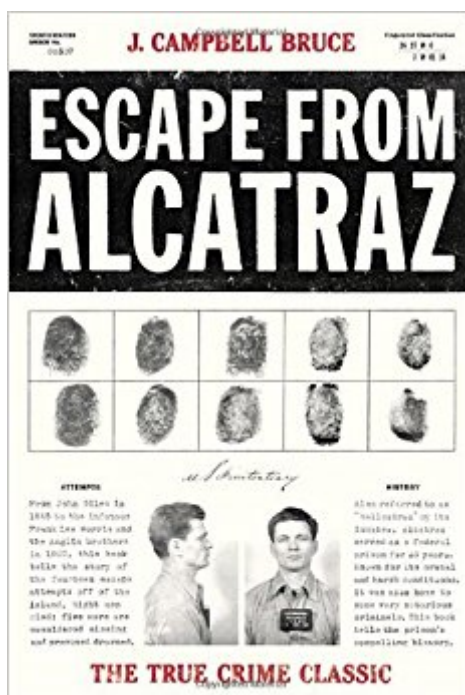


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# Escape From Alcatraz: The True Crime Classic



## Synopsis

In 1963, just weeks before the original publication of this book, the last prisoner was escorted off Devil's Island and Alcatraz ceased to be a prison. Author J. Campbell Bruce chronicles in spellbinding detail the Rock's transition from a Spanish fort to the maximum-security penitentiary that housed such infamous inmates as Robert Stroud, aka the Birdman of Alcatraz, and mobster Al "Scarface" Capone. The chapters describing the daring escape attempts by Frank Morris and two accomplices from this "inescapable" prison became the basis for the 1979 Clint Eastwood movie. Discover the intriguing and absorbing saga of Alcatraz, whose name is still synonymous with punitive isolation and deprivation, where America's most violent and notorious prisoners resided in tortuous proximity to one of the world's favorite cities. The true-crime classic first published in 1963 is reissued in this special edition. Includes archival photos of the prison and prison life. This story will appeal to Bay Area locals and tourists alike. Alcatraz hosts more than a million visitors each year.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Dramatic...thrilling...remarkable..." -- Los Angeles Time  
"Much more than a prison chronicle, much more than a tale of escape...." -- Chicago --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

\*The true-crime classic first published in 1963 is reissued in this special edition. \*Includes archival photos of the prison and prison life.

A surprisingly good read. I bought this after seeing the movie *Escape from Alcatraz*. I expected it to be rather dry. It was far from that. It is a fascinating look into the history of Alcatraz from its beginning. Even though it is not fiction, it reads like a novel due to the almost unbelievable lives of the people who were incarcerated there. If you enjoy history and true crime you will enjoy this

Well written thorough summary of key moments in Alcatraz history. While the Clint Eastwood movie was based on this movie, the film took a number of liberties. Reading about the real history is a real pleasure. A great quick read.

This book was the background for the Clint Eastwood film "Escape From Alcatraz". I thought it would be a good book for info on that breakout. It is much more than that. This book surprised me in two ways. First of all, as a nonfiction book, I did not expect it to be written so that it reads like a novel. It is really well done. I was captivated from the first by Mr. Bruce's description of Frank Morris being transported to Alcatraz to begin his life there as a prisoner. I started turning pages and was transported along with the prisoner - through the rain and fog to that dismal prison. The second surprise was all the history Mr. Bruce put into the book that went way beyond just this one escape. The book turned out to be a real bonus in that regard. He sketches the history of the island and the area, and then goes into some of the background history of Alcatraz. It's a great read all the way around.

A good read for those who want a bit of insight into the goings on at the prison when it was actively filled with inmates. While it does not give thorough biographies of the more famous inmates, it does describe the many escape attempts by various convicts in detail. You get an idea of just how resourceful a person can be when he is set up for life on the Rock. And you also are reminded of how damp and cold and uncomfortable that prison must have been.

Recently I toured the island and facilities. The day after my visit, I purchased this book. It was fascinating enough and made even more so since I had been there in the same place as the guards, criminals, corruption, and escapes. A must-read especially if a visit to the island awakens an interest.

I had a trip to San Francisco booked and a trip to Alcatraz. I purchased this a few weeks before my

trip and it was perfect. It gave me background information about the prison and inmates that definitely enhanced my visit. Great purchase.

This book started out a little slow while relating the history leading up to Alcatraz. But became increasingly attention catching. Obviously meticulously researched, Mr. Bruce held me prisoner from one fascinating story to the next. Alcatraz is an important piece of our history that should not be forgotten.

I wish I had read it before I visited the rock. The book was loaded with facts about the prison as well as the prisoners. The book could be a tour guide for us visitors.

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