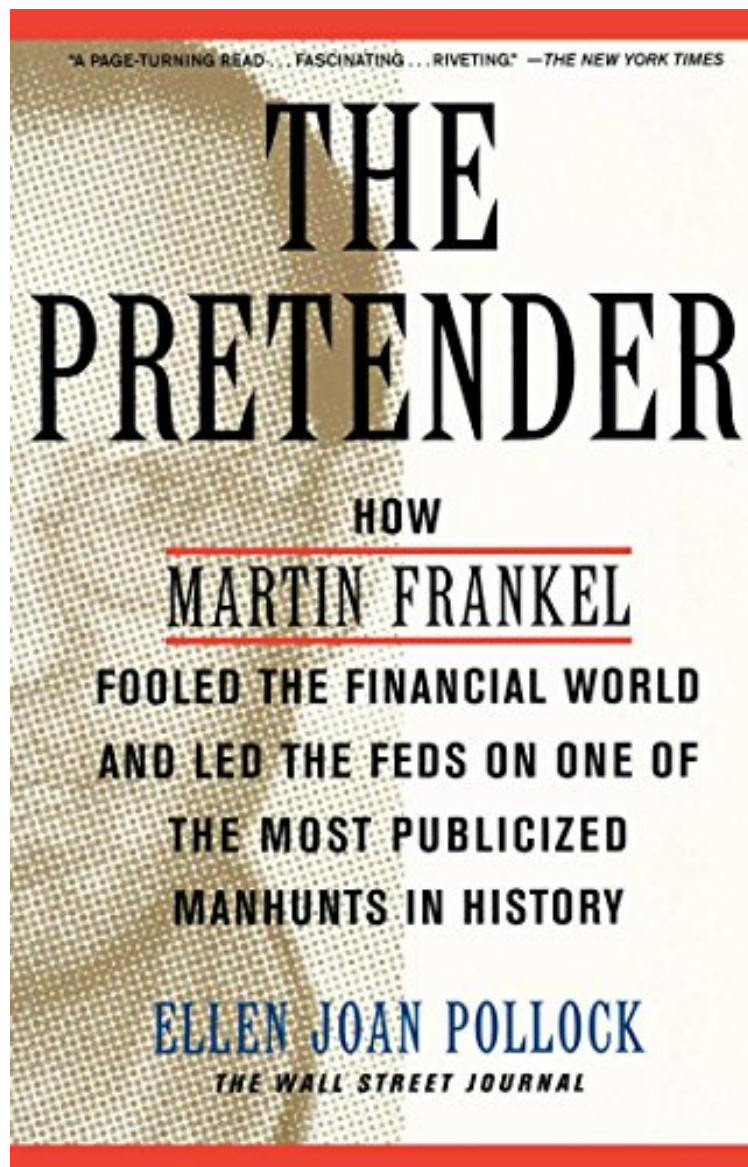


(Free pdf) **The Pretender: How Martin Frankel Fooled the Financial World and Led the Feds on One of the Most Publicized Manhunts in History** (Wall Street Journal Book)

The Pretender: How Martin Frankel Fooled the Financial World and Led the Feds on One of the Most Publicized Manhunts in History (Wall Street Journal Book)

Ellen Pollock

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1303180 in eBooks 2002-05-18 2002-05-18 File Name: B002OK2OHQ | File size: 24.Mb

Ellen Pollock : The Pretender: How Martin Frankel Fooled the Financial World and Led the Feds on One of the Most Publicized Manhunts in History (Wall Street Journal Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **The Pretender: How Martin Frankel Fooled the Financial**

World and Led the Feds on One of the Most Publicized Manhunts in History (Wall Street Journal Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is an amazing story of how one individual was able to swindle ...By J. A. ZeldesIt is an amazing story of how one individual was able to swindle so many people, bribe so many others and amassed so much money. It is complicated to keep up with all the different entities that he established, but in the end you see how he convinced so many people to work WITH HIM. Greed was behind it all. I recommend the book for its intrigue and many twists. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Astounding how a village idiot rips off AmericaBy Rick SpellThis guy is a buffoon but somehow fooled many. I had heard of this case but didn't know prior to his investments in small insurance companies he had already been charged with improper handling of money and denied the ability to manage money by securities regulators. Frankel was a shy, slight built man with minimal self-confidence. While very young, he developed an interest in the stock market and performed substantial research. Living in a small Ohio town, this took on somewhat of a mystique and people assumed he knew more than they did and would entrust him with money. Amazingly, once he had this money, he complained of "traders block" and executed very few trades. Oh well, there was still something else he could do with the money. Spend it. Amazingly, this guy parlayed this Ponzi scheme into an insurance empire all the time spending the investments of the companies. It's absolutely amazing he was able to do this. Even more bizarre, the goober then develops an interest in SM sex. Well, since he has no social skills, he puts ads in alternative newspapers. When he meets the girls and none resemble Playmates, he quickly moves through them but keeps them on payroll. Imagine a Mormon and his wives but he isn't married and all these women want to marry him for money. What a crazy cast of characters!!!! This book will make you want to be a thief once you see how easy it was for this idiot. The writer did an excellent research job consistent with her past as a Wall Street Journal reporter. I recommend this book if you like business "whodunits". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By JoannaGreat read! My husband wouldn't put it down for two days... ignored me completely until he finished it.

How could a two-bit investor, too paralyzed with fear to trade stocks, bilk insurance companies out of \$200 million? How could a gawky misfit with an obsessive terror of germs induce a harem of attractive young women to feud over him? How could a recluse from Toledo, Ohio, penetrate the circles of political and financial power in Washington, D.C., and New York City without leaving his house? How could a Jewish guy with a passion for SM sex persuade the Vatican to go into business with him? And how could he do all this without anybody noticing? Now the whole amazing story of how Martin Frankel pulled off one of the greatest financial scams of the century is revealed by The Wall Street Journal's Ellen Joan Pollock, who was a lead writer on the reporting team that broke story after story as Frankel eluded the FBI's four-month international manhunt. *The Pretender* chronicles how a bumbling thirty-year-old used his financial skills to build an intricate Ponzi scheme based on lies and his amazing gift for luring businessmen -- including Democratic powerbroker Robert Strauss -- into his web. Frankel's stolen millions allowed him to transform himself easily from mama's boy to corporate mogul. His creation of a phony Catholic charity drew the interest of priests with close Vatican ties as well as a new group of mysterious business partners. But his attempts to go "global" proved more challenging and aroused the suspicions of state regulators. Frantic that his empire was about to unravel, Frankel vanished from his multimillion-dollar Greenwich, Connecticut, mansion, leaving behind a mysterious fire, a dozen or so heartbroken women, and some very confused law-enforcement officials. His bizarre scamper through Europe as a fugitive would ultimately climax in a German hotel room. Frankel's world was peopled with desperate businessmen, well-heeled con artists, women looking for love, vindictive husbands, diamond merchants, private eyes -- the whole colorful cast of characters that propelled this fast-moving drama. *The Pretender* is filled with countless revelations from business associates and former lovers -- many of whom were interviewed for the first time for this book. What finally makes *The Pretender* so compelling is that it is a snapshot of a peculiar moment in business history. Just as figures like Ivan Boesky and Michael Milken epitomized the deal-crazed eighties, Martin Frankel is the quintessential criminal of the millionaire-a-minute nineties.

.com Ellen Joan Pollock's *The Pretender* is a biography of Martin Frankel, an unsavory financial savant whose vast illicit empire reached into very high places on two continents before collapsing with thundering suddenness. By the time of his arrest in 1999, Frankel had bilked various insurance companies out of \$200 million via an elaborate (and oddly haphazard) Ponzi scheme. Pollock chronicles not only Frankel's phantom stock trades, fictional portfolios, asset skimming, and money laundering, but his mind-boggling personal extravagances -- both financial and sexual. (His Greenwich, Connecticut, headquarters served both as business office and home to a shifting harem devoted to Frankel's sadomasochistic interests.) Pollock is a scrupulous writer, but for those unversed in financial subtleties, her novelistic treatment too rarely steps back to present overviews of the tangled crimes and their implications. Absent as well, finally, is any compelling psychological portrait of the bizarre and saurian Frankel. --H. O'BillovitchFrom Publishers WeeklyA senior Wall Street Journal writer, Pollock (Turks and Brahmins) expands on her articles about the FBI's four-month manhunt for scam artist Martin Frankel, engagingly chronicling his journey from mama's boy to

corporate mogul to international fugitive. Though he refused to grant Pollock interviews, Frankel comes to life here thanks to her exhaustive research in court documents, newspapers and Frankel's diary, plus interviews with lawyers, government and law enforcement officials, insurance executives, clergy, Frankel's girlfriends and business associates. In the 1980s, he launched the fraudulent Frankel Fund investment firm from his Toledo, Ohio, bedroom. Sued by investors in 1992, he was barred by the SEC from trading stock, but two years later undertook an intricate insurance scam from his new Greenwich, Conn., compound, where he surrounded himself with a "multitude of women." Frankel became an expert on Catholicism and St. Francis of Assisi and established a phony Catholic charity, duping priests with Vatican connections into a \$55 million deal. Frankel's fiefdom crumbled in 1999 when insurance regulators became suspicious. After the eccentric embezzler fled, investigators found among his shredded and charred files an intact to-do list including a conspicuous item: "launder money." The final, suspenseful chapters track Frankel's flight across Europe and his 1999 capture at a posh Hamburg hotel. Some readers might recall the fugitive financier from the Court TV documentary *House of Cards* or ABC's *20/20*, but Pollock's account delivers fresh, in-depth details. 16 pages of bw photos not seen by PW. (Jan. 22)Forecast: First serial in the Wall Street Journal and a 20-city radio satellite tour will help this juicy book win respectable sales. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. About the Author Ellen Joan Pollock is a senior special writer of page one features at The Wall Street Journal, where she has worked for more than twelve years. She has focused on personalities from George W. Bush to Michael Jackson to Ronald Perelman, and spent several years covering the Whitewater scandal. She is also the author of *Turks and Brahmins*. She lives in New York with her husband and daughter.