Operation Wide Receiver: An Informant’s Struggle To Expose The Corruption And Deceit That Led To Operation Fast And Furious
The true and shocking story of an undercover smuggling operation. Conducted under the umbrella of Project Gunrunner and intended to stem the flow of firearms to Mexico, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) ran a series of gun walking sting operations, including Operation Wide Receiver and Operation Fast & Furious. The government allowed licensed gun dealers to sell weapons to illegal straw buyers so that they could continue to track the firearms as they were transferred to higher-level traffickers and key figures in Mexican cartels. Motivated by a sense of patriotic duty, Tucson gun dealer and author Mike Detty alerted the local ATF office when he was first approached by suspected cartel associates. Detty made the commitment and assumed the risks involved to help the feds make their case, often selling guns to these thugs from his home in the dead of night. Originally informed that the investigation would last just weeks, Detty’s undercover involvement in Operation Wide Receiver—the precursor to Operation Fast & Furious, by far the largest gun walking probe; stretched on for an astonishing and dangerous three years. Though the case took several twists and turns, perhaps the cruelest turn was his betrayal by the very agency he risked everything to help. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history—books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Customer Reviews

I heard of this book through the Student of The Gun podcast when the author was interviewed on the show. Five minutes in to that interview I knew I was hooked and was going to order the book. If you’re interested in the real-life eyewitness account of the results of one man’s decision to volunteer to help his country and his fellow citizens by doing the right thing, this book will meet that criteria. Mike Detty sheds light on his involvement as an informant in the "gunwalking" operations that were initiated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. If you think BATFE appreciates the voluntary reports from law-abiding citizens, and will honor the promises made to protect you if things go wrong, then you need to read this book and learn from Mike’s experience.

Mike Detty is an American Patriot in the truest sense of the word. This country owes him a debt of gratitude for the extreme risks he took and continues to take to provide the truth to the people of this nation.

Fairly well written, interesting and very revealing. While Fast & Furious has receded into the miasma of dozens of other Obama scandals, this first person account puts a face to the kinds of abuses that wrong-headed government inflicts on its citizens. Read it and weep....

I heard an interview with the author on Student of the Gun radio. I immediately ordered the book on prime during the interview. I could not put it down. Incredible.

Mike Dettys’ account of Operation Wide Receiver is a revealing, depressing story of a useless, dangerous for him, effort to stem the tide of American guns flowing South to the Mexican drug cartels. The goal of the operation was never achievable. The guns "walked" across the border disappeared into cartel hands, never to be recovered by American LEO’s. Resulting in the death of Border Patrolman Brian Terry by a cartel "Rip squad", lying in wait to rob/murder a rival gang’s drug delivery. The Arizona ATF agents behaviour and competency level is bewildering to a simple and maybe naive and ignorant mind like mine. Was the Obama administration really arming Mexican drug cartels with quality weapons like Rock River Arms LAR-15 carbine and Colt 38 Super pistols? (Which are not considered a military pistol caliber, therefore acceptable, legal.) What a waste of everybody's time and money! A politically motivated, democrat party boondoggle that endangered
patriotic Mike Dettys' life and livelihood and resulted the tragic death of a U.S. Border Patrolman' life. What a miserable waste!

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