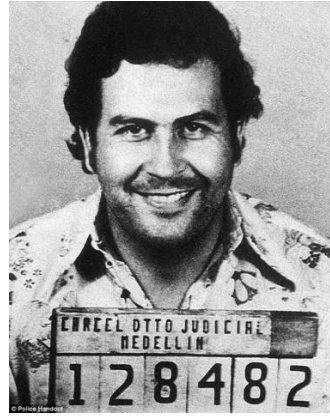




0. GEORGE MEETS PABLO ESCOBAR - Story Preface

1. GEORGE AND CARLOS

2. COCAINE - IT'S NOT CHOCOLATE

3. COCAINE AND THE COCA PLANT

4. COCAINE-LACED DRINKS

5. WHAT DOES COCAINE DO?

6. GEORGE MEETS COCAINE

7. GEORGE MEETS PABLO ESCOBAR

8. GEORGE'S FAMILY

9. GEORGE MAKES A DEAL

10. PABLO'S END

11. A GLOOMY FORECAST

Pablo Escobar was a wanted man, in his own country (Colombia) and elsewhere. Sometimes the police would catch him, but he never stayed behind bars very long. This image depicts an Escobar "mug shot" from the Medellin police.

By the time George (this link is a video [interview with Johnny Depp](#)) was the Medellin Cartel's American contact, Pablo Escobar was considered the cartel's first among equals.

George's first meeting with Escobar, in 1978, was eventful. He was astonished by the drug lord's spread. It included Arabian horses, [hippos](#), a miniature bull ring, landing strip, Huey 50 helicopter, a radio transmitter powerful enough to reach the United States. And men with guns. Everywhere.

As George told Bruce Porter:

He said everything was protected here, the police were taken care of, that they wouldn't dare come near the place. They really didn't have a choice. They earned almost nothing for pay, and here they were asked, "Do you want to make \$250,000 and have a ranch for your family?" And if they didn't want that, it was, "Do you want to be dead?" (Blow, page 222)

Death occurred at [Pablo's ranch](#). George saw it happen. It was the first time he had seen anyone killed. A police informer had turned himself in. If he hadn't, Pablo's men would have killed not only him. They would have killed his family, too. Escobar took care of the execution [himself](#):

...standing about five feet away from the informer, Pablo casually raised the pistol and shot him square in the chest. The force of the impact hurled him backward to the ground, where he quivered a little and then lay still. (Blow, page 223)

Trying to act nonchalant, George listened to his interpreter's observations:

It had been his choice to come out there to the ranch instead of fleeing Medellin, or seeking the protection of the police. Had he run, he knew they would almost certainly have come after his wife and children. Such a serious offense against Pablo could not be allowed to go unpunished. So in what must have been a stark moment, the man had chosen to sacrifice his own life for those of his family.

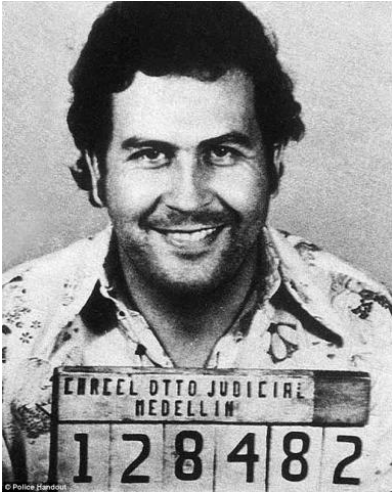
The [cocaine trade](#) was (and still is) a mostly [duplicious](#), exceedingly [dangerous](#) business. [Pablo himself](#), in the end, would [find out](#) just how dangerous.

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/GEORGE-MEETS-PABLO-ESCOBAR-Blow>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/GEORGE-MEETS-PABLO-ESCOBAR-Blow>

Media Stream



Pablo Escobar Police Photo

Pablo Escobar, the notorious drug trafficker, was head of the Medellin Drug Cartel. On the day George Jung met Escobar, at the Colombian's home, the American learned how ruthless the drug lord could really be.

This photograph depicts a "mug shot" of Escobar taken by the Medellin police department. Even when he was caught, Escobar never stayed behind bars for very long.

Medellin Police Photo of Pablo Escobar, circa 1976.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pablo-Escobar-Police-Photo>



Pablo Escobar's Ranch and His Hippos

Image online, courtesy Wikipedia.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pablo-Escobar-s-Ranch-and-His-Hippos>

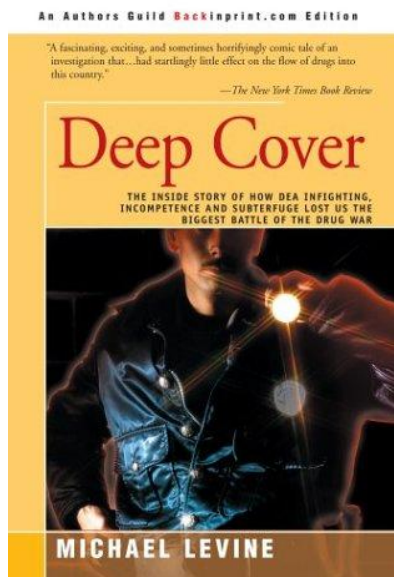


Poster: Pablo Escobar

Image online, courtesy Wikipedia.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Poster-Pablo-Escobar>

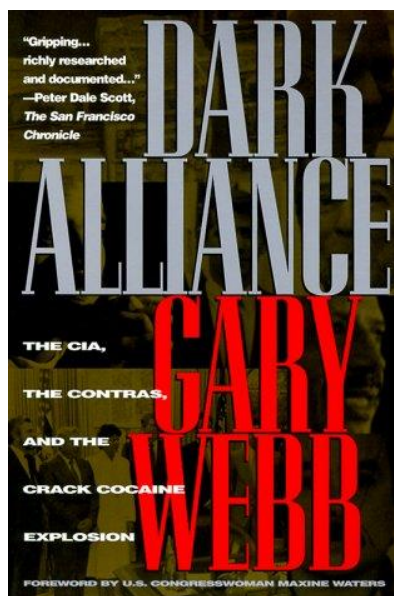


Deep Cover - by Michael Levine

Image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Deep-Cover-by-Michael-Levine>

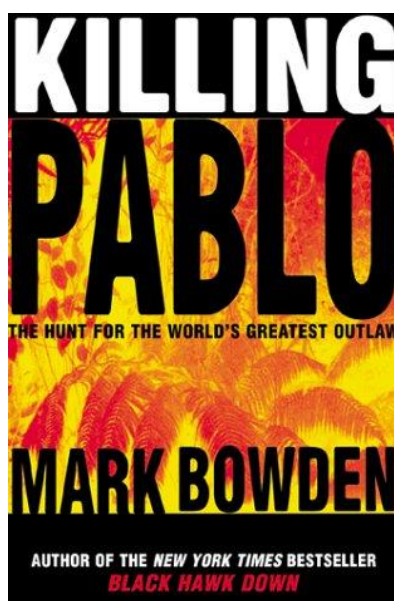


Dark Alliance - by Gary Webb

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dark-Alliance-by-Gary-Webb>



Killing Pablo - by Mark Bowden

Image of book cover, online courtesy Amazon.com

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Killing-Pablo-by-Mark-Bowden>



Johnny Depp - On the Film "Blow"

Video clip online, courtesy BBC's WorldWide Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Johnny-Depp-On-the-Film-Blow->



Pablo Escobar's Home - Hacienda Napoles

Clip, from "Killing Pablo," a [National Geographic film](#), online courtesy National Geographic Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pablo-Escobar-s-Home-Hacienda-Napoles>



Pablo Escobar - Avoiding Arrest

Clip, from "Killing Pablo," a [National Geographic film](#), online courtesy National Geographic Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pablo-Escobar-Avoiding-Arrest>