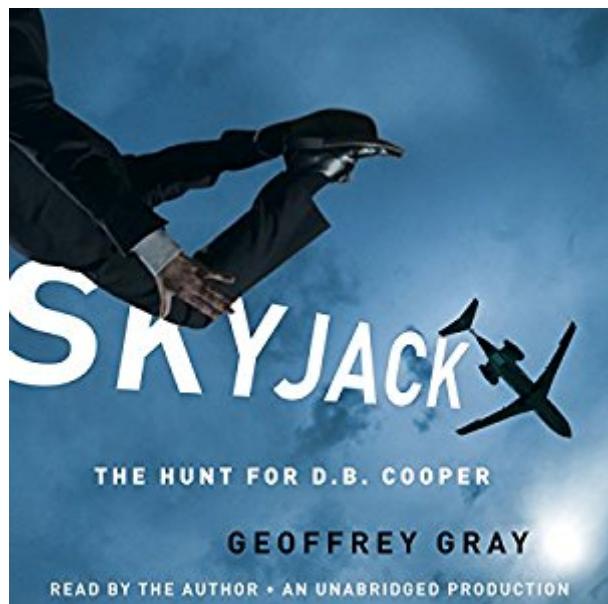


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# Skyjack: The Hunt For D. B. Cooper



## Synopsis

I have a bomb here and I would like you to sit by me. That was the note handed to a stewardess by a mild-mannered passenger on a Northwest Orient flight in 1971. It was the start of one of the most astonishing whodunits in the history of American true crime: how one man extorted \$200,000 from an airline, then parachuted into the wilds of the Pacific Northwest and into oblivion. D. B. Cooper's case has become the stuff of legend and obsessed and cursed his pursuers with everything from bankruptcy to suicidal despair. Now with *Skyjack*, journalist Geoffrey Gray delves into this unsolved mystery uncovering new leads in the infamous case. Starting with a tip from a private investigator into a promising suspect (a Cooper lookalike, Northwest employee, and trained paratrooper), Gray is propelled into the murky depths of a decades-old mystery, conducting new interviews and obtaining a first-ever look at Cooper's FBI file. Beginning with a heartstopping and unprecedented recreation of the crime itself, from cabin to cockpit to tower, and uncanny portraits of characters who either chased Cooper or might have committed the crime, including Ralph Himmelsbach, the most dogged of FBI agents, who watched with horror as a criminal became a counter-culture folk hero who supposedly shafted the system. With explosive new information and exclusive access to FBI files and forensic evidence, *Skyjack* reopens one of the great cold cases of the 20th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've always been fascinated by the D.B. Cooper story. I'm not sure why since I wasn't even born when he hijacked a Boeing 737 in the fall of 1971, then disappeared into the Washington

wilderness. There's just something incredibly compelling about the whole story. It's so compelling, I couldn't put *Skyjack: The Hunt for D.B. Cooper* down. It arrived at 10:00am and, by 11:00pm the same day, I'd finished it. Geoffrey Gray presents what can best be called the human side of the D.B. Cooper mystery. He's done incredible research into the lives of not only the likely suspects (he focuses on Kenneth Christiansen, Duane Weber, Richard McCoy, and Barbara (Bobby) Dayton), but also the pilots, flight attendants, FBI agents, and amateur sleuths involved with the case. The extent that the D.B. Cooper saga has impacted (and ruined) lives is simply incredible. Gray also doesn't shy away from hard evidence and facts. He pursues and discusses countless leads, no matter how flimsy. He partnered with scientists, private investigators, experts of all kinds, FBI agents, and even the online community. He combined this information with new access to FBI files and other documents to provide the most up to date information about Cooper's motives, his possible identity, and where he may have ended up. He has a list of sources/references at the end of the book for those who may want to dig deeper. In the end, however, the book is filled with a lot of "he might be or he might not be" with regard to Cooper's ultimate identity. Readers wanting a foregone conclusion should look elsewhere, but for those who want to decide for themselves based on the best information (count me in this category), Gray has done a fantastic job. For a casual D.B.

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