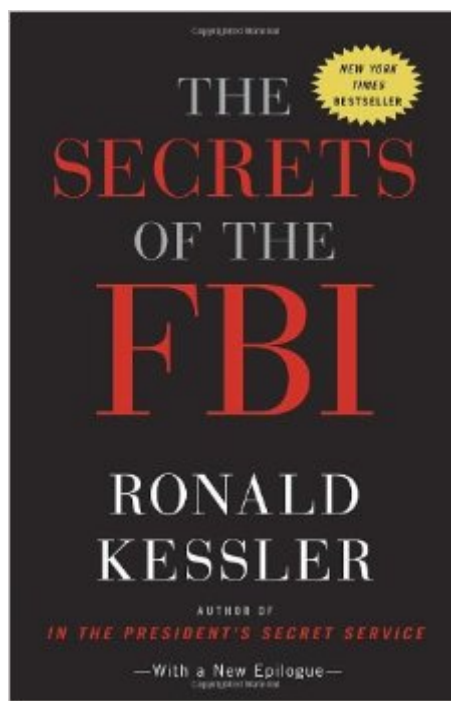


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The Secrets Of The FBI



Synopsis

The Secrets of the FBI by New York Times bestselling author Ronald Kessler reveals the FBI's most closely guarded secrets and the secrets of celebrities, politicians, and movie stars uncovered by agents during their investigations. Based on inside access, the book presents revelations about the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound, the recent Russian spy swap, Marilyn Monroe's death, Vince Foster's suicide, and J. Edgar Hoover's sexual orientation. For the first time, it tells how the FBI caught spy Robert Hanssen in its midst and how the FBI breaks into homes, offices, and embassies to plant bugging devices without getting caught. From Watergate to Waco, from congressional scandals to the killing of bin Laden, The Secrets of the FBI presents headline-making disclosures about the most important figures and events of our time. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Two drunks get on a city bus. It starts up, drives away, and a short time later, the passengers begin disrobing. They have revolvers strapped to their hips, radio gear, maybe Uzis. Seeing this, the drunks get nervous, get up and start pulling the overhead chain. They're desperate and want off the bus. The bus driver is knocking over garbage cans making his turns on the city streets. He yells back at the drunks "Hey, quit playing with the bell!" One of the passengers approaches the drunks. He's carrying a shotgun. "Do we know you?" the passenger says to the drunk. Now the drunks begin to pull the bell so hard they nearly rip it off its moorings. The passenger with the shotgun yells "Hey Phil, stop the bus. We got a couple of riders here." According to Ronald Kessler in his new book The Secrets Of The FBI, the passengers were FBI agents on a stakeout. The bus picked up

the two drunks by mistake. Is this any way to run a government agency? Got that right. Welcome to the post 9/11 world of keeping America safe. As Mr. Kessler indicates, this is not your grandfather's FBI. They think out of the box these days, and do imaginative things like staging fake car accidents to find terror suspects. They can and will impersonate almost anybody, although not a journalist or members of clergy. And female agents are not permitted to use sex to entrap a subject. So, if in doubt about who your date really is, kiss her. If she's FBI, she can't respond. As to the question everyone has been wondering about, on page 17 we get: "Every other week, agent Louis Grever meets with his counterparts at the CIA". So yes, there is sharing of intelligence information, which was generally not the case prior to 9/11.

After hearing the author tell stories on *After Dark* of how FBI agents break into homes to plant bugs, my interest was piqued. But when I bought the book and started reading my interest turned to annoyance. The main problems are that the book is unsourced (i.e. no footnotes), and frequently offers little more than gossip passed off as fact. Secondly, it is also heavily filled with fallacious reasoning. I hope that a couple of examples will suffice. Chapter 3, "Red Dress," is about J. Edgar Hoover's alleged homosexuality. The "proof" that Kessler offers is found in two main pieces of "evidence." One is a story of Susan Rosenstiel (which I will not dignify by repeating here); however, Rosenstiel is not a creditable witness (she pled guilty to perjury in the 1970s), as Kessler himself admits later in the chapter. The other evidence offered is Hoover's relationship with Clyde Tolson--his deputy and successor at the FBI--which Kessler believes was romantic. This rumor dates back to the '40s and is based on hearsay with no solid evidence behind it. Kessler himself notes that the FBI spied on Hoover and Tolson but found no evidence of anything unusual. This chapter ends with Kessler grasping at straws: "Still, the fact that Hoover spent his leisure time with a man and that they took adoring photos of each other points to Hoover's being homosexual" (p.36). The fact that two men spent leisure time together "points to" a homosexual relationship? This is nonsense. Kessler continues, "[Hoover] conceivably could have had sexual relations with Tolson when the two were alone together" (p.36). They also conceivably could have spent time reading Icelandic poetry, breeding horseflies, or listening to baseball on the radio - but these are not very interesting theories to pass off as fact.

Perhaps the greatest team of burglars in the world belong to the FBI's *TacOps* unit. Of course they have a budget that would dwarf your everyday organized crime burglars... and of course they have a badge... but it is utterly fascinating the lengths they go to in the performance of their job. Whether

they're planting eavesdropping devices in a terrorist's house or car... or "wiring" a Mafiosi's house... the pre-job and post-job planning is scintillating. From taking pictures of the way furniture is laid out so they can compare it to how they put it back... how they plan to keep neighbors and passerbies from seeing their breaking and entering. And a full arsenal of false uniforms all the way through false house and storefronts. Some false fronts are merely a vinyl sign that will give a false illusion from across the street in the darkness of night. Then of course there are fake car accidents and a new closer relationship with local law enforcement in case a neighbor calls the cops to report a break in. What about bothersome dogs and cats that inhabit the burglary scenes? *TacOps* has a smorgasbord of responses, from drugs to sound proof cages. In one humorous case a burglary target's cat got out of the house and the FBI had a full-scale "cat-hunt" so that when the victim returned everything (including their pet cat) would be as they left it. Unfortunately the FBI replaced the pet with the wrong cat. The FBI has even set up "REAL" companies and made them successful in order to entrap fraudulent enterprises that prey on legitimate businesses. Author Ronald Kessler does a wonderful job in sharing the history of the FBI with a writing style that exudes the humanity of the everyday citizen's interest.

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