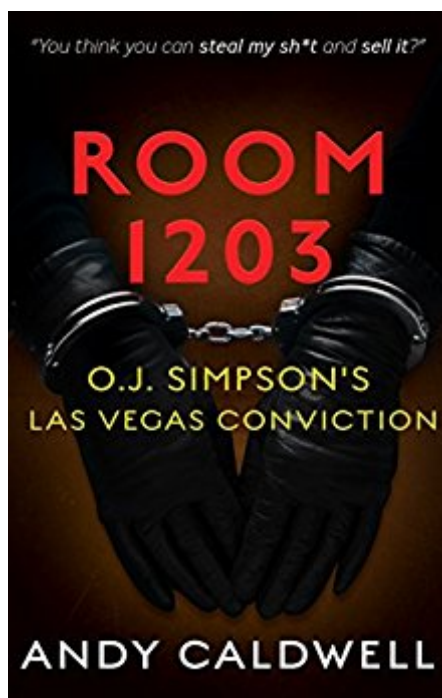


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ROOM 1203: O.J. Simpson's Las Vegas Conviction



Synopsis

"You think you can steal my sh*t and sell it?" In 1995, NFL great and movie star, O.J. Simpson beat a murder rap for the death of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman. But in 2007 his luck with avoiding Lady Justice ran out in Las Vegas. ROOM 1203 is the true story of the convoluted and bizarre events surrounding a violent armed robbery of a sports memorabilia collector in a Vegas hotel. On that night, Simpson put an exclamation mark on his spectacular fall from the height of Hollywood's glamour and glitz to a shadowy world of scams and schemers in Sin City. Written by the lead detective assigned to the case, the book provides details, insights and facts not previously reported, as well as the investigation that pieced the crime together and landed an arrogant man who believed he was above the law in a Nevada prison.

Excerpt From ROOM 1203: O.J. Simpson's Las Vegas Conviction: As we turned down the hall toward O.J.'s suite, three more surveillance detectives stood behind a pillar, visiting with each other while waiting for the two surveillance detectives who were closer to the room to signal that the target was moving. They were working with the Palms security and had a room in the same hall as Simpson's, so the hall could be monitored without a detective just waiting for Simpson to come out of his room. As Rod, Linda and I approached Simpson's suite, Eddie stayed back in the hall. Rod knocked on the door, and within a few moments, the door swung open and there was O.J. Simpson. This was and is a moment that is hard to reconcile in my mind. As I stood there • a detective tasked with investigating a crime and thinking I was going to conduct this interview just like any other • I was a little star struck. O.J. is not a big, imposing figure. In fact, he was smaller than I would have ever imagined a former NFL player to be. His charismatic personality came shining through the moment he opened the door. With a great big smile and animated arm movements, he invited us into his suite. Here is where that flexibility in interviews became paramount; he leaned out into the hallway and waved Eddie in also. But that wasn't all. The surveillance detectives who take pride in their ability to work undetected • Simpson had spotted them, too, and waved them into the room. As everyone piled into the suite, I had to laugh to myself as I thought I would probably come in, too, if I were in their position. As he waved everyone in, Simpson told me his lawyer was not there yet, but he should be there shortly, so we could wait inside for him. As I walked past Simpson, I had a moment of realization that helped me to get over my feeling of being star struck. O.J. was wearing the same clothes as he was in the surveillance video from the robbery the night before: a light blue, disheveled polo shirt and blue jeans.

About the author: Andy Caldwell is a retired detective from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and he is presently serving as the pastor at Mill City

Christian Church in Mill City, Oregon. His distinguished law enforcement career resulted in him receiving multiple awards and having cases he worked featured on America's Most Wanted, Dateline, and Court TV.

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Customer Reviews

Room 1203 is a fascinating look into the Las Vegas robbery that sent one of the most notorious public figures in American history to prison, for his greedy crimes in Nevada and maybe for the infamous crimes he narrowly got away with in California. Detective Caldwell does a fantastic job of not only taking the reader on a journey detailing the facts and timeline of the case, from initial crime to conviction, but also gives an honest and realistic view into the inner workings of a major criminal investigation. Detective Caldwell doesn't hold back the truth, from praising those also involved in the investigation, to pointing out flaws in the system or the greed of others involved.

It's refreshing to read an honest and upfront non-fictional story from the perspective of the lead investigator, without any of the media's tainting or Hollywood Spin, which is interjected into so many other stories you read about today.

Interesting take on the O.J. Simpson robbery and trial from the perspective of the detective who led the investigation.

Awesome book! I had the honor working with Andy as a patrol officer and a detective. I can think of few that were better cops or men that I've worked with. This a great fact based book written by an honest, good cop. Get a copy today

The information was great, but I believe it was rushed to print because there were a lot of grammar errors.

My only knowledge of this case, prior to reading this book, was that O.J. was convicted and sentenced to jail. This book, written by the case's primary detective, provides a fairly detailed, but easy to read, accounting of the case from the perspective of the Vegas law enforcement community, including: information about: the underlying events that led to the arrest of Simpson and his co-defendants; the evidence-gathering process and the necessity of "cutting" some plea deals in furthering that effort; the considerations that impacted the charges that were subsequently filed; and legal court strategies and the conduct of the trial itself. The latter, however, was primarily limited to discussion's regarding Mr. Caldwell's direct participation in the trial, rather than a complete presentation of the prosecution's case. Nor was information provided about defense arguments. The book essentially ends with the conviction of Simpson and one of the co-defendants; the book does not address, unless I "missed it", the fates of the other accused - one of whom I was particularly concerned about: a part-time culinary chef, who really seemed to have been the proverbial person who was at the wrong place at the wrong time. In addition to providing "the facts", Mr. Caldwell often interjected his own personal observations, confirming the complexity of Simpson's character: an affable, charming man - but one willing to use this likeability to manipulate others to achieve his own ends in his (I am) "above the law world". Now that Simpson is re-entering the more real "lawful world", we can only hope prison may have indeed re-habilitated him - tho I suspect not (at least, not in a positive way - religious conversions aside).

OJ had been out of the spotlight for awhile and I had pretty much forgotten about him. And then came the news of his pending parole hearing and likely release, accompanied by the publication of Room 1203. I immediately got the book and read it in two sittings, which is very fast for me. It brought it all back - exactly who and what Simpson is. It also dispelled the idea that the robbery in Las Vegas was more of a misunderstanding than a real crime and that Simpson was merely trying to get back his own property. Thank you Mr. Caldwell for a great read.

This is a fantastic book! It gives a detailed, factual, and entertaining account of the investigation. It felt like I was there, experiencing the investigation first hand. I would completely recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn more about this case, especially since it contradicts many of the misconceptions that have sprung up since OJ Simpson's conviction. This work is also an invaluable asset for the historian, whether a crime historian or otherwise!

I really enjoyed reading this book, I feel like I know now what really happened and have a greater appreciation for the work of an investigative detective. The story was told in such a clear and concise manner, with more evidence than I ever thought would be revealed. I was fascinated by the process from the initial police call all the way through the sentencing. I wish more crimes were reported this way, with integrity, humility, and transparency.

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