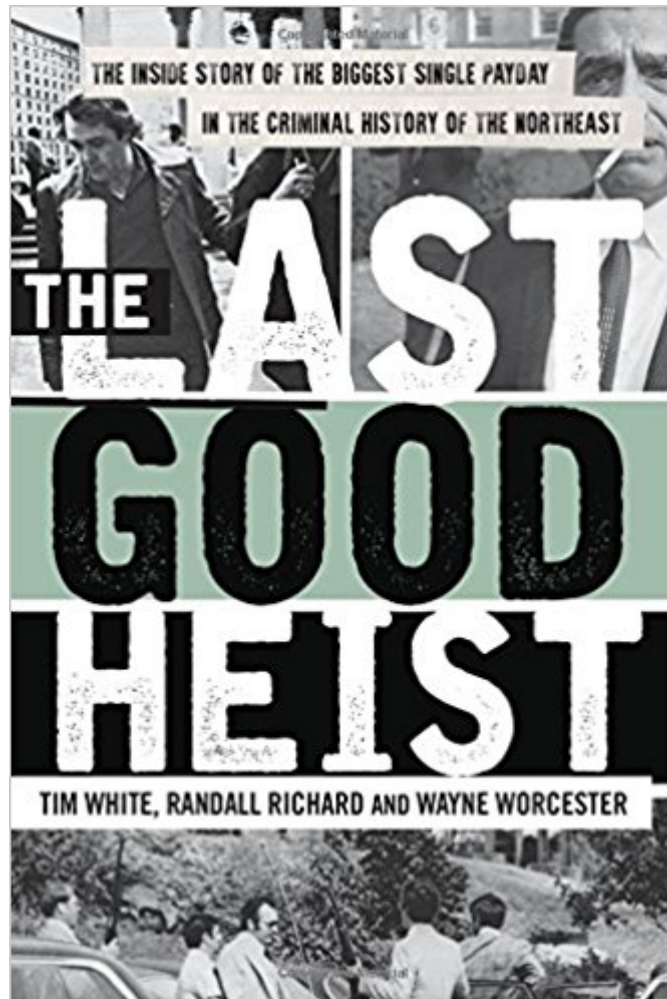


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The Last Good Heist: The Inside Story Of The Biggest Single Payday In The Criminal History Of The Northeast



Synopsis

On Aug. 14, 1975, eight daring thieves ransacked 148 massive safe-deposit boxes at a secret bank used by organized crime, La Cosa Nostra, and its associates in Providence, R.I. The crooks fled with duffle bags crammed full of cash, gold, silver, stamps, coins, jewels and high-end jewelry. The true value of the loot has always been kept secret, partly because it was ill-gotten to begin with, and partly because there was plenty of incentive to keep its true worth out of the limelight. It's one thing for authorities to admit they didn't find a trace of goods worth from \$3 million to \$4 million, and entirely another when what was at stake was more accurately valued at about \$30 million, the equivalent of \$120 million today. It was the biggest single payday in the criminal history of the Northeast. Nobody came close, not the infamous James "Whitey" Bulger, not John "The Dapper Don" Gotti, not even the Brinks or Wells Fargo robbers. The heist was bold enough and big enough to rock the underworld to its core, and it left La Cosa Nostra in the region awash in turmoil that still reverberates more than forty years later. *Last Good Heist* is the inside story of the robbery and its aftermath.

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Customer Reviews

THE LAST GOOD HEIST by Tim White, Randall Richard, and Wayne Worcester drops the reader into the 1970's, where one of the largest heists in the US happened in Providence, RI. The heist was from an virtually unknown vault containing 148 safe deposit boxes, many with illegally obtained belongings of criminals and other questionable individuals. The book follows people and events leading up to the heist and the covers in depth the aftermath of thieves, the related mobsters, the

law enforcement investigation, even the respective prosecution and defense teams. Robert "Deuce" Dussault is the through line in the book. The story strays away to follow another thief or investigation involved with the heist, but always it returns to Deuce. He is depicted as a career criminal who definitely lives life on the wrong side of the law and enjoys that lifestyle, and yet while we are supposed to find that despicable, I found myself wanted to see Deuce succeed; not necessarily to get away with all of the crimes he committed, but to succeed in being a contented, happy person. I think there must have been something charismatic about Deuce that people couldn't help but like. I found how the book described all of the legal proceedings, particularly how virtually every accused burglar either was acquitted due to a alibi that probably wasn't real, or those who were found guilty managed to appeal away part or most of their jail time amazing. Several of them even got extensive Witness Protection help by ratting out each other or the mafia thugs that put them up to the heist. The authors laid out all of those proceedings very straight forward and yet I felt like by identifying those actions by our legal system, that the authors were questioning whether that should be how things work or not.

The Last Good Heist opens with the reporters covering the August 14, 1975, robbery of the Bonded Vault which is housed within the Hudson Fur Storage business in Providence, RI. Eight or nine men had robbed the place early in the morning. The Bonded Vault is a safety-deposit box business and 146 out of 148 boxes had been opened. An unknown amount of loot - cash, coins, and jewelry - had been carried off. Early figures given are around a million dollars. Later federal law officials figure that about 32 million (in 1975 dollars) was taken. And none was ever recovered! But really The Last Good Heist is the tale of the lead robber - Robert J. Dussault, a career criminal from Lowell (MA) who had quite a record before he escaped prison and teamed up with his friend Charles "Chucky" Flynn, another Lowell boy. Flynn had been granted the Bonded Vault job with the blessing of Raymond L. S. Patriarca, the head Mafia boss in Providence, RI. But before the gang gets to the big job, there are smaller jobs to be done (and often goofed-up). Then August 14, 1975, dawned and the big robbery happens. The gang each receive their agreed initial share from the cash on hand with more to come from the fencing of silver ingots, jewelry, coins, and bonds. The gang then splits up. Much of the rest of the book deals with Dussault's life on the run as he travels around the United States, spending his loot, and doing more robberies. After being caught in Las Vegas (NV), Dussault spills his guts regarding the Bonded Vault robbery. There is a very long trial followed by an even longer legal wrangling. Dussault supposedly died in 1992, but family members state that he was at his mother's funeral in 1994.

NetGalley provided me an electronic copy of The Last Good Heist, in exchange for an honest review. The Last Good Heist is a book about criminal activity and corruption in Rhode Island and the background of the masterminds behind one of the largest heists in the country. Providence, Rhode Island had been the seat of the La Cosa Nostra and home to the crime family of Raymond L.S. Patriarca, the godfather who controlled all organized crime in New England. Supposedly given the nod from the son of Patriarca, Robert "Deuce" Dussault, Charles "Chucky" Flynn and others pulled off the robbery at Bonded Vault on August 14, 1975. Owned by brothers Hyman, Matthew, Abraham, and Samuel Levine, along with Hudson Fur Storage right next door, Bonded Vault provided a way for their customers to store possessions that might not fit in a traditional bank safety deposit box. Because of its status as a private vault, its location was not advertised and the contents of the boxes not documented. The large safe deposit boxes were ransacked, with millions in rare coins, jewelry, bonds, stamps, and cash taken. Because the R.I. State Police and the Providence Police Department did not cooperate with each other, as well as the FBI getting nowhere in their search, the perpetrators went unpunished for quite some time. The Last Good Heist is mostly about one said criminal - Deuce - who turned state's evidence and testified against his co-conspirators. The Last Good Heist does not give a clear picture of the aftermath of the robbery of Bonded Vault. As this is my family's history, I have first hand knowledge that no one in the Levine family was contacted to provide information for this book.

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