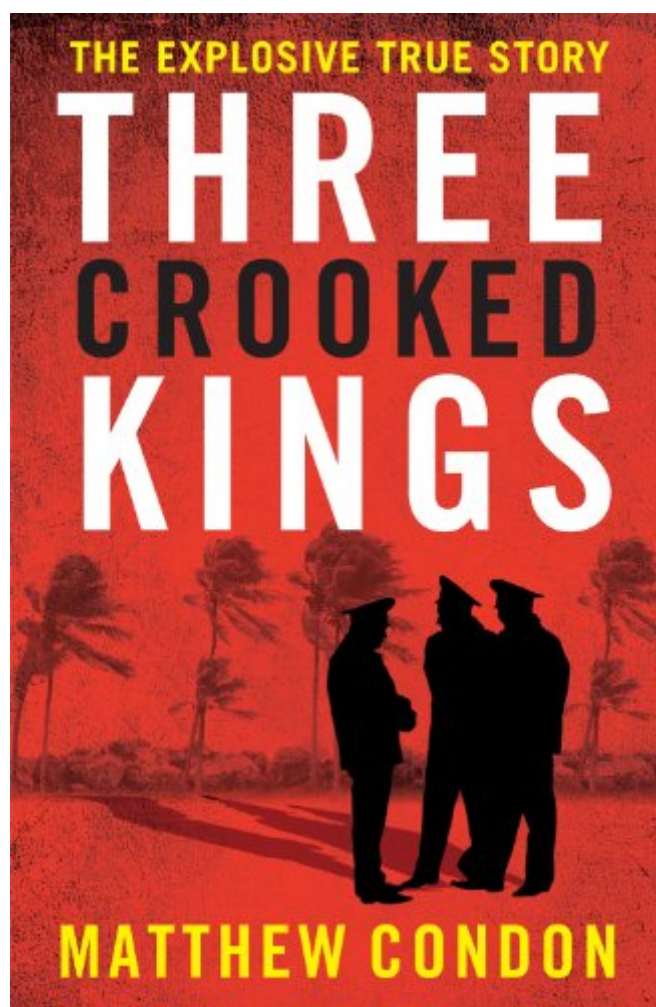


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Three Crooked Kings



Synopsis

Journalist and novelist Matthew Condon has crafted the definitive accountâa searing story of greed, crime, and corruptionâof an era that changed Queensland society; an impact that reverberates across the country to this day. In 1949, a young Terence Murray Lewis graduated from the police academy, ready to start his career in law enforcement. Over the next four decades, he rose to the pinnacle of power as the knighted Commissioner of Police in Queensland before his spectacular downfall and imprisonment after the Fitzgerald Inquiry in the late 1980s. This book follows Lewisâ journey through the ranks, as he becomes part of the so-called Rat Pack with detectives Glenn Hallahan and Tony Murphy under the guiding influence of Commissioner Frank Bischof. The alleged suicide of prostitute and brothel madam Shirley Brifman in the early 1970s provides the turning point for a culture that reigned unchecked for several decades. It was part of a grand narrative teeming with murder, pay-offs, political machinations, drug heists, assisted suicides, police in-fighting, and a complicated system of corruption that ultimately collapsed under its own weight. Based on unprecedented interviews with Terry Lewis and access to his personal papers, this book is the missing piece in the puzzle of the story of Queenslandâs endemic generational corruption.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A wonderfully researched investigation into the history of the Queensland Police Force from the 1950's to the mid 70's. The three corrupt officers otherwise known as the Rat Pack were Glen Hallahan, Tony Murphy and Terry Lewis. We know it wasn't until the ground-breaking Fitzgerald inquiry in the late 80's that these men (and a few others) were finally caught and penalised for their crimes but here the author reveals their origins and guides us through their introduction to the force and the beginning of their corrupt dealings with criminals and prostitutes. We learn about the Police Commissioner Frank Bischof who ran the force and incubated the trio's dishonest tendencies. His tentacles touching every element of the Queensland underworld included taking payments from illegal brothels and SP bookies. Bischof even managed to get himself awarded the inaugural Queensland Father of the Year.... even though he and his wife had no children!!!!!! The story unfolds across the length and breadth of the state from Townsville to Brisbane and across to the NT border. Innocent men are sent to the gallows, prostitutes are murdered, pimps are blown up, businesses are destroyed and families are ruined all for power and money. This is not Chicago in the shadow of Al Capone and his gangsters prohibition but Brisbane in the 1960's ruled by first, an ALP gerrymander then a Country Party version under the iron-fist of Joh Bjelke-Peterson and his cronies. They say bad things happen when good people do nothing but the corruption in the Queensland Police Force during this time was too much for too many good men.

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