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The Echo From Dealey Plaza: The True Story Of The First African American On The White House Secret Service Detail And His Quest For Justice After The Assassination Of JFK





Synopsis

A gripping and unforgettable true story of bravery and patriotism in the face of bitter hatred. Abraham Bolden was a young African American Secret Service agent in Chicago when he was asked by John F. Kennedy himself to join the White House Secret Service detail. For Bolden, it was a dream come true "and an encouraging sign of the charismatic president's vision for a new America. But the dream quickly turned sour. Bolden found himself regularly subjected to open hostility and blatant racism, and he was appalled by the White House team's irresponsible approach to security. In the wake of JFK's assassination, Bolden sought to expose the agency's negligence, only to find himself the victim of a sinister conspiracy. The Echo from Dealey Plaza is the story of the terrible price paid by one man for his commitment to truth and justice.

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Customer Reviews

I wanted the hardbound, which .com does not have. So I ordered this book from a bookstore and I could not put it down. I literally read it in a day. Mr. Bolden was, and is an honorable man. His story is so compelling and shocking that it is truly unforgivable that he has not been pardoned (look at the low lifes like North and Libby who have been, as well as many other guilty government spook like men). Mr. Bolden was unjustly charged and found guilty by a biased and racist "federal judge" and served nearly six years in the prime of his life for trying to tell the truth. He warned many "superiors" in the government of the lax and arrogant attitude of fellow agents, many who drank on the job and

simply ignored protocol about protecting President Kennedy. He was framed and railroaded by the Secret Service and the Federal Judicial system for trying to tell the "Johnson Commission" what he knew about the riff-raff guarding President Kennedy. Though the story is not DIRECTLY related to the conspiracy, there is some information regarding the activities of the Secret Service which will shock those who have not studied the assassination in depth. For example, following the murder of JFK, all agents were issued new security IDs and the old ones were destroyed. Why? Missing Secret Service IDs were "lost" prior to that miserable day in Dallas almost 48 years ago. Several men who were not agents had Secret Service credentials when confronted by honest Dallas policemen following the shooting. Inside the Book Depository Building and on the Grassy Knoll for example. I would strongly encourage people to read Abraham Bolden's Story. DO NOT waste your time and money on Gerald Blaine's ridiculous new book about the Secret Service.

Abraham Bolden joined the Secret Service in October, 1960 and was working out of the Chicago office providing security for an April, 1961 visit by President Kennedy to Chicago. After meeting Bolden during the course of the visit, Kennedy invited Bolden to permanently join the prestigious White House Security Detail. Bolden joins the detail and goes to Washington DC in June, 1960 for a 30-day trial period during which he encounters intense racism from other White House Secret Service agents that leads him to request to return to the Chicago office. During his July, 1961 exit interview with U.E. Baughmann, head of the Secret Service, Bolden described several of the incidents of racism, a lack of training, (Bolden was asked to use an AR-15 rifle but never received training on the weapon) and also mentioned names, dates, and places of agents who were drinking on duty. Baughmann notes this info, agrees that it was unacceptable, and states that he will take it up with his replacement, James J. Rowley, before he retires in a few days. Rowley was at that time the head of the White House Protective Detail and it is his group that Bolden is criticizing. Bolden goes back to Chicago and works on counterfeiting cases and Rowley becomes head of the Secret Service. Bolden is working in the Chicago office when Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas on November 22, 1963. One week before, on November 17, Bolden was asked to fly to Washington DC to take a new assignment as an undercover agent for the Internal Revenue Service. As a part of this job, Bolden would get a new name, birth certificate, marriage certificate, employment records, and all references to his former identity would be erased. Bolden is uncomfortable, says he needs to think it over, and goes back to Chicago.

Abe Bolden, a seasoned and decorated law enforcement officer and the first Black to serve on the

Presidential detail (handpicked by JFK himself) as a member of the Secret Service, experienced a staggering fall from grace, due in large part to "guilty knowledge" he had that bore on the possible conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. Having been alerted by uncommonly vicious backroom verbal attacks against Kennedy (and racist attacks against himself) by his colleagues and the very men sworn to protect JFK, Bolden's antenna were on full alert as he witnessed event-after-event that could only be interpreted as "purposeful laxity" in both the run up to JFK's cancelled visit to Chicago (where an assassination attempt was foiled) and the President's fatal visit to Dallas (where it succeeded). Bolden, as a seasoned agent, was deep inside the Secret Service's inner loop as an "eye" and "ear" witness to all of the behind the scene maneuverings that resulted in both the failure to apprehend the suspects who conspired unsuccessfully to kill JFK in Chicago a couple of weeks before Dallas, and then as witness to his colleague's laxity during the President's fatal visit to Texas, where they apparently succeeded. Once it became clear that Bolden was not going to "be a team player" in the cover-up of possible Secret Service complicity in the assassination, things turned very bad for him indeed. Unable to silence him on the outside, Bolden was then framed by his colleagues in an elaborate setup that apparently had the support of the judge who presided over his "railroading" through the U.S. Criminal Court system. After a lengthy sequence of trials that went all the way to the Supreme Court, he eventually landed in a series of increasingly brutal and isolated U.S.

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