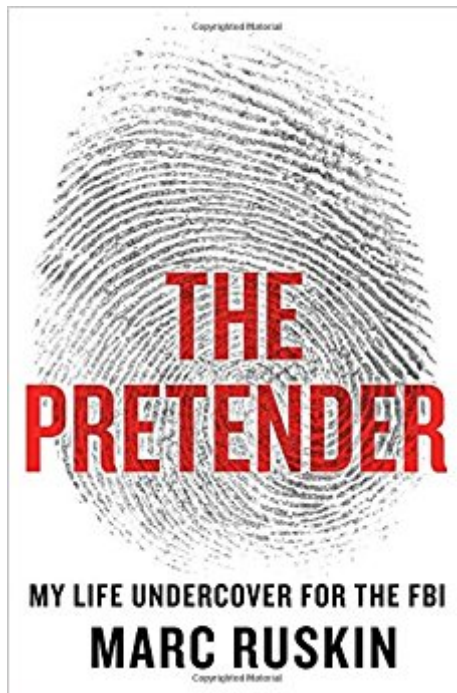




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# The Pretender: My Life Undercover For The FBI



## Synopsis

Of all the tools available to law enforcement, the living, breathing undercover operative remains the gold standard. This is true in TV shows and in the real world. In the era of electronic surveillance, UC work enforces accountability; it prevents mistakes, and of all the boots on the ground, undercover agents are often the most valuable. The FBI generally has about 100 UC agents working full-time in the field. In the 1990s and 2000s, Marc Ruskin had the most diverse, and notorious, case list of all, and the broadest experience within the bureaucracy, including overseas. He worked ops targeting public corruption, corporate fraud, Wall Street scams, narcotics trafficking, La Cosa Nostra, counterfeiting and gritty street-level scams and schemes. Sometimes working three or four cases simultaneously, Ruskin switched identities by the day: Each morning he had to walk out the door with the correct ID, clothes, accessories and frame of mind for that day's mission. Meet Alex Perez, Alejandro Marconi, and Sal Morelli, just a few of Ruskin's undercover personas. And how is the right UC agent chosen, how is a bogus identity manufactured and backstopped, how is the Bureau's long-term con painstakingly assembled? No one has ever given us the inside story like Ruskin. The Pretender is the definitive narrative of undercover ops—the procedures, the successes, the failures—and the changes in the culture of the new-era FBI.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The Pretender is a fascinating read into the dark life of an Undercover Agent. It takes the reader

to places they would not dare to venture. A book one cannot put down. Nor does one want it to end.

• Joseph Pistone aka Donnie Brasco "There's grit, suspense, and danger on every page of Marc Ruskin's *The Pretender*. It grabs you on the first page and takes you on a heart-in-your-mouth ride - and the excitement is truly chilling because you know it's all true. I loved *The Pretender*."

• Howard Blum, New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Goodnight* and *Dark Invasion* "Marc Ruskin is a natural storyteller, and two decades of FBI undercover work gave him plenty to tell. My advice is pull up a comfortable chair, get a beverage from the cooler, and enjoy this peek into Marc's unique and improbable adventure."

• Mike German, former FBI agent (1988-2004), former ACLU lobbyist (2006-2013), author of *Thinking Like a Terrorist*, and co-writer of the feature film *Imperium*. "Having practiced criminal law for over 50 years and cross examined hundreds of law enforcement professionals and undercover agents, I thought I knew it all. *The Pretender* is written with such detail that it put me front and center in an entirely new, dark world of criminality. Wow."

• Murray "Don't Worry Murray" Richman, New York Criminal Lawyer and Former President of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL) "It's said that the two most important days in our lives is when we're born and when we figure out why. Marc Ruskin was born to be an undercover operative for the FBI but didn't know it until he became one. *The Pretender: My Life Undercover for the FBI* reads like a thriller and written in street savvy-style, replete with details of the undercover lifestyle never before revealed. A winner...."

• Patrick W. Picciarelli, co-author of *Street Warrior: The Story of the NYPD's Most Decorated Detective and the Era That Created Him*.

MARC RUSKIN spent 20 years as an FBI Special Agent for which he was awarded five commendations. A graduate of Vassar College and Cardozo Law School. Ruskin also served on the staff of U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan and as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn. Following his retirement from the FBI in 2012, he has divided his time between a law practice in New York and Liaoning Province, China, where he writes and studies Mandarin.

I was excited to read this after seeing a preview for it on the Dail Mail site. My husband served in the military for 24 years, and I was interested to see a different side to how the government operates. This did not disapoint! I appreciate all you sacrificed in the many years of service to our country Marc. I loved hearing about how you constructed each persona and came up with the details I would have never thought of to bolster a back story. Interestingly, I found descriptions of how new agents behaved (joining after 9/11) in line with my husband's observations throughout the military. Gone was the respect for their superiors.....Where my husband was taught to salute or call their

officers "Sir or Ma'am" or help without being asked, the new soldiers who enlisted would stand around and complain if they were asked to do something. They would say "What's up?", call their commanders by name, and give a nod of their head rather than salute. They were lazy and entitled, not to mention know it all's. He retired at 45 last year, and worried about the new soldiers taking over. The brotherhood just didn't seem the same and he worried about having to deploy with these new recruits who took shortcuts and were in it for themselves versus the good of all. While reading your experiences the last few years of your career, it reminded me of his experiences. Thank you so much for your story. I hope you get a chance to enjoy your life with those you love now.

Recently finished reading the Pretender by Marc Ruskin and it was a great read. Was kind of sorry to see it end. I had been in Law Enforcement over 30 years and met Marc in New York near the end of my career and he was the real deal. I believe he probably has enough material to write "book 2", but I am sure he has enough on his plate in his "retirement". Good luck to Marc in his new life.

Ruskin egotistically portrays himself as somewhat of a superhero, smarter than his sometimes inept bosses, and certainly better than most of them. But this is still an interesting inside look at some FBI deep-cover operations. Ruskin says that the illegal abuses of the past are no longer used. I hope he's right, but we'll have to take his word for it, just like we accepted the FBI's denials when they really were happening.

Really liked this book. It's not something I normally would have picked, but saw a review and knew I had to read it. What interesting stories about the real life of an undercover agent in the FBI! The background about Marc developing his identities was fascinating. The danger of covert setups was gripping, but also interesting as it intermingled with the ordinary details of his undercover life. I also liked reading how the Bureau has changed over the 30+ years the story covers.

However, I completely enjoyed reading every chapter of this book! This book is not just for men. I am a Senior Women 65+. It captured my interest and was read within a couple of days. This man is a true hero. Please consider reading this book because you will not be disappointed.

A tribute to the efforts of all UC agents who risk their lives to protect the security of our society and all Americans who have been touched by treachery and dishonesty. Thank you, Mr. Ruskin!

If you liked Donnie Brasco, you will love this book (The Pretender). The author Marc Ruskin gives you a rare access to the exciting world of FBI undercover that is intriguing and action packed. This book is a fascinating read and you will not be disappointed.

17 yo son found it fascinating

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