

JUST ONE OF NINE

STORY LINE REVIEW

This story is based on the authentic newspaper account of a private vault robbery that took place on a cold January weekend in 1977, in Vancouver, B.C.

A Montreal mob is putting pressure on their west coast associate, Tony Varanno, to find out where two crime organizations - one a long-established biker gang and the other an Asian gang - have hidden all their loot. Once Varanno's contacts' information is in, the mob sets into motion a plan to steal it all.

Thieves tunnel into a secured private vault over that fateful 1977 weekend and send Varanno and his cronies driving off with tens of millions in thousand-dollar bills and gold bars in *nine pink suitcases*. The thieves leave behind millions of dollars of jewels, bonds and hundred dollar bills on the floor of the vault. Tony and the getaway driver are wondering where to stash all this loot till the heat dies down, so Tony asks the local kingpin for help to stash the pink suitcases. However, the local kingpin learns he's under investigation on another matter and he turns Tony away.

Now the heat is on: Tony and his cohorts have no choice but to ship the loot out by plane to Montreal. That's where this story takes a wild ride! The nine pink suitcases are too heavy for a YVR baggage handler to

pick up, which gets him wondering what could be in them. So he pulls one of the nine suitcases into the back room, pries it open, and is shocked to discover that it's full of thousand-dollar bills and gold bars. The baggage handler reports his find to Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The RCMP seize all nine cases and manage to arrest one of the three local crooks before the plane even leaves Vancouver airport, while Tony and his driver are arrested at the Winnipeg, Manitoba, terminal.

Thirty years later, the baggage handler has retained a lawyer to help him apply under the Finder Keepers Law for the return of all that recovered loot, but all agencies involved are back peddling. The lawyer, Troy Greenback, takes it upon himself to interview some of the Vancouver East Side's shadiest characters; this fact finding mission includes talking to a guy claiming to be an ex-Vancouver police officer turned lawyer, who, after a few drinks, is letting his yap run. This retired mouthpiece knows too many of the facts about who, why, and where the monies went, and just which main leaders of what organizations were involved in the biggest heist in Canadian history . . . if not in the World.

It turns out that the nine pink suitcases were a ruse. The main reason for the theft was to find a number of boxes belonging to another organized crime boss from Asia, who had applied for landed immigrant status in Canada, and had sent over all his ill-gotten crime booty

to fund his new ventures in North America with his badass gang, the Snakeheads.

All *that* loot had been removed from the vault before Tony Varanno and his cohorts were called to pick up the nine pink cases and drive the booty to the east coast. The vault thieves had received instructions from the Montreal mob to smash open and find the boxes that contained the Chinese gang's monies, which were estimated to be over one billion dollars, and use their own crew to drive this huge score out to Montreal.

Now the Asian mob boss learns through his local contacts that some guy and his lawyer are trying to get their hands on all that loot from the Vancouver vault robbery back in '77: His money!! Mad as hell he orders his opium-smoking underbosses to get off their asses and put all the Snakeheads from North America, and from Asia if need be, to conduct searches. Their orders: Find him !!

All three parties, the biker gang out of Burnaby, the Montreal crime organization, and the Chinese Snakeheads are all wanting to get their hands on the lawyer's and the baggage handler's throats. They're all thinking that the two are out spending their Court-awarded loot. Not so! A request to claim the seized money has been entered under the Finders Keepers Law, but that loot has again been stolen . . . and the question is: by whom?

**Hope you enjoy this slightly embellished story,
featuring the east coast mob and their direct dealings
with the notorious biker gang and the Asian
Snakeheads.**

**All names in this story have being changed, and the
matter of the missing loot claimed under the Finder
Keepers law could still be settled by the Courts.**

Harvey Borley, Author of 'Just One Of Nine'

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