



Turning The Tide: One Man Against The Medellin Cartel

By Sidney D. Kirkpatrick

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Carlos Lehder Rivas, kingpin of Colombia's most murderous cocaine empire. A powerful international businessman and self-proclaimed revolutionary. He made the mistake that would end his career: He invited an American professor to be his guest on the island of Norman's Cay... Richard Novak, father of five and lover of the sea, came to Norman's Cay to study the hammer-head shark up close. But the college professor soon found himself locked in combat with a global archcriminal who had stared down the police agencies of major superpowers... Norman's Cay, island paradise of the Bahamas, that, thanks to Carlos Lehder, became the nerve center of the Medellin Cartel, complete with gun towers and a DC-3 landing strip. Here is the amazing true story of how Richard Novak helped bring Lehder to his downfall-armed only with a .357 Magnum, his underwater sabotage skills, and the lone courage of his convictions.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

American professor Richard Novak, an unlikely and unlikable hero studying hammerhead sharks in the Bahamas, confronts and helps capture Carlos Lehder of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel. Photos.

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From Library Journal

This is a fast-paced, novelistic account of a series of confrontations between marine research scientist Richard Novak and Medellin drug runner Carlos Lehder on the Bahamian island of Norman's Cay. While Novak played a courageous part in the investigation of Lehder, it is hyperbole for the publisher to claim that he "brought a ruthless cocaine kingpin to justice." Lehder was not arrested until years later. Also, the description of some of Novak's exploits seem exaggerated when compared to the version of the same events related in Paul Eddy's *Cocaine Wars* (LJ 7/88). The latter book or Guy Gugliotta's *Kings of Cocaine* (LJ 5/1/89) provide a better picture of the Columbian drug cartel. Still, this book will appeal to readers seeking an action-packed story.

- *Gregor A. Preston, Univ. of California Lib., Davis*

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