

V I N T A G E

eBooks



The Cold Six Thousand

A NOVEL

JAMES ELLROY

THE COLD SIX THOUSAND

“Where Ellroy excels ... is in the sheer stamina and Mailerlike nerve of his hypermasculine vision.... It’s impossible to imagine any other novelist generating so many pages focusing on so many levels of anger and betrayal.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“Call it the *Finnegan’s Wake* of pulp fiction.... Ellroy makes you feel good. He makes you feel bad. He makes you feel worse.... Deceptively rich.”

—*Newsday*

“*The Cold Six Thousand* is besotted with detail, blurring fact and fiction to dizzying effect.... Ellroy knows what rocks to turn over.”

—*The Boston Globe*

“A twisted tour of our secret history. Ellroy takes us down every dark road possible.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Bold, electrifying.... Ellroy strips prose to its raw, gleaming bone.... James Ellroy is an American original, a sophisticated primitive as smooth as the *snick-snick!* of a pump shotgun and as subtle as the inevitable blast.”

—*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

“James Ellroy might be fairly described as the Tolstoy of the conspiratorial mind.... [He] has assembled in one grand fiction all our worst fears about who and what motored events during that remarkable and appalling 15-year period of American history that began with the election of John Kennedy.”

—*Houston Chronicle*

“Ellroy does here exactly what he did in *Tabloid*—take the most overexamined era in 20th-century history, hand the story over to the bad men and the fixers, and make it feel completely new.”

—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“An exercise in audacity.... Ellroy is either our greatest obsessive writer or our most obsessive great writer. Either way, he is turning the crime novel’s mean streets into superhighways.... A remarkable accomplishment.”

—*Financial Times*

“Garrote-tight prose.... [Ellroy is] a force of nature, stringing together words into barbed wire lariats which he then uses to choke the bejeezus out of you.... A coherent, ultimately gorgeous and electrifying mess.”

“A dazzling panorama of the ’60s as seen through the eyes of some colorful thugs... Ellroy isn’t the first to argue that American history is written behind the scenes by violent brutes but only a mad genius like him could make those monsters lovable.”

—U

“Ambitious.... Ellroy is a unique American literary voice.”

—*USA Today*

“With riveting style and substance, *The Cold Six Thousand* is Ellroy’s biggest score.”

—*Playbo*

“An ambitious, extravagant book about history as obsession.... Richer and darker than ever this story ... reminds us how far ahead of his peers Ellroy is.”

—*New Statesman*

JAMES ELLROY

THE COLD
SIX THOUSAND

James Ellroy was born in Los Angeles in 1948. His L.A. Quartet novels—*The Black Dahlia*, *The Big Nowhere*, *L.A. Confidential*, and *White Jazz*—were international bestsellers. His novel *American Tabloid* was *Time* magazine's Best Book (fiction) of 1995; his memoir, *My Dark Places*, was a *Time* Best Book of the Year and a *New York Times* Notable Book for 1996. He lives in Kansas City.

Crime Wave

My Dark Places

American Tabloid Hollywood

Nocturnes

White Jazz

L.A. Confidential

The Big Nowhere

The Black Dahlia

Killer on the Road

Suicide Hill

Because the Night

Blood on the Moon

Clandestine

Brown's Requiem

THE COLD SIX THOUSAND

a novel

JAMES ELLROY



VINTAGE BOOKS
A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC. NEW YORK

Copyright © 2001 by James Ellroy

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Published in the United States by Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto. Originally published in hardcover in the United States by Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House, Inc., New York, in 2001.

Vintage and colophon are registered trademarks of Random House, Inc.

The Library of Congress has cataloged the Knopf edition as follows:

Ellroy, James, 1948–

The cold six thousand : a novel / by James Ellroy.—1st ed.

p. cm.

eISBN: 978-0-307-79845-9

I. Title.

2001088561

www.vintagebooks.com

*Title page photograph by Mell Kilpatrick,
courtesy of Jennifer Dumas*

v3.1

To

BILL STONER

Contents

Cover

About the Author

Other Books by This Author

Title Page

Copyright

Dedication

Part 1 - Extradition

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Chapter 10

Chapter 11

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Part 2 - Extortion

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

Chapter 16

Chapter 17

Chapter 18

Chapter 19

Chapter 20

Chapter 21

Chapter 22

Chapter 23

Chapter 24

Chapter 25

Chapter 26

Chapter 27

Chapter 28

Chapter 29

Chapter 30

Chapter 31

Chapter 32

Chapter 33

Chapter 34

Chapter 35

Chapter 36

Chapter 37

Chapter 38

Chapter 39

Chapter 40

Chapter 41

Chapter 42

Chapter 43

Chapter 44

Chapter 45

Chapter 46

Chapter 47

Chapter 48

Chapter 49

Chapter 50

Chapter 51

Chapter 52

Chapter 53

Chapter 54

Chapter 55

Chapter 56

Chapter 57

Chapter 58

Chapter 59

Part 3 - Subversion

Chapter 60

Chapter 61

Chapter 62

Chapter 63

Chapter 64

Chapter 65

Chapter 66

Chapter 67

Chapter 68

Chapter 69

Chapter 70

Chapter 71

Chapter 72

Chapter 73

Chapter 74

Chapter 75

Part 4 - Coercion

Chapter 76

Chapter 77

Chapter 78

Chapter 79

Chapter 80

Chapter 81

Chapter 82

Chapter 83

Chapter 84

Chapter 85

Chapter 86

Chapter 87

Chapter 88

Chapter 89

Chapter 90

Chapter 91

Chapter 92

Part 5 - Incursion

Chapter 93

Chapter 94

Chapter 95

Chapter 96

Chapter 97

Chapter 98

Chapter 99

Chapter 100

Chapter 101

Chapter 102

Chapter 103

Chapter 104

Chapter 105

Part 6 - Interdiction

Chapter 106

Chapter 107

Chapter 108

Chapter 109

Chapter 110

Chapter 111

Chapter 112

Chapter 113

Chapter 114

Chapter 115

Chapter 116

Chapter 117

Chapter 118

Chapter 119

Chapter 120

Chapter 121

Chapter 122

P a r t I

E X T R A D I T I O N

November 22-25, 1963

Wayne Tedrow Jr.

(Dallas, 11/22/63)

They sent him to Dallas to kill a nigger pimp named Wendell Durfee. He wasn't sure he could do it.

The Casino Operators Council flew him. They supplied first-class fare. They tapped their slush fund. They greased him. They fed him six cold.

Nobody *said* it:

Kill that coon. Do it good. Take our hit fee.

The flight ran smooth. A steward served drinks. She saw his gun. She played up. She asked dumb questions.

He said he worked Vegas PD. He ran the intel squad. He built files and logged information.

She loved it. She swooned.

"Hon, what you doin' in Dallas?"

He told her.

A Negro shivved a twenty-one dealer. The dealer lost an eye. The Negro booked to Big D. She loved it. She brought him highballs. He omitted details.

The dealer provoked the attack. The council issued the contract—death for ADW Two.

The preflight pep talk. Lieutenant Buddy Fritsch:

"I don't have to tell you what we expect, son. And I don't have to add that your father expects it, too."

The steward played geisha girl. The steward fluffed her beehive.

"What's your name?"

"Wayne Tedrow."

She whooped. "You just *have* to be Junior!"

He looked through her. He doodled. He yawned. She fawned.

She just looooooved his daddy. He flew with her oodles. She knew he was a Mormon when she'd looove to know more.

Wayne laid out Wayne Senior.

He ran a kitchen-help union. He rigged low pay. He had coin. He had pull. He pushed right-wing tracts. He hobnobbed with fat cats. He knew J. Edgar Hoover.

The pilot hit the intercom. Dallas—on time.

The steward fluffed her hair. "I'll bet you're staying at the Adolphus."

Wayne cinched his seat belt. "What makes you say that?"

"Well, your daddy told me he always stays there."

"I'm staying there. Nobody consulted me, but that's where they've got me booked."

The steward hunkered down. Her skirt slid. Her garter belt gapped.

"Your daddy told me they've got a nice little restaurant right there in the hotel, and well ..."

The plane hit rough air. Wayne caught it low. He broke a sweat. He shut his eyes. He saw Wendell Durfee.

The stew touched him. Wayne opened his eyes.

He saw her hickeys.

He saw her bad teeth. He smelled her shampoo.

“You were looking a little scared there, Wayne Junior.”

“Junior” tore it.

“Leave me alone. I’m not what you want, and I don’t cheat on my wife.”

1:50 p.m.

They touched down. Wayne got off first. Wayne stamped blood back into his legs.

He walked to the terminal. Schoolgirls blocked the gate. One girl cried. One girl fucked with prayer beads.

He stepped around them. He followed baggage signs. People walked past him. They looked sucker-punched.

Red eyes. Boo-hoo. Women with Kleenex.

Wayne stopped at baggage claim. Kids whizzed by. They shot cap pistols. They laughed.

A man walked up—Joe Redneck—tall and fat. He wore a Stetson. He wore big boots. He wore a mother-of-pearl .45.

“If you’re Sergeant Tedrow, I’m Officer Maynard D. Moore of the Dallas Police Department.”

They shook hands. Moore chewed tobacco. Moore wore cheap cologne. A woman walked by—boo-hoo-hoo—one big red nose.

Wayne said, “What’s wrong?”

Moore smiled. “Some kook shot the President.”

Most shops closed early. State flags flew low. Some folks flew rebel flags upright.

Moore drove Wayne in. Moore had a plan: Run by the hotel/get you set in/find us the jigaboo.

John F. Kennedy—dead.

His wife’s crush. His stepmom’s fixation. JFK got Janice wet. Janice told Wayne Senior Janice paid. Janice limped. Janice showed off the welts on her thighs.

Dead was dead. He couldn’t grab it. He fumbled the rebounds.

Moore chewed Red Man. Moore shot juice out his window. Gunshots overlapped. Joyous shit in the boonies.

Moore said, “Some people ain’t so sad.”

Wayne shrugged. They passed a billboard—JFK and the UN.

“You sure ain’t sayin’ much. I got to say that so far, you ain’t the most lively extradition partner I ever had.”

A gun went off. Close. Wayne grabbed his holster.

“Whoo! You got a case of the yips, boy!”

Wayne futzed with his necktie. “I just want to get this over with.”

Moore ran a red light. “In good time. I don’t doubt that Mr. Durfee’ll be sayin’ hi to o

fallen hero before too long.”

Wayne rolled up his window. Wayne trapped in Moore’s cologne.

Moore said, “I been to Lost Wages quite a few times. In fact, I owe a big marker at the Dunes this very moment.”

Wayne shrugged. They passed a bus bench. A colored girl sobbed.

“I heard of your daddy, too. I heard he’s quite the boy in Nevada.”

A truck ran a red. The driver waved a beer and revolver.

“Lots of people know my father. They all tell me they know him, and it gets old pretty quick.”

Moore smiled. “Hey, I think I detect a pulse there.”

Motorcade confetti. A window sign: *Big D loves Jack & Jackie.*

“I heard about you, too. I heard you got leanings your daddy don’t much care for.”

“For instance?”

“Let’s try nigger lover. Let’s try you chauffeur Sonny Liston around when he comes to Vegas, ’cause the PD’s afraid he’ll get himself in trouble with liquor and white women, and you *like* him, but you *don’t* like the nice Italian folks who keep your little town clean.”

The car hit a pothole. Wayne hit the dash.

Moore stared at Wayne. Wayne stared back. They held the stare. Moore ran a red. Wayne blinked first.

Moore winked. “We’re gonna have big fun this weekend.”

The lobby was swank. The carpets ran thick. Men snagged their boot heels.

People pointed outside—look look look—the motorcade passed the hotel. JFK drove by. JFK waved. JFK bought it close by.

People talked. Strangers braced strangers. The men wore western suits. The women dressed faux-Jackie.

Check-ins swamped the desk. Moore ad-libbed. Moore walked Wayne to the bar.

SRO—big barside numbers.

A TV sat on a table. A barman goosed the sound. Moore shoved up to a phone booth. Wayne scoped the TV out.

Folks jabbered. The men wore hats. Everyone wore boots and high heels. Wayne stood on his toes. Wayne popped over hat brims.

The picture jumped and settled in. Sound static and confusion. Cops. A thin punk. Word “Oswald”/“weapon”/“Red sympath—”

A guy waved a rifle. Newsmen pressed in. A camera panned. There’s the punk. He’s showing fear and contusions.

The noise was bad. The smoke was thick. Wayne lost his legs.

A man raised a toast. “Oughta give Oswald a—”

Wayne stood down. A woman jostled him—wet cheeks and runny mascara.

Wayne walked to the phone booth. Moore had the door cracked.

He said, “Guy, listen now.”

He said, “Wet-nursing some kid on some bullshit extradition—”

“Bullshit” tore it.

Wayne jabbed Moore. Moore swung around. His pant legs hiked up.

Fuck—knives in his boot tops. Brass knucks in one sock. Wayne said,

“Wendell Durfee, remember?”

Moore stood up. Moore got magnetized. Wayne tracked his eyes.

He caught the TV. He caught a caption. He caught a still shot: “Slain Officer J. D. Tippit.”

Moore stared. Moore trembled. Moore shook.

Wayne said, “Wendell Durf—”

Moore shoved him. Moore ran outside.

• • •

The council booked him a *biggg* suite. A bellboy supplied history. JFK loved the suite. JFK fucked women there. Ava Gardner blew him on the terrace.

Two sitting rooms. Two bedrooms. Three TVs. Slush funds. Six cold. Kill that nigger, boy.

Wayne toured the suite. History lives. JFK loved Dallas quail.

He turned the TVs on. He tuned in three channels. He caught the show three ways. He walked between sets. He nailed the story.

The punk was Lee Harvey Oswald. The punk shot JFK and Tippit. Tippit worked Dallas PD. DPD was tight-knit. Moore probably knew him.

Oswald was pro-Red. Oswald loved Fidel. Oswald worked at a schoolbook plant. Oswald clipped the Prez on his lunch break.

DPD had him. Their HQ teemed. Cops. Reporters. Camera hogs all.

Wayne flopped on a couch. Wayne shut his eyes. Wayne saw Wendell Durfee. Wayne opened his eyes. Wayne saw Lee Oswald.

He killed the sound. He pulled his wallet pix.

There’s his mother—back in Peru, Indiana.

She left Wayne Senior. Late ’47. Wayne Senior hit her. He broke bones sometimes.

She asked Wayne who he loved most. He said, “My dad.” She slapped him. She cried. She apologized.

The slap tore it. He went with Wayne Senior.

He called his mother—May ’54—he called en route to the Army. She said, “Don’t fight silly wars.” She said, “Don’t hate like Wayne Senior.”

He cut her off. Binding/permanent/4-ever.

There’s his stepmom.

Wayne Senior ditched Wayne’s mom. Wayne Senior wooed Janice. Wayne Senior brought Wayne along. Wayne was thirteen. Wayne was horny. Wayne dug on Janice.

Janice Lukens Tedrow made rooms tilt. She played indolent wife. She played scratch golf. She played A-club tennis.

Wayne Senior feared her spark. She watched Wayne grow up. She torched reciprocal. She left her doors open. She invited looks. Wayne Senior knew it. Wayne Senior didn’t care.

There’s *his* wife.

Lynette Sproul Tedrow. Perched in his lap. Grad night at Brigham Young.

He’s shell-shocked. He got his chem degree—BYU/’59—summa cum laude. He craved action. He joined Vegas PD. Fuck summa cum laude.

He met Lynette in Little Rock. Fall ’57. Central High desegregates. Rednecks. Colored kid

The Eighty-Second Airborne.

Some white boys prowl. Some white boys snatch a colored boy's sandwich. Lynette hands him hers. The white boys attack. Corporal Wayne Tedrow Jr. counters.

He beats them down. He spears one fuck. The fuck screams, "Mommy!"

Lynette hits on Wayne. She's seventeen. He's twenty-three. He's got some college.

They fucked on a golf course. Sprinklers doused them. He told Janice all.

She said, "You and Lynette peaked early. And you probably liked the fight as much as the sex."

Janice knew him. Janice had the home-court advantage.

Wayne looked out a window. TV crews roamed. News vans double-parked. He walked through the suite. He turned off the TVs. Three Oswalds vanished.

He pulled his file. All carbons: LVPD/Dallas County Sheriff's.

Durfee, Wendell (NMI). Male Negro/DOB 6-6-27/Clark County, Nevada. 6'4"/155.

Pander beefs—3/44 up. "Well-known dice-game habitue." No busts outside Vegas and Dallas.

"Known to drive Cadillacs."

"Known to wear flamboyant attire."

"Known to have fathered 13 children out of wedlock."

"Known to pander Negro women, white women, male homosexuals & Mexican transvestites."

Twenty-two pimp busts. Fourteen convictions. Nine child-support liens. Five bail jumps.

Cop notes: Wendell's smart/Wendell's dumb/Wendell cut that cat at Binion's.

The cat was mobbed up. The cat shanked Wendell first. The council set policy. The LVPD enforced it.

"Known Dallas County Associates":

Marvin Duquesne Settle/male Negro/Texas State custody.

Fenton "Duke" Price/male Negro/Texas State custody.

Alfonzo John Jefferson/male Negro/4219 Wilmington Road, Dallas 8, Tex. "Gambling partner of Wendell Durfee."

County Probation: (Stat. 92.04 Tex. St. Code) 9/14/60–9/14/65. Employed: Dr Pepper Bottling Plant. Note: "Subject to make fine payments for term of probation, i.e.: every 3rd Friday (Dr Pepper payday) County Prob. Off."

Donnell George Lundy/male Negro/Texas State custody.

Manuel "Bobo" Herrera/male Mexican/Texas State cust—

The phone rang. Wayne grabbed it.

"Yeah?"

"It's me, son. Your new best buddy."

Wayne grabbed his holster. "Where are you?"

"Right now I'm noplacе worth bein'. But you meet me at eight o'clock."

"Where?"

"The Carousel Club. You be there, and we'll find us that burrhead."

Wayne hung up. Wayne got butterflies.

Wendell, I don't want to kill you.

Ward J. Littell

(Dallas, 11/22/63)

There's the limo. It's on the runway. It's late-model FBI black. The plane taxied up. It passed Air Force One. Marine flanked the tailhatch. The pilot cut the engine. The plane

fishtailed. The ramp popped and dropped.

Littell got out. His ears popped. His legs uncramped.

They worked fast. They rigged his flight plan. They flew him two-seat non-deluxe.

Mr. Hoover called him—D.C. to L.A.

He said, "The President was shot and killed. I want you to fly to Dallas and monitor the investigation."

The hit occurred at 12:30. It was 4:10 now. Mr. Hoover called at 12:40. Mr. Hoover got the news and called fast.

Littell ran. The limo driver popped the door. The backseat was stuffy. The windows were smoked. Love Field was all monochrome.

Stick figures. Baggage crews. Newsmen and charter planes.

The driver pulled out. Littell saw a box on the seat. He opened it. He emptied it out.

One special agent's shield. One FBI photo ID card. One Bureau-issue .38/holster.

His old photo. His old gun.

He gave them up in '60. Mr. Hoover forced him out. He had cover tools now—new and old—he had cosmetic reinstatement.

Mr. Hoover stashed said tools. *In Dallas.* Mr. Hoover predicted the hit.

He knew the locale. He sensed the time frame. He was passively complicit. He sensed Littell's involvement. He sensed Littell's need to quash talk.

Littell looked out his window. The tint made funhouse distortions. Clouds imploded. Buildings weaved. People blipped.

He brought a radio. He played it flying in. He got the basic stats:

One suspect caught—a kid—a sheep-dipped leftist. Guy Banister dipped him. The kid killed a cop. Two cops were set to kill him. Phase Two went bad. The second cop botched his assignment.

Littell holstered up. Littell studied his ID.

Cop/lawyer then. Mob lawyer now. Hoover foe to Hoover ally. A one-man law firm with three clients:

Howard Hughes/Jimmy Hoffa/Carlos Marcello.

He called Carlos. Ten a.m. L.A. time. Carlos was happy. Carlos beat Bobby K.'s deportation bill.

Bobby tried Carlos in New Orleans. Carlos *owned* New Orleans. Carlos was jury-proof there.

Kennedy hubris:

The jury acquits Carlos. Bobby sulks. Jack dies one hour on.

The streets were dead. Windows zipped by. Ten thousand TVs glowed.

It was *his* show.

He developed the plan. Pete Bondurant helped. Carlos okayed it and went with Guy Banister's crew. Guy embellished *his* plan. Guy revised it. Guy botched it.

Pete was in Dallas. Pete just got married. Pete was at the Adolphus Hotel. Guy B. was here. Guy B. was somewhere close.

Littell counted windows. All tint-distorted. Smudges and blurs. His thoughts blew wide. His thoughts cohered:

Talk to Pete. Kill Oswald. Ensure a one-shooter consensus.

The limo hit downtown Dallas. Littell pinned on his shield.

There's Dealey Plaza. The PD building's close. Look for:

The book building/a Hertz sign/Greek columns.

There—

The columns. The sign. Mourners at Houston and Elm. A hot-dog vendor. Nuns sobbing.

Littell shut his eyes. The driver turned right. The driver pulled down a ramp. The driver stopped hard and fast. The back windows slid down.

Somebody coughed. Somebody said, "Mr. Littell?"

Littell opened his eyes. Littell saw a basement garage. There's a kiddy Fed standing there. He's all uptight.

"Sir, I'm Special Agent Burdick, and ... well, the ASAC said you should come straight up and see the witnesses."

Littell grabbed his briefcase. The gun chafed his hip. He got out. He stretched. He cleaned his glasses.

Burdick stuck close. Burdick rode him tight. They walked to a freight lift. Burdick pushed 3.

"Sir, I have to say it's a madhouse. We've got people saying two shooters, three, four, the cops can't even agree where the shots—"

"Did you isolate them?"

"Well ... no."

"Who's interviewing them?"

The boy stuttered. The boy gulped.

"Which *agencies*, son?"

"Well, we've got us, DPD, the Sheriff's, and I—"

The door opened. Noise boomed in. The squadroom was packed.

Littell looked around. Burdick got antsy. Littell ignored him.

The witnesses were antsy. The witnesses wore name tags. The witnesses perched on one bench.

Thirty-odd people: Talking. Fretting. Contaminating facts.

Back-wall cubicles. Cops and civilians—holed up in interview slots. Flustered cops and civilians in shock.

Forty desks. Forty phones. Forty cops talking loud. Odd badges on suitcoats. Wastebaskets dumped. Inter-agency chaos and—

“Sir, can we—”

Littell walked over. Littell checked the bench. The wits squirmed. The wits smoked. Full ashtrays jumped.

I saw this/I saw that/his head went pop! A talkathon—bad work—pure mass-witness slop. Littell looked for standouts. Solid types/credible wits.

He stood back. He framed the bench. He saw a woman: Dark hair/handsome/thirty-five plus.

She sat still. She stayed calm. She watched an exit door. She saw Littell. She looked away. She never blinked.

Burdick walked a phone up. Burdick mimed “*Him.*” Littell grabbed the phone. The cord stretched taut.

Mr. Hoover said, “Be concise.”

Littell cupped his free ear. The room noise half died.

“The preliminary stage of the investigation has been ineptly executed. That’s all I’m certain of at this point.”

“I’m not surprised and I’m not disappointed, and I’m thoroughly convinced that Oswald acted without assistance. Your job is to cull the names of potentially embarrassing witnesses who might contradict that thesis.”

Littell said, “Yes, sir.”

Burdick held up a clipboard. Note slips were clamped in. A witness log/clamped witness statements/driver’s licenses attached.

The phone went dead. Burdick grabbed it. Littell grabbed the clipboard. It bulged. The clipboard wobbled.

He skimmed the slips.

Two-line statements. Confiscated DLs. Detainment insurance. Ambiguous data: 3/4/5/6 shots/1/2/3 directions.

The stockade fence. The book building. The triple underpass. Head-on shots. Missed shots. Shots from behind.

Littell checked DL pix.

Wit #6: Shots at Houston and Elm. Wit #9: Shots off the freeway. The calm woman: 2 shots/2 directions. Her stats: Arden Smith/West Mockingbird Lane.

The smoke was bad. Littell stepped back. The smoke made him sneeze. He bumped a desk. He dropped the log. He walked to the interview slots.

Burdick tailed him. The room noise doubled. Littell checked the slots.

Shoddy work—no tape machines/no stenos.

He checked slot #1. A thin cop braced a thin kid. The kid laughed. What a gas. My dad voted for Nixon.

Littell checked slot #2. A fat cop braced a fat man.

The cop said, “Mr. Bowers, I’m not disputing what you told me.”

Mr. Bowers wore a railroad cap. Mr. Bowers squirmed.

“For the tenth time then, so I can go home. I was up in the tower behind that fence on the knoll. I saw two cars cruising around there about ... shit ... a half hour before the shooting and two men standing right at the edge of the fence, and then just as I heard the shots, I saw a flash of light from that very spot.”

The cop doodled. Mr. Bowers tapped a cigarette. Littell studied him. Littell got queasy.

He didn't know the shooter plan. He *did* know credible wits. Bowers was intractably firm.

Bowers was good.

Burdick tapped Littell. Littell swung around. Littell knocked him back.

"What?"

Burdick stepped back. "Well, I was just thinking that DPD pulled these three guys, bums out of something, out of a railroad car behind the fence, about a half hour after the shooting. We've got them in the tank."

Littell went more queasy.

Littell said, "Show me."

Burdick walked point. They passed the slots. They passed a coffee-break room. Hallway crossed. They veered left. They hit a mesh-front pen.

An intercom popped: "Agent Burdick. Front desk, please."

Burdick said, "I should catch that."

Littell nodded. Burdick fidgeted. Burdick took off from a crouch. Littell grabbed the mesh. The light was bad. Littell squinted hard.

He saw two bums. He saw Chuck Rogers.

Chuck was Pete's man. Wet arts/CIA. Chuck was tight with Guy B.

Rogers saw Littell. The bums ignored him. Rogers smiled. Littell touched his shield. Rogers mimed a rifle shot.

He moved his lips. He went "Pow!"

Littell backtracked.

He walked down the hall. He turned right. He hit a bisecting hall. He made the turn. He saw a side door.

He pushed it open. He saw fire steps and rungs. Across the hall: A men's room and a door marked "Jailer."

The men's room door opened. Mr. Bowers walked out. He stretched. He zipped his fly. He settled his nuts.

He saw Littell. He squinted. He keyed on his shield.

"FBI, right?"

"That's right."

"Well, I'm glad I ran into you, 'cause there's something I forgot to tell the other guy."

Littell smiled. "I'll pass it along."

Bowers scratched his neck. "Okay, then. You tell him I saw some cops rousting the hoboos out of a hay car, and one of them looked like one of the guys I saw by the fence."

Littell pulled his notebook.

He scribbled. He smeared some ink. His hand shook. The book shook.

Bowers said, "I sure feel sorry for Jackie."

Littell smiled. Bowers smiled. Bowers tipped his cap. He jiggled some coins. He ambled. He walked away sloooooow.

Littell watched his back.

Bowers ambled. Bowers turned right. Bowers hit the main hall. Littell flexed his hand. Littell caught his breath.

He worked the Jailer door. He jiggled the knob. He forced it.

The door popped. Littell stepped in.

A twelve-by-twelve space—dead empty. A desk/a chair/a key rack.

Paperwork—tacked to a corkboard:

Vagrant sheets—“Doyle”/“Paolino”/“Abrahams”—no mug shots attached.

Call it: Rogers packed fake ID. Rogers booked in with it.

One key on the rack—cell-size/thick brass.

Littell grabbed the sheets. Littell pocketed them. Littell grabbed the key. He gulped. He

walked out brazen. He walked to the pen.

He unlocked the door. Rogers primed the bums. He pumped them up. He went “Sssh now.” He gave a pep talk.

We got ourselves a savior—just do what I say.

The bums huddled. The bums stepped out. The bums hugged the wall.

Littell walked.

He hit the main hall. He faced the squadroom. He blocked the view. He signaled Roger

He pointed. The fire door—go.

He heard footsteps. The bums squealed. The bums giggled loud. The fire door creaked. A bum yelled, “Hallelujah!” The fire door slammed.

Littell caught a breeze. His sweat froze. His pulse went haywire.

He walked to the squadroom. His legs fluttered and dipped. He grazed desks. He bumped walls. He bumped into cops.

The wit bench was smoked in. Twenty cigarettes plumed. Arden Smith was gone.

Littell looked around. Littell scanned desks. Littell saw the wit log.

He grabbed it. He checked statements and DLs. Arden Smith’s package—gone.

He checked the slots. He checked the halls. He checked the main window.

There’s Arden Smith. She’s on the street. She’s walking fast. She’s walking *away*.

She crossed Houston. Cars swerved by her. She made Dealey Plaza.

Littell blinked.

He lost her. Jack’s mourners shadowed her up.

Pete Bondurant

(Dallas, 11/22/63)

The bridal suite. The fuck pad supreme.
Gilt wallpaper. Cupids. Pink rugs and chairs. A fake-f
bedspread—baby-ass pink.

Pete watched Barb sleep.

Her legs slid. She kicked wide. She thrashed the sheets.

Barbara Jane Lindscott Jahelka Bondurant.

He got her back early. He sealed up the suite. He closed out the news. She'll wake up

She'll *get* the news. She'll *know*.

I fucked Jack in '62. It was lackluster and brief. You bugged some rooms. You got h
voice. You taped it. The shakedown failed. Your pals regrouped. You killed Jack instead.

Pete moved his chair. Pete got fresh views. Barb tossed. Her hair swirled.

She didn't love Jack. She serviced Jack. She cosigned extortion. She wouldn't cosign death

6:10 p.m.

Jack should be dead. Guy's boy ditto. Chuck Rogers had a plane stashed. The crew shou
be out.

Barb twitched. Pete fought a headache. Pete popped aspirin and scotch.

He got *bad* headaches—chronic—they started with the Jack squeeze. The squeeze failed
He stole some Mob heroin. A CIA man helped.

Kemper Cathcart Boyd.

They were *très* tight. They were mobbed up. They shared spit with Sam G. They worked fo
Carlos M. They worked for Santo Trafficante. They all hated Commies. They all loved Cub
They all hated the Beard.

Money and turf—dual agendas. Let's pluck the Beard. Let's repluck our casinos.

Santo and Sam played both ends. They sucked up to Castro. They bought "H" off Broth
Raúl. Carlos stayed pure. Carlos did not fuck *la Causa*.

Pete and Boyd stole the dope. Sam and Santo nailed them. Pete got the word. They did b
with Fidel.

Carlos stayed neutral. Biz was biz. Outfit laws overruled causes.

They *all* hated Bobby. They *all* hated Jack. Jack fucked them at Pigs. Jack raided Cuba
exile camps. Jack nuzzled the Beard.

Bobby deported Carlos. Bobby fucked with the Outfit *très* large. Carlos hated Jack an
Bobby—*molto bravissimo*.

Ward Littell hated them. Ward smuggled Carlos back. Ward played factotum. Ward ran h
deportation case.

Ward said, Let's clip Jack. Carlos liked it. Carlos talked to Santo and Sam.

They liked it.

- [**read online The Mysteries of Udolpho \(Penguin Classics\)**](#)
- [read online The Janus Faces of Genius: The Role of Alchemy in Newton's Thought online](#)
- [**click The Sell: The Secrets of Selling Anything to Anyone**](#)
- [download online Video Game Storytelling: What Every Developer Needs to Know about Narrative Techniques](#)
- [read Three to See the King](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Revolting Revenge of the Radioactive Robo-boxers \(Captain Underpants, Book 10\) pdf](#)

- <http://www.celebritychat.in/?ebooks/The-Mysteries-of-Udolpho--Penguin-Classics-.pdf>
- <http://jaythebody.com/freebooks/Ireland-Travel-Guide.pdf>
- <http://dpsam.org.my/freebooks/The-Sell--The-Secrets-of-Selling-Anything-to-Anyone.pdf>
- <http://flog.co.id/library/The-Encyclopedia-of-Mathematics-and-Society.pdf>
- <http://anvilpr.com/library/Eat-Your-Drink--Culinary-Cocktails.pdf>
- <http://patrickvincitore.com/?ebooks/The-Lemon-Table.pdf>