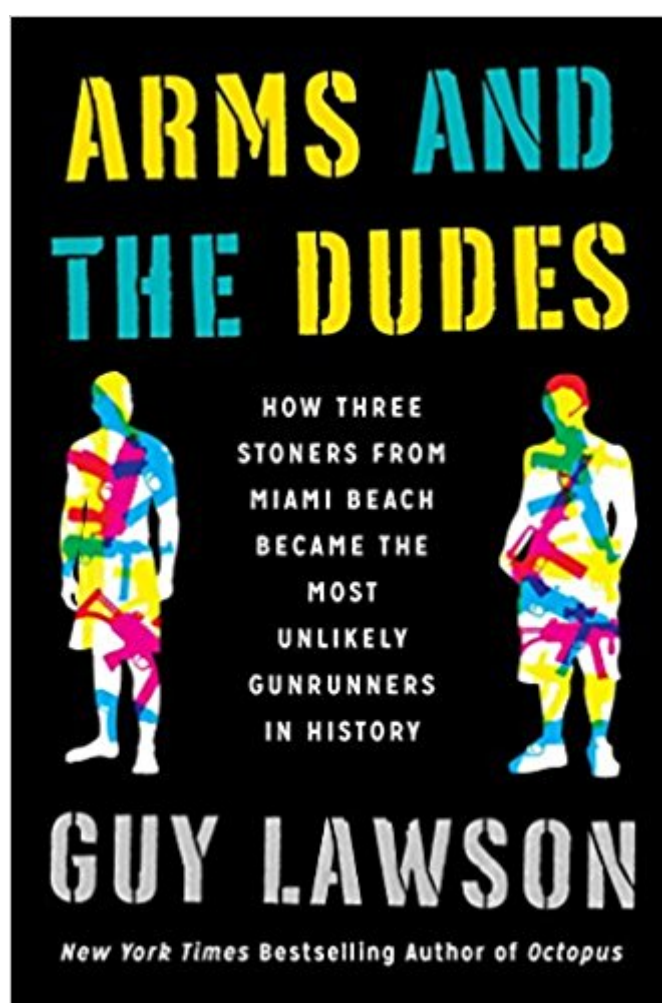


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Arms And The Dudes: How Three Stoners From Miami Beach Became The Most Unlikely Gunrunners In History



Synopsis

The page-turning, inside account of how three kids from Florida became big-time weapons traders—and how the US government turned on them. In January of 2007, three young stoners from Miami Beach won a \$300 million Department of Defense contract to supply ammunition to the Afghanistan military. Incredibly, instead of fulfilling the order with high-quality arms, Efraim Diveroli, David Packouz, and Alex Podrizki—the dudes—bought cheap Communist-style surplus ammunition from Balkan gunrunners. The dudes then secretly repackaged millions of rounds of shoddy Chinese ammunition and shipped it to Kabul—until they were caught by Pentagon investigators and the scandal turned up on the front page of The New York Times. That’s the “official” story. The truth is far more explosive. For the first time, journalist Guy Lawson tells the thrilling true tale. It’s a trip that goes from a dive apartment in Miami Beach to mountain caves in Albania, the corridors of power in Washington, and the frontlines of Iraq and Afghanistan. Lawson’s account includes a shady Swiss gunrunner, Russian arms dealers, corrupt Albanian gangsters, and a Pentagon investigation that impeded America’s war efforts in Afghanistan. Lawson exposes the mysterious and murky world of global arms dealing, showing how the American military came to use private contractors like Diveroli, Packouz, and Podrizki as middlemen to secure weapons from illegal arms dealers—the same men who sell guns to dictators, warlords, and drug traffickers. This is a story you were never meant to read.

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Customer Reviews

"Extraordinary--a hell of a read." (The New York Daily News)"This improbable true story tracks three South Florida slackers as they navigate the dangerous world of international arms dealers while ripping off the U.S. Department of Defense for a cool \$300 million. It's the perfect beach reading for smart fathers everywhere." (Esquire.com) "It sounds like a comedy flick: Three stoners with few qualifications set out to become big-time international arms dealers. They start bidding on, and landing, Pentagon contracts. They outfox savvy international conglomerates, scoring a \$300 million deal to supply mortar rounds, grenades, rockets, and 100 million rounds of AK-47 ammo to the Afghan military. As if that weren't audacious enough, they secretly (illegally) fulfill the order with low-grade, decades- old Chinese ammo and then things really get crazy. > includes mafiosi, hustlers, Kyrgyz secret police, blackmail, transnational grudges, and a shocking indictment of how America became the globe's leading arms dealer. Journalist Guy Lawson's latest may be nonfiction, but it's bloody entertaining." (Mother Jones)"It's a phenomenal book...I couldn't put it down." (HuffPost Live)"Fascinating|the reporting is incredible." (MSNBC's "The Cycle")"A stunning story." (The Leonard Lopate Show)"[A] rollicking yarn...An eye-opener and an excellent job of reporting and writing." (Kirkus Reviews)"Picture three twenty something dudes with little to no experience and a \$300M arms contract with the US government. What could possibly go wrong?... Lawson does a great job weaving the stories together with a broader perspective on the war in Afghanistan and a government rife with incompetency...Verdict: Thrilling." (Library Journal)"Lawson's eye for detail and research are commendable...details the backroom machinations, corruption, red tape, and intrigue that go along with high-stakes arms deals." (Publishers Weekly)"It's like page-turning fiction, but 100-percent true...More than a few Wall Streeters I know have started to read this one." (CNBC.com) "A thrilling account of the stoners' quick ascent into the gunrunning world and their eventual fall from the Defense Department's graces|provides valuable insights into the Pentagon's failures to keep watch over private contractors engaged in arms transfers to Afghanistan and Iraq|[Lawson] uses compelling prose to provide a rare window into the gunrunning and arms-procurement world and, even better, a gripping read." (Washington Independent Review of Books) "Fun, fast-paced, ironic, the reportage seems solid and the facts straight|. Lawson's book is ridiculously readable, well written, and hard to put down." (Library Journal) "Books for Dudes" "Arms and the Dudes tells a great story... Lawson offers readers a fun new take on a moral as old as time: When you fly

too close to the sun, you end up on the ground." (Washington Post) "The book unfolds like a Hollywood movie project that requires no green light, only casting. The developments are so unbelievable that a writer less skilled than Lawson would have still written a compelling book. Instead, the reporter, whose first version was published in Rolling Stone in 2011, fills in context. Arms and the Dudes is as much about the collapse of American accountability in Iraq during the late 1990s as it is about the dudes. (Miami Herald) "Guy Lawson has done a miraculous job a glorious piece of investigative journalism. No one's clever enough what if, this is a well-researched exposé of government and law gone wild. Intricately detailed and expertly paced, Mr. Lawson's cautionary tale should lead to corrective action. Meanwhile, it is delightfully disturbing reading. (Florida Weekly) "Like the best stories about rogues, con artists and scammers, the magic is in the details. Guy Lawson's, Arms and Dudes, misses nothing. He gets it all. (Nick Pileggi, author of Wiseguy) "This is one of those books that, God help us, shouldn't be true but is. US governmental bungling, war in Afghanistan going awry, foreign hustlers making millions out of bilking heroic soldiers, and in the middle of it all are two barely post-teenager dopers fumbling their way into and out of the highest level of the sleazy arms business. Guy Lawson tells the disturbing story brilliantly. You'll cringe, you'll want to look away (a lot), but you won't be able to stop turning the pages." (Jeff Guinn, author of Manson) "Guy Lawson's Arms and the Dudes is a triumph of investigative reporting and storytelling. This book is a mind-blowing account of how two kids turned themselves into some of the world's biggest weapons dealers in the chaotic years of the Iraq war. I couldn't put it down. If it were on the fiction shelf, the rollicking, riveting tale told within these pages would seem wildly implausible. But it's not. (Rajiv Chandrasekaran, author of Imperial Life in the Emerald City and Little America)

Guy Lawson is a New York Times bestselling author and award-winning investigative journalist whose articles on war, crime, culture, and law have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Rolling Stone, GQ, Harper's Magazine, and many other publications.

Good read, different then movie. It is interesting how the movie can largely twist the facts. Many differences from movie, and hard to tell at times which is the right story. A very detailed and thoughtful book.

It reads like a long article but gives very interesting insight into the politics and corruption behind the business of war. It's all seen through the eyes of a couple of amateur kids so it makes for a pretty good story. The movie was entertaining but definitely puts many changes on the real story from the book. If you liked the movie but want to know more and the true story, then it is a must read.

I really enjoyed this book, finding it both a wildly entertaining story and a story from which I learned a lot about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lawson provides a fascinating look into the shady world of arms dealing, and the bizarre, almost farcical, nature of military bureaucracy. In doing so he exposes many of the absurdities of war and foreign policy - such as how the US govt. ban on Chinese armaments caused millions of AK-47 rounds manufactured by the Chinese decades ago to sit, unused in US military warehouses while the Afghan National Army faced such a severe ammunition shortage that Afghan soldiers were quite literally faced with fighting the Taliban without any bullets to fire back.

Enjoyed this as much as the previous Lawson books. Fast read and once again found myself amazed about the truths. Better than fiction.

Intriguing book, but not exciting. I would have liked more about their religious background and family life. It was unclear how the characters were able to actually get into the arms dealing business, and how they managed to avoid being "bumped off". Overall, it was entertaining, but not a piece of literature with staying power.

It is unbelievable what these two were able to accomplish being so young. The book has double the drama than the movie, as good as the movie was too.

Shortest review possible. Lawson always does a great job of taking something intricate and unravels it slowly, highlights all the necessary points that are integral to understanding the story. Not so easy to do in the world of arms dealing. I've had extensive experience tracking down stolen munitions through third-world nations and telling the story. Unfortunately, most of the story is usually impossible to fully vet. Lawson didn't have it any easier even in dealing with a situation involving a U.S. company and the U.S. Govt. It's the polar opposite. Info and docs everywhere. The same problem of piecing together the story exists as it does in my area of work. But with one unique exception: the documentation can easily hinder the progress of telling the story. So had a off to

Lawson, once again.

The author is a former writer for Rolling Stone. As such the story, while compelling is salted with Mr. Lawson's personal opinions of the war in Iraq. This takes away from the story and I could not help but wonder sometimes if I was reading the tale of two young men who made a fortune in the arms trade or if I was reading the musings of Guy Lawson.

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