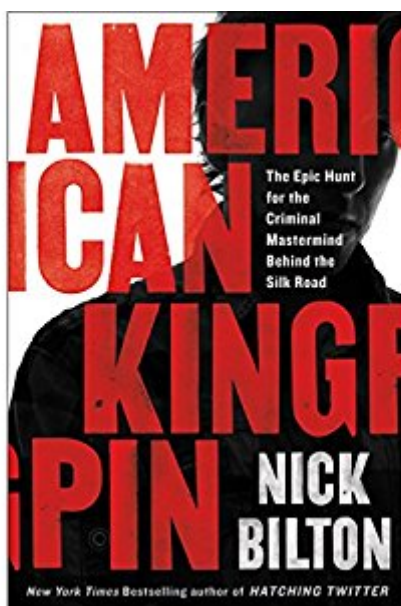


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American Kingpin: The Epic Hunt For The Criminal Mastermind Behind The Silk Road



Synopsis

The unbelievable true story of the man who built a billion-dollar online drug empire from his bedroom - and almost got away with it. In 2011, a 26-year-old libertarian programmer named Ross Ulbricht launched the ultimate free market: the Silk Road, a clandestine website hosted on the Dark Web where anyone could trade anything - drugs, hacking software, forged passports, counterfeit cash, poisons - free of the government's watchful eye. It wasn't long before the media got wind of the new website where anyone - not just teenagers and weed dealers but terrorists and black hat hackers - could buy and sell contraband detection-free. Spurred by a public outcry, the federal government launched an epic two-year manhunt for the site's elusive proprietor, with no leads, no witnesses, and no clear jurisdiction. All the investigators knew was that whoever was running the site called himself the Dread Pirate Roberts. The Silk Road quickly ballooned into a \$1.2 billion enterprise, and Ross embraced his new role as kingpin. He enlisted a loyal crew of allies in high and low places, all as addicted to the danger and thrill of running an illegal marketplace as their customers were to the heroin they sold. Through his network he got wind of the target on his back and took drastic steps to protect himself - including ordering a hit on a former employee. As Ross made plans to disappear forever, the feds raced against the clock to catch a man they weren't sure even existed, searching for a needle in the haystack of the global Internet. Drawing on exclusive access to key players and two billion digital words and images Ross left behind, Vanity Fair correspondent and New York Times best-selling author Nick Bilton offers a tale filled with twists and turns, lucky breaks, and unbelievable close calls. It's a story of the boy next door's ambition gone criminal, spurred on by the clash between the new world of libertarian-leaning, anonymous, decentralized web advocates and the old world of government control, order, and the rule of law. Filled with unforgettable characters and capped by an astonishing climax, *American Kingpin* might be dismissed as too outrageous for fiction. But it's all too real.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #3 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Organized Crime](#)
#3 in [Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime](#) #4 in [Books > Business & Money > Processes & Infrastructure > E-Commerce](#)

Customer Reviews

I have always been drawn to True Crime novels, but was unfamiliar with Silk Road and not sure I would enjoy a book about an online drug business. I was wrong! Once I started I could not put this book down. While many True Crime novels focus mainly on the trial which can be drawn out, Nick Bilton helped you understand the mastermind behind Silk Road and the extensive government investigation that finally brought him down.

In addition to being a captivating read, I learned a great deal about the dark net. It should be compulsory reading for everybody who is not a security expert online.

Loved this book. Couldn't put it down. Learned a lot about the dark web and Bitcoin.

Great read. Moved fast with real life characters like a Michael Lewis book.

I am a reader and technology avid, this story will let you speechless. The writer did an awesome job putting in together. If you are into detective and law enforcement books then this one is a must for you but with the caveat of a real true story!!!!

Good read

GREAT BOOK!!!! loved every page, and the author writes very well.

Nick Bilton did A TON of research and background checking to bring this story together. As a result, he weaves a story that engrosses you into the hunt, and makes you want to read it all the way through.

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