

Blood Sport
James Stewart

Yep. That's the Clintons all over. Haven't changed these 20 years.

Rereading "Blood Sport" after 20 years' more experience with the Clintons leaves me with a collection of impressions.

First, how cheap these people are. The Whitewater loan the got them in trouble was only somewhere in the five digits. Most of the smarmy financial transactions executed by their friends in the banks, savings and loans, and real estate business were likewise small change. How petty!

Secondly, how readily they lied. Even when the truth would not have been all that terrible, they instinctively chose to lie. There is a quote about New York Times reporter Jeff Gerth concerning Hillary denying that she had been had outside help making her fantastic, 10,000% return on a commodity investment. "Some weeks later, Gerth asked a White House official involved why he'd been given such a preposterous explanation in the first place. The official paused. "The first instinct from everybody from Arkansas," he said, "is to lie."

A third impression is how the Clintons managed to irritate even the New York Times and the Washington Post, two publications that really should have supported them. The Times and the Post were competing to dig out the Whitewater story. So much for the claim of a "great right-wing conspiracy." And it raises the question of what has happened to the objectivity of these two publications themselves in the intervening 20 years. I do not observe such zeal in pursuing Obama's tall tales, or Benghazi.

James Stewart seems to bend over backwards to be fair. He describes the media's reluctance to get involved in Bill Clinton's notorious sex life. Everybody knew about it, but they had also known about FDR's, Kennedy's, and Johnson's infidelities. Stewart discusses how they agonized over the decision of when such activity truly interfered with the Governor's or President's performance in office. Bill and Hillary bought people's silence through job offers and sweetheart loans from friends, and coerced it via threats. That activity went over the line.

I recommend this book as a primer when reading the spate of books about Hillary Clinton in 2016. It is the same person. The amounts of money involved are vastly larger – in the 90s she could never have dreamed of \$225,000 per speech – but the lack of any moral inhibition is totally the same.

MARCH 1994 AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Bill Clinton, President

Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady

Thomas E "Mack" McLarty III, Chief of Staff

Bill Burton, McLarty's Staff Director

Bernard W. Nussbaum, Counsel to the President

William H. Kennedy, Associate Counsel

Steven Neuwirth, Associate Counsel

Clifford M. Sloan, Associate Counsel

George Stephanopoulos, Senior Advisor

Bruce R. Lindsey, Senior Advisor

Harold M. Ickes, Deputy Chief of Staff

David Gergen, Presidential Counselor
John D. Podesta, Staff Secretary
Mark D. Gearan, Communications
Director Dee Dee Myers, Press Secretary
W. David Watkins, Assistant to the President for Management and Administration
Patsy Thomasson, Director of White House Administration
Margaret Williams, Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Lisa Caputo, Press Secretary to the First Lady

THE FOSTER FAMILY

Vincent W. Foster, Jr. (deceased), former Deputy Counsel to the President
Elizabeth (Lisa) Braden Foster, his wife
Sheila Foster Anthony, his sister
Sharon Bowman, his sister
James Hamilton, the family lawyer

FRIENDS AND ADVISORS TO THE CLINTONS

Harry Thomason and his wife, Linda Bloodworth-Thomason, television producers, in California
Susan Thomases, Manhattan lawyer
Betsey Wright, former Clinton campaign official, in Washington
David Kendall, the Clintons' personal lawyer, in Washington

AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Janet Reno, Attorney General
Webster L. Hubbell, Associate Attorney General
Philip B. Heymann, Deputy Attorney General

THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Robert B. Fiske, Jr.
Kenneth W. Starr, successor to Fiske

AT THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND RESOLUTION TRUST CORPORATION (RTC)

Lloyd M. Bentsen, Secretary of the Treasury
Roger C. Altman, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury and acting head of the RTC
Joshua L. Steiner, Altman's former assistant and Bentsen's Chief of Staff
Jean Hanson, General Counsel, Treasury
Jack R. DeVore, former Treasury spokesman
William H. Roelle, former RTC Senior Vice President
Ellen Kulka, RTC General Counsel L.
Jean Lewis, RTC criminal investigator, Kansas City
L. Richard Iorio, RTC investigative supervisor, Kansas City
Julie Yanda, head of the Professional Liability Section, Kansas City
April Breslaw, lawyer in the RTC Professional Liability Section

AT THE UNITED STATES PARK POLICE

Charles W. Hume, Captain
Peter W. Markland, Sergeant
John C. Rolla, Investigator
Cheryl A. Braun, Investigator IN ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS
James B. McDougal, former Chairman of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan

Susan McDougal, his former wife, now living in California

IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Jim Guy Tucker, Governor

Paula Casey, U.S. Attorney

Charles A. Banks, former U.S. Attorney Sam Heuer, lawyer for James McDougal

John Latham, former Chief Operating Officer, Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan

David L. Hale, head of Capital Management Services C.

Joseph Giroir, former partner, Rose Law Firm

Ronald M. Clark, managing partner, Rose Law Firm

Richard N. Massey, partner, Rose Law Firm

Edward M. Penick, Jr., former Chairman, Twin City Bank

Terry Renaud, President, Twin City Bank

Margaret Davenport Eldridge, Executive Vice President, Twin City Bank

Roger Perry, state trooper formerly assigned to governor's security

Larry Patterson, state trooper

Danny Ferguson, state trooper

Buddy Young, Captain in charge of governor's security, now in Denton, Texas

Paula Corbin Jones, former state employee, now living in California

Clifford Jackson, lawyer

Sheffield Nelson, former head of Arkla and former Republican gubernatorial candidate

IN FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Jim Blair, General Counsel, Tyson Foods

Diane Kincaid Blair, his wife

Robert L. "Red" Bone, former commodities broker, now in Missouri

Thomas Dittmer, head of Refco Inc. commodities brokerage, now in Chicago

Steve Smith, former Clinton political advisor and business partner of James McDougal

Beverly Bassett Schaffer, former head of Arkansas Department of Securities and Savings and Loans

Archie Schaffer, her husband and a Tyson Foods executive

IN FLIPPIN, ARKANSAS

Chris Wade, realtor

Rosalee Wade, his wife

J. Wesley Strange, President, 1st Ozark National Bank

Ronald A. Proctor, Vice President, 1st Ozark National Bank

Vernon Dewey, former loan officer, 1st Ozark National Bank

AT THE NEW YORK TIMES

Max Frankel, Executive Editor

Joseph Lelyveld, Managing Editor

Howell Raines, Editorial Page Editor, former Washington Bureau Chief

Jeff Gerth, reporter, Washington Bureau

Stephen Engelberg, reporter, Washington Bureau

AT THE WASHINGTON POST

Leonard Downie, Jr., Executive Editor

Robert G. Kaiser, Managing Editor

Michael Isikoff, reporter

Susan Schmidt, reporter

AT THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Shelby Coffey, Editor

Jack Nelson, Washington Bureau Chief

William C. Rempel, reporter

Douglas Frantz, reporter, Washington Bureau

AT NBC NEWS

Ira Silverman, producer

Tim Russert, Washington Bureau Chief

AT ABC NEWS

Chris Vlasto, producer

AT THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR

David Brock, staff writer

AT THE NEW YORK POST

Eric Breindel, Editorial Page Editor

Christopher Ruddy, reporter

IN FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Floyd G. Brown, Founder and Director, Citizens United

David N. Bossie, Communications Director, Citizens United

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Formerly controlled by James and Susan McDougal

Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan (formerly Woodruff County Savings and Loan Association), main office in Little Rock

Madison Financial Corp., subsidiary of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Madison Bank and Trust Co. of Kingston (formerly Bank of Kingston), Kingston Lenders to the Clintons and McDougals Citizens Bank and Trust Co. of Flippin, renamed 1st Ozark National Bank. Primary lender of Whitewater funds.

Twin City Bankshares Corp., holding company for Twin City Bank of Little Rock, acquired Citizens Bank. Subsidiary of Frank Lyon Company. (Twin City and its subsidiaries, including 1st Ozark, have since been acquired by Mercantile Bank Corporation of St. Louis.)

Union National Bank of Little Rock. Lender of Whitewater down payment.

Security Bank of Paragould. Lender of funds to build a model home.

Bank of Cherry Valley. Lender to Clinton campaign.