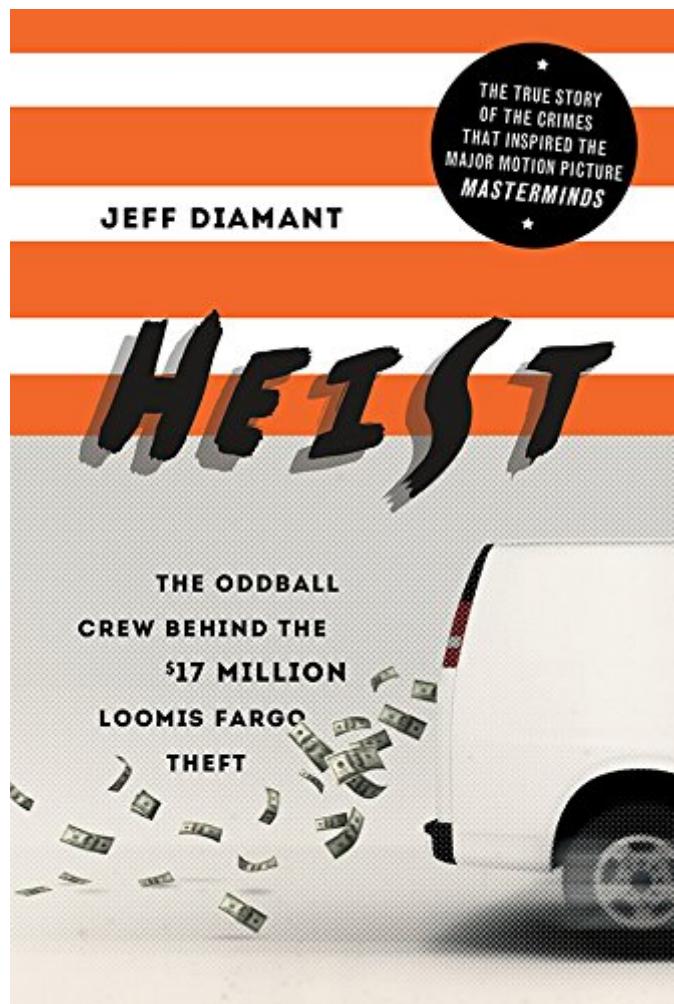


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Heist: The Oddball Crew Behind The \$17 Million Loomis Fargo Theft



Synopsis

The bizarre true story of the criminals behind the second-largest bank heist in American history. One night in a small North Carolina town, a down-on-his-luck guard at Loomis Fargo manages to steal \$17 million-literally more than one ton of cash. Despite being caught on camera wheeling the money from the vault to the getaway van, David Ghantt makes off to Mexico before the FBI can blink. There's just one hitch: Ghantt has entrusted the money to an oddball crew of accomplices who had wooed him into committing this massive theft in the first place-and who, he soon learns, are trying to take him out. Now one of the most wanted men in America with the FBI hot on his heels, Ghantt must figure out how to get his money, get away from a hit man, and get even. In this outrageously entertaining book, Jeff Diamant, the Charlotte Observer's lead reporter on the case, offers the definitive inside account of this astonishing true story that has captivated American audiences on the news and now on the big screen in the major motion picture, *Masterminds*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This details one of the huge heists of cash from the Loomis company. The man who actually stole \$17 million didn't use much judgment in trusting strangers with the loot, and the accomplices weren't

much smarter. Something the author doesn't go into, but I wish he had, is the stupidity of the Loomis company, victim of two similar huge thefts of cash within a year. Why would an armored car/cash transport company trust a single low-paid employee with access to the vault holding \$17 million, with only a new trainee there with him, whom he sent home early? Why was he allowed such access with no supervision or other employees there? In addition to access to the vault (which he emptied), he also had access to the only two existing sets of keys to the vault (which he stole), access and keys to several Loomis armored cars (used to transport the cash), and access to the security system's video tapes (two of which he took with him)! Talk about leaving the store unattended. I'd guess some heads at the top executive level of Loomis surely rolled after this second huge theft. Loomis seems as dumb as the gang of thieves.

Wow, what a great read. "Heist" is the true, stranger-than-fiction recounting of a \$17 million dollar theft in the 1990's. The author was in a unique position at the time of the Loomis robbery, as he was a local crime reporter. The story is a dramatic, funny page-turner that keeps the reader engaged right to the finish. It is amazing how many people were involved in laundering the money stolen, and yes, they were all caught. Apparently the book has been reissued because a movie is coming out soon. There is a disclaimer on the cover that it is not related to the movie or its producers. I just looked at trailer for the movie. It looks like Hollywood has taken great liberties with the actual story and characters. Read the book! Diamant's book is well written and entertaining, and he is sympathetic toward the central thief, David. Read it and you will be, too. I know I am.

This was a new story to me though probably not to a lot of Americans. But it was a fascinating one and almost hard to believe in places. Truth is so often stranger than fiction. The author keeps the pace up and I thought brought the whole thing to life and put it in perspective. It really is an incredible yarn and Diamant has done it justice.

A very well written book that begins immediately with the action and continues straight through, without uninteresting and insignificant fillers. It was an entertaining read. The sad part is how corrupt, ignorant, and morally lacking people can be, especially when money is involved. Thou shall not steal!

From start to finish, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The crooks were laughable, making one bad decision after another. You can really feel like you know the characters involved. The narrative is

rich in details. I bought the Kindle version which is a genuine bargain.

A tremendous amount of information had to be gathered and compiled into a readable format, and I applaud Jeff Diamant for a job well-done. When I finished reading *Heist* I found myself wanting to know what life was like for the 'crew' while they were in prisons and after they served their sentences. The book reads like a comedy act gone wrong--quite enjoyable.

A wonderful book about a fascinating event. The largest heist in the US by a group of amateurs, what could possibly go wrong! This is what happens when money burns a hole in your pocket. A totally fun and engaging story. This book tells the entire story, up front and behind the scenes. Read it and enjoy the laugh. P. Lenny

Diamant presents just the facts m'am, but in so doing he subtly reveals recognizable pitfalls in the human condition--among them, blind ambition, greed, and resulting stupidity. In reading *Heist*, one can almost channel the inner monologue of David Ghantt as he does more than just raid his employer's petty-cash drawer in an effort to surreptitiously fund a long-overdue bender. Spoiler alert: that inner monologue often consists of one syllable--D'oh! More charitable than this reader, Diamant wisely shares with us more than just David Ghantt's demerits. Diamant also presents Ghantt as his family knew him: loving and attentive. This raises the hope, the possibility, of redemption, which is a deeply powerful stuff indeed. This is a good book. I greatly enjoyed it while sitting in a beach chair during a long holiday weekend.

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