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[Test] Scammers Tried To Get Me**Jerri Williams - The FBI in Books, TV, and Movies** <jerriwilliams@jerriwilliams.com>

Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 10:18 PM

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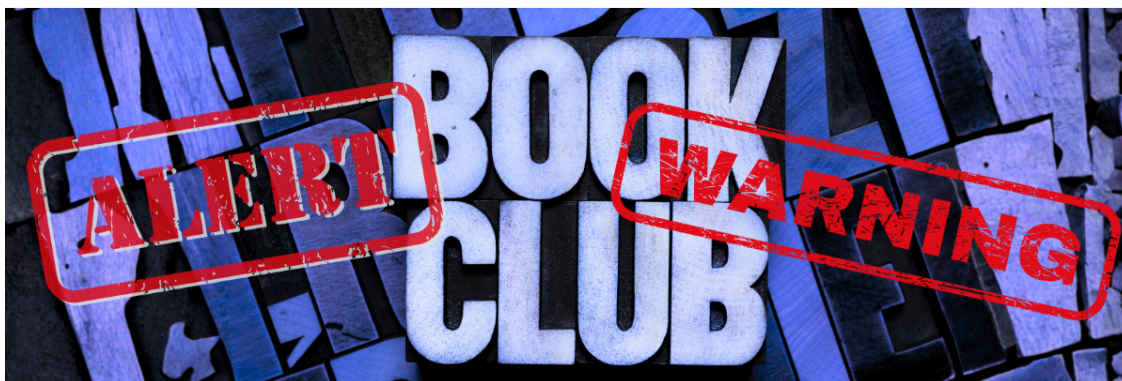
**October 2025 Issue - November
Delayed**

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The FBI in Books, TV, and Movies

Scammers Are Targeting Authors



I was flattered. An invitation to speak at their next book club meeting about Greedy Givers, my crime novel inspired by the Ponzi scheme I investigated.

They wanted to schedule the virtual meeting for September. The short notice was a problem. The earliest I would be available was mid-November. I asked how many members would be present? He said 4,000 city-wide members from throughout the Denver Library system.

Based on the extra "exposure" I would receive from participating in the event, I would need to pay a nominal fee. *Wait. What?*

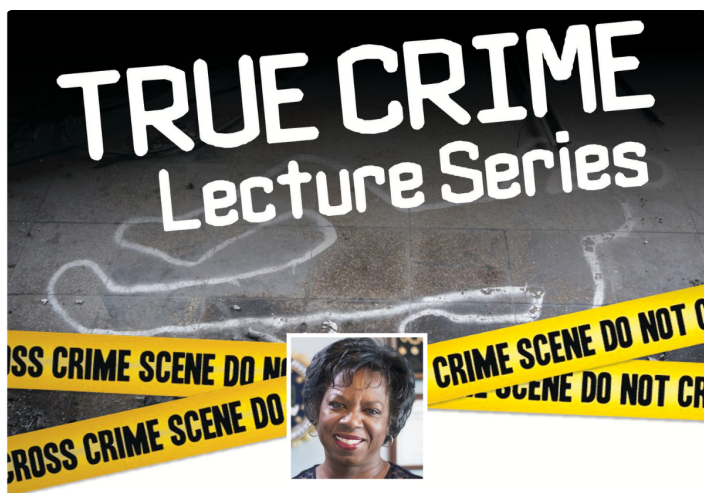
That's when I realized it was a scam.

Fake Book Clubs/Book Club Impersonations

Several weeks later, I received an alert from Writer Beware® about "other writers who've received emails purportedly from local book clubs, offering features or spotlights for the writers' books." [Read more here.](#)



[Message From Mike Clark, President, Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI:](#) Regarding recent Summary Dismissals of Sixteen FBI Employees. "Due process is not negotiable, and any departure from this standard undermines the credibility of the FBI as both an employer and a law enforcement agency."



Jerri Williams - Ret. FBI Agent, Author & Podcaster



FBI Case File Review

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025
5:30PM - 8:00PM
DoubleTree By Hilton
4727 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19803



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Law Enforcement Officers can receive training credit hours for each lecture.

[Wilmington University True Crime Lecture Series:](#) I've been invited to speak at the Center for Law, Justice & Society about the FBI in Books, TV, and Movies - Myths and Misconceptions. **If you're in the Philadelphia area, I hope to see you there.** The event is open to the public. The cost is free; however, registration is required. [Register here.](#)

Thank you for being a member of my Reader Team. I want to welcome new listeners and readers. I appreciate your support of my mission to show you who the FBI is and what the FBI does. Please tell a friend or two about my podcast, books, and blog and share this Reader Team email with them.

I believe sharing FBI stories promotes a positive public perception of the work the men and women of the Bureau do every day. If someone forwarded this newsletter to you, [join my Reader Team here](#).

Don't forget to follow the FBI Case File Review on [Apple Podcast](#), [Spotify](#), or your favorite podcast app, and [YouTube](#) (audio only). Follow me on social media to keep in touch.

Wherever you are in the world, take care and stay safe.

Jerri



FBI Case File Review

Click on the links below to check out the show notes for each episode and view photos, official FBI overviews, newspaper articles, and videos related to the case reviews posted last month.



[371: Carrie Landau – Justice For Desiree, Teen Sold To Trafficker](#)

Review of sex trafficking investigation where a teen was held against her will and murdered by a man who answered an online sex advertisement.



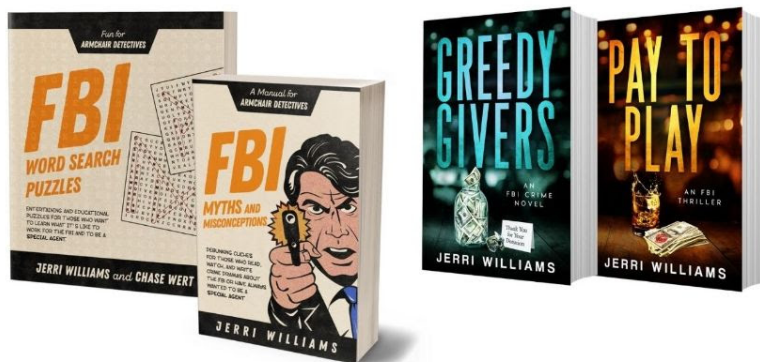
369: Jeremy Rebmann – Chronicles of an FBI Sniper, SWAT

368: Donnie Brasco and Joe Pistone – Family Business (Part 2)

The second half of the conversation with legendary agent Joe Pistone and retired agent Donnie Brasco about what it takes to be an FBI undercover agent. [Video available on YouTube.](#)

Many of the retired agents interviewed on *FBI Case File Review* are authors. Don't forget to check out their books in the FBI Reading Resource linked at the bottom of this email.

My Books



My books are available as ebooks, and paperbacks wherever books are sold and audiobooks on Audible and Spotify. [Click here to learn more and link to booksellers where you can purchase my books, TODAY!](#) Don't forget to leave a review. Positive reviews are the best compliment you can give an author. **Show me the love!**



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FBI TV Review



***TASK (2025)* is an American crime drama and police procedural. The seven-episode mini-series stars Mark Ruffalo as FBI Special Agent Tom Brandis and Tom Pelphrey as Robbie Prendergrast, a garbage man avenging his brother's death by robbing his former violent biker gang of its drug proceeds.**

Premise: In the working-class suburbs of Philadelphia, an FBI agent heads a task force to put an end to a string of violent robberies led by an unsuspected family man. (IMDb).

I love *TASK* because of its heart-breaking, adrenaline-pumping, tension-filled plotline. But at times, I felt like I was watching a horror show. It's scary good.

However, I don't watch FBI TV shows and movies to rate their entertainment value. Instead, I look for teachable moments about FBI policies, procedures, and programs. *TASK* provides the perfect opportunity to review the FBI Safe Streets Task Force initiative. In *TASK*, Agent Brandis is assigned to lead a task force to investigate the home invasion robberies. Two police detectives and a state trooper join him as task force officers (TFOs).

According to the FBI website, Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Forces are the vehicle through which federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies collaboratively address the violent crime plaguing communities.

The FBI's Safe Streets and Gang Unit administers 178 Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Forces nationwide, increasing the effectiveness and productivity of limited personnel and logistical resources, avoiding duplication of investigations and consequent wasteful expenditure of resources in matters of concurrent jurisdiction, and expanding the cooperation and communication among law enforcement agencies. The initiative has been around since January 1992. ([Read more here.](#))

While watching *TASK*, I noted how quickly the TFOs were selected. I called retired agent Scott Duffey for his insights. Not only was he the coordinator of the FBI's Delaware Violent Crimes Task Force for 12 years, but Scott was hired by *TASK*'s creator and writer, Brad Ingels, to serve as the FBI consultant for the series.

Of course, due to time constraints, the selection process was severely truncated for the series. According to Scott, in real life, TFOs undergo a full background investigation, including a polygraph, before receiving a security clearance. Scott estimated that the vetting process typically takes 12 to 18 months. During that time, the individuals under consideration may work on the task force, but will not have access to FBI databases and reports.

New Castle County and Wilmington city police officers and detectives, a state trooper, and a probation officer were on Scott's seven-member task force. He was the only FBI agent. Currently, there are three FBI agents assigned to his former team.

The TFOs are chosen by their respective agencies after following normal hiring and promotional protocols, such as submitting a resume and email request for consideration to the head of their organization. Each candidate will represent his or her department and, therefore, should be a "good fit," well-rounded, and have an excellent reputation. Most TFOs average 5 years on FBI task forces. I forgot to double-check with Scott on this, but I understand overtime worked by the TFO is paid by the FBI and they have use of an FBI vehicle.

On *TASK*, the TFOs wore the standard issued blue and gold FBI raid jacket. Scott told me that most task force budgets allow for the purchase of special branded shirts and jackets, which the TFOs proudly wear. Here's a montage of TFOs and agents from around the country.

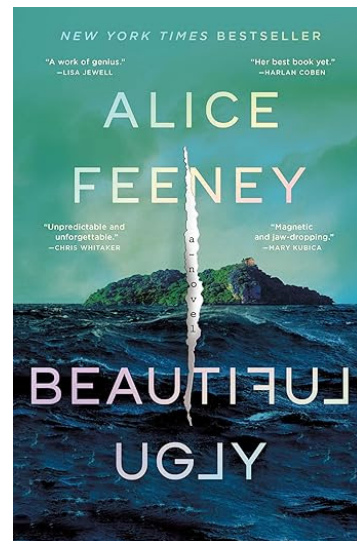


Retired agent Scott Duffey has twice been a guest on FBI Case File Review:

Beautiful Ugly: A Novel

by Alice Feeney

Grady calls his wife to share some exciting news as she is driving home. He hears Abby slam on the brakes, get out of the car, then nothing. His wife has disappeared. A year later, Grady is still overcome with grief. He can't sleep, and he can't write, so he travels to a tiny Scottish island to get his life back on track. Then he sees a woman who looks exactly like his missing wife. Wives think their husbands will change, but they don't. Husbands think their wives won't change, but they do. #LovedIt



Mob War: Philadelphia vs. The Mafia

The series features firsthand accounts from former mob associates, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and journalists who witnessed the war unfold. Through chilling wiretap recordings, surveillance footage, and reenactments, Mob War charts the FBI's pursuit and eventual takedowns of Scarfo, Stanfa, and finally Merlino. The three-part docuseries premieres on Oct. 22.



Crime Capsule - Real stories. Real reporters. Real crimes. Join veteran television crime reporters Amanda Lamb and Chelsea Donovan—two journalists with over 50 years of combined experience—as they pull back the curtain on some of the most gripping cases they've covered. You've got plenty of true crime podcasts to choose from—but this one comes straight from the reporters who were there. [Listen on Spotify](#).

Free Stuff



[FBI Reading Resource](#) - Books about the FBI, written by FBI agents. Updated monthly with books introduced on *FBI Case File Review*.

[FBI Reality Checklist](#) - 20 Cliches and Misconceptions about the FBI in Books, TV, and Movies. Get the facts.

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