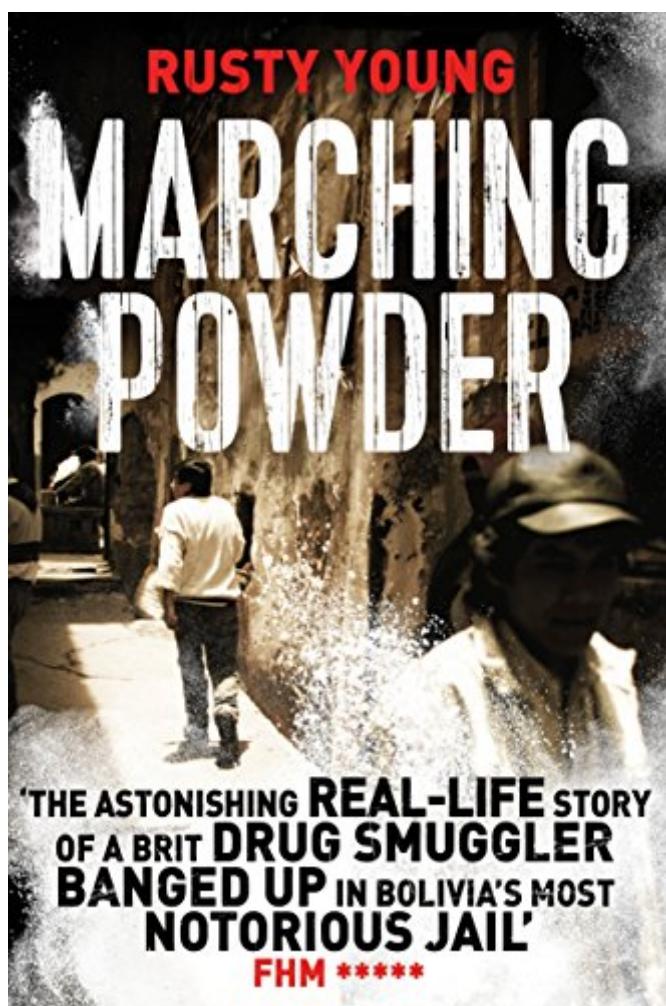


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Marching Powder: A True Story Of A British Drug Smuggler In A Bolivian Jail (The Pan Real Lives Series Book 6)



Synopsis

San Pedro is Bolivia's most notorious prison. Small-time drug smuggler Thomas McFadden found himself on the inside. Marching Powder is the story of how he navigated this dark world of gangs, drugs and corruption to come out on top. Thomas found himself in a bizarre world, the prison reflecting all that is wrong with South American society. Prisoners have to pay an entrance fee and buy their own cells (the alternative is to sleep outside and die of exposure), prisoners' wives and children often live inside too, high quality cocaine is manufactured and sold from the prison. Thomas ended up making a living by giving backpackers tours of the prison - he became a fixture on the backpacking circuit and was named in the Lonely Planet guide to Bolivia. When he was told that for a bribe of \$5000 his sentence could be overturned, it was the many backpackers who'd passed through who sent him the money. Written by lawyer Rusty Young, Marching Powder - sometimes shocking, sometimes funny, is a riveting story of survival.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book is well written so it is a good page turner. Did I say that 100 pages could have been cut? It is really just a series of incidents. It is a morality tale however. Don't get busted for drugs in a Third World country. The dealer (hero?) does and what ensues is kinda crazy. I don't doubt that some of it is fiction but in all a fast paced read. There is way too much recreated dialogue however and the ghost writer puts a clean veneer on even the most insidious things. But still a good read. I hope the dealer has kept his nose clean. He sounds in the book like a decent enough fellow but his previous life as a dealer warranted a much longer sentence than he in fact ever served. I doubt the book will do much for Bolivia's tourist industry but considering the events that transpire that is just plain warranted. Books like this require you to suspend critical thinking and moral but...a good read nonetheless.

Amazing read. Unbelievable at times to hear the way these people survive. Highly recommended for anyone interested in interesting subject matter

I liked this book, it's very interesting and a very good read. If you are interested in prison life here is an example of how American prisons are different from others.

I heard about Marching Powder via a friend who had recently met its author, Rusty Young. The tales of his own brief time drinking with Rusty were enough to whet my appetite, despite my having no foreknowledge of, or interest in, Bolivia or its San Pedro prison. This is a book I would probably never have otherwise found, and that would have been a terrible tragedy. Everyone should read Marching Powder, if only for a glimpse of a world that the average westerner (such as I) could simply not imagine. Well-structured, well-written and phenomenally interesting, this book did not change my life, but is still a read I will be recommending to anyone that will listen from now on. Such as you.

Unbelievable crazy experience. The part about Fat Joe Mormon church stuff is a concoction... I liked how Thomas found friends among everyone involved in the jail. I also liked his advice to anyone dumb enough to try to smuggle drugs.

This was one of the first non-fiction books I'd read in years and I was pleasantly surprised. I'd previously had 3 friends tell me that this book was awesome, but I was still sceptical. Thankfully, I took a chance on it and it paid off. Marching Powder is an amazing story and unlike anything you've

ever read before. It blows you away to think that a place like this actually exists in today's world. It is captivating, intriguing and shocking, all at the same time. I give it a high 4 stars and recommend it to anyone who appreciates a little realism, without any sugar coating.

Great Book. The criminal activity that goes on in San Pedro Prison is a known secret among La Paz people. A secret no one had been brave enough to reveal before. At least not formally. This book describes how the most corrupt police force in the world is involved in crime world. Prision tours are real, drug dealing is real...What I liked the most about the book, is how it doesn't slow down. It traps you right from the beginning to its last Word.

An interesting book but the writing lacked some sophistication. This was ok initially but tended to become irritating after a while. The story felt a little drawn out and I found myself becoming bored about half to two thirds of the way through. Never the less I am glad that I read Marching Powder and it certainly gave me some insight into the prison and the Bolivian justice system at the time of Thomas's incarceration.

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