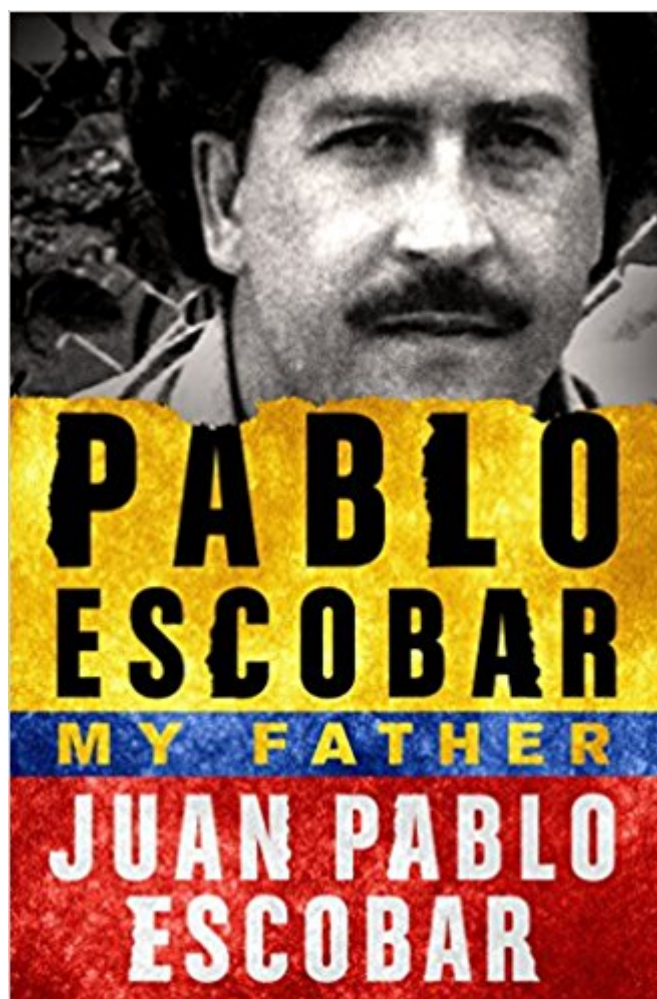


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Pablo Escobar: My Father



Synopsis

THE POPULAR SERIES NARCOS CAPTURES ONLY HALF THE TRUTH. HERE, AT LAST, IS THE FULL STORY. THE INTERNATIONAL BEST SELLER! Until now, we believed that everything had been said about the rise and fall of Pablo Escobar, the most infamous drug kingpin of all time, but these versions have always been told from the outside, never from the intimacy of his own home. More than two decades after the full-fledged manhunt finally caught up with the king of cocaine, Juan Pablo Escobar travels to the past to reveal an unabridged version of his father—a man capable of committing the most extreme acts of cruelty while simultaneously professing infinite love for his family. This is not the story of a child seeking redemption for his father, but a shocking look at the consequences of violence and the overwhelming need for peace and forgiveness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although this book was originally translated from Spanish, it is a well written and smooth read in English. There is much to commend this book. For starters, to get a glimpse of Pablo Escobar from the vantage point of a son and those dynamics of home life with one of the world's most dangerous and wanted people is remarkable in itself. I don't care how many books or news articles you've read on Pablo Escobar, you will learn many new things in this book. This book is very detailed and knowing what it felt like to be a family member of a criminal mastermind constantly on the run is quite something. The book takes you from the small time petty dealer days and shows you Pablo's progression to not only the head of the largest Cocaine Cartel but to the position of 7th richest person in the world. You will learn what a Pablo Escobar social event was like. You will learn how

much the family actually knew and how they tried influence Pablo's decisions concerning the need to eliminate certain people. You will learn what weather conditions that Pablo preferred for relocation. You will learn how Pablo worked with Cocaine to increase quantity for more profit and about his elaborate planning when it came to eliminating competition. This book will keep your attention and may keep you awake depending on where you are in the book when you retire for the evening.

Juan Pablo Escobar grew up in a life of luxury few could imagine. When he wanted to visit a zoo, all he needed to do was go outside to the one his father created on their estate. When company visited, an urge for a food not available at the house would be satisfied by taking one of the jets from the airport-like landing field to go get it. Drug trafficking gave him the world, he says, and drug trafficking took it away. Like most children, Juan Pablo Escobar loved his father, the "Robin Hood of Colombia" who built soccer fields for poor children. While still very young, though, his family left Colombia for their safety, and he began to realize that his father was also a criminal and drug trafficker who was responsible for the death of a highly ranked government official. After his father's death, Juan Pablo was forced to flee the country and has never been able to return. Pablo Escobar's riches supported his large extended family, and when Escobar died, everyone scrambled to grab whatever was left. A logical career move for Juan Pablo would have been to follow in his father's footsteps; instead, he credits his father with showing him "what path not to take." "Pablo Escobar: My Father" has a curiously flat tone, as if events are being recorded by a disinterested observer. I didn't care for this style and found it sometimes made it difficult to sustain my interest, but I also wondered if Juan Pablo Escobar had come to view his childhood at something of a remove in order to come to terms with it all. He now believes that a "war on drugs" will never resolve the problem, and that the only way to end the drug trade is to use the power of the government and education to end the demand. Although he initially vowed revenge on those responsible for his father's death (and believes some of them might still target him), he now campaigns for drug reform.

Pablo Escobar's son writes a fair account of his father's life as he saw it. They lived a life of obscene extravagance and the father was popular among the poor people in Colombia due to his financing of soccer fields and housing for the poor. However, a heavy price was to be paid for this life of ill-gotten gains in having to be on guard against his many enemies. This amounted to a heavy strain on his wife, son, and other family members. Juan Pablo Escobar pleaded, to no avail, with his father to stop the war saying this was no way to live. The war with the Cali cartel eventually led to Pablo

Escobar's demise and the remaining family members left to shift for themselves in finding another country that would take them in. This was truly a case of his son and other family members paying for the sins of the father. However, in Pablo Escobar's heyday I noticed the son had no problem wearing a watch that cost thousands of dollars and spent a fortune on the latest technological devices in New York that would prove beneficial to his father. As with other despots and gangsters the end result is either a prison or an early grave. The book contains sixteen pages of photographs.

I suppose it's only fair to see the other side of the clearly evil Pablo Escobar. Juan Pablo Escobar writes from the heart and in a very honest way, describes the actions of his father. While this perspective is interesting because it exposes the deep duality of Escobar's character (the contrast of good and evil) it does not change the fact that Escobar was responsible for taking thousands of innocent lives, including the bombing of an Avianca flight killing all on board, and for generally wreaking havoc in Colombian society for a decade. Hearing the version of his son is important but it did not change how I view Escobar. It did make me sad for Juan Pablo and his family. The book is well-written and a rather simple read. Recommended.

I watched Narcos on Netflix and expected the book to be similar. It is more honest and factual with other articles and pieces on Pablo. Very insightful and honest approach. He doesn't try to excuse his father's actions, but rather explain them and give you insight.

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