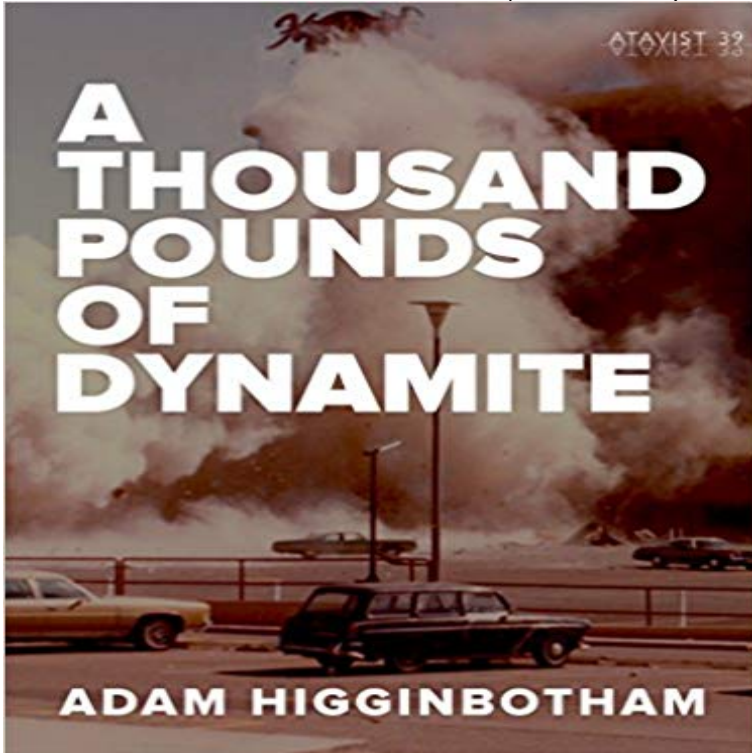


A Thousand Pounds of Dynamite (Kindle Single)



An Amazon Best Book of the Year, 2014. Read the incredible true story that is soon to become a major motion picture produced by Warner Bros. Entertainment. The bomb appeared early one morning in an upstairs office of Harveys Wagon Wheel Casino near Lake Tahoe, an enigmatic box covered in a bewildering array of switches. A neatly typed letter explained that the box contained 1,000 pounds of dynamite. It was the largest improvised explosive device in American history and its creator promised to explain how to remove it safely if the casino delivered \$3 million by helicopter to a remote landing site in the mountains. Do not try to move, disarm, or enter the bomb, the letter warned. It will explode. The bomb maker was one Janos Big John Birges, a Hungarian political refugee who had worked his way up from nothing to become a successful entrepreneur in Fresno, California only to see his life unraveled in middle age by divorce, cancer, and gambling debts. By 1980, he owed hundreds of thousands of dollars to Harveys. And he had roped his two teenage sons who were as eager to please their father as they were terrified of him into a plot to get the money back. But the bomb he planted in the casino that August wasn't just an extortion scheme. It was a brilliant feat of engineering an intricate and deadly puzzle that Birges hoped would prove once and for all just how badly the world had underestimated him. In *A Thousand Pounds of Dynamite*, Adam Higginbotham draws from interviews with federal agents and Birges's co-conspirators as well as never-before-released FBI records to tell the story of the race to stop one of history's most bizarre extortion plots. By turns action-packed and darkly hilarious, *A Thousand Pounds of Dynamite* is an engrossing tale of genius at its most deranged. Praise for *A Thousand Pounds of Dynamite*: A simple plan and a hell of a lot of explosives pay off in a galloping true

crime tale that speaks in the language of 70s SoCal dirt-bags, dreamers and G-men. Stranger still, beneath the pyrotechnics lies a poignant story of family. Higginbothams skills as a journalist and storyteller left me banging the plate for more. Charles Graeber, author of The Good Nurse Of all the spectacular crimes that plagued America at the tail end of the Me Decade, none was more bizarre or more ambitious than the plot to bomb Harveys Wagon Wheel Casino. Adam Higginbotham brings this bonkers caper to vivid life in A Thousand Pounds of Dynamite, a tale that explores the very fine line between criminal genius and criminal insanity. Youll devour this rollicking yarn in one sitting, then spend the next few months regaling your friends with all the astonishing details. Brendan I. Koerner, author of The Skies Belong to Us

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