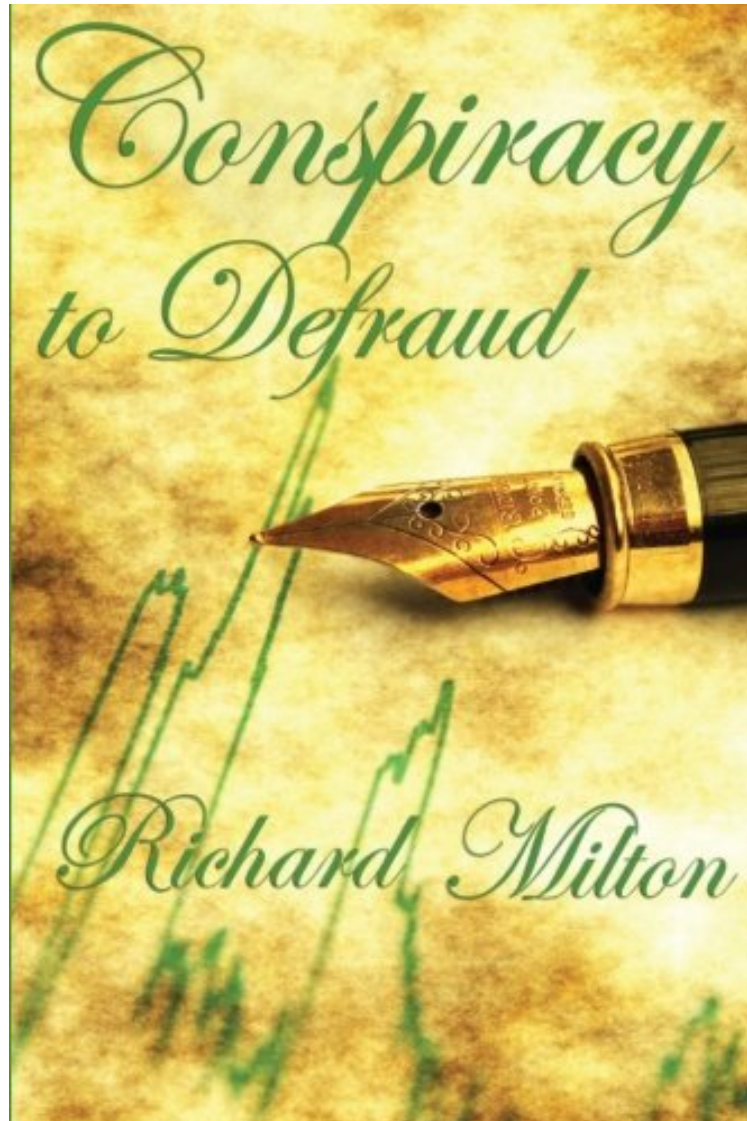


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Conspiracy to Defraud

Richard Milton

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Richard Milton : Conspiracy to Defraud before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conspiracy to Defraud:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great read - and a true storyBy CustomerThere's something spookily modern sounding about this case – a top MP who is accused of lining his own pockets through dodgy share deals! Although the main character here, Lord Cochrane, is not your usual dodgy MP. He sounds more like Horatio Hornblower (who apparently was based on him) with his naval adventures on land and sea.I've read about Lord Cochrane before. He's credited with all kinds of things (including the invention of barbed wire) but this book is

different because it focuses on his trial, and whether or not he really was guilty of such a huge fraud. I'm not sure whether I agree with the writer's conclusions or not, but it's certainly something of a roller-coaster ride getting there. A recommended read.

Wednesday June 8, 1814 was a blazing hot day. London's Guildhall was crowded and stifling, its courtroom packed to overflowing, as the public flocked to witness the most spectacular trial of the decade: The King Against Charles Random De Berenger And Others. It was the "others" they had come to see. Standing in the dock, accused of the biggest fraud ever perpetrated on the London Stock Exchange, was Lord Cochrane - one of the most daring and popular naval captains of the Napoleonic war, and Member of Parliament for Westminster. The multi-million pound fraud had been committed when a fake messenger from France, "Colonel De Bourg", landed at Dover and sent dispatches to the Admiralty claiming that the war in France was over and that Napoleon had been killed. Stocks soared in value with millions of pounds worth changing hands in just hours. But the dispatches were fakes and Napoleon still very much alive. The officer impersonating "Colonel Du Bourg" was traced to the London home of Lord Cochrane, then preparing to join the British Fleet in American waters as Flag Captain to his uncle, Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane. It was through this connection, and his dealing in stocks and shares that Lord Cochrane was indicted to stand trial. Lord Cochrane was one of the most remarkable men of an era notable for naval and military leaders of daring and originality. Among his many talents, however, was that of making enemies of the powerful, through a curious combination of obstinacy and integrity; courage and vanity. Victorian novelist A.G. Henty produced a successful boy's adventure story entitled "With Cochrane The Dauntless" in which even Henty's fertile imagination failed to improve on Cochrane's real-life exploits. Cochrane also served as the model for Captain Horatio Hornblower as well as Captain Jack Aubrey in "Master and Commander". Just one example of his exploits serves to show what a remarkable naval officer he was. Cochrane was given command of a tiny vessel, the brig Speedy - in Cochrane's words, "a burlesque on a vessel of war" that was "crowded, rather than manned, with 84 men and 6 officers." Its main armament consisted of 4-pound guns - a fact which Cochrane satirised by walking the quarterdeck with a broadside in his coat pocket. In May 1801, Cochrane led the Speedy into its most famous exploit when he captured by boarding the Spanish frigate El Gamo. The Gamo carried a complement of 319 men and was armed with 32 twelve-pound and nine-pound guns. The Speedy's complement at the time of the action was 54 and its armament the absurd four-pounders. It was like a mouse attacking a tiger. Taking every man and boy on board except the ship's surgeon, Dr. Guthrie, who was left at the wheel, he boarded the Gamo. Cochrane ordered one of his men to haul down the Spanish colours and the Gamo's crew, imagining that their officers had surrendered, laid down their arms, and the tiny Speedy found itself master of more than 300 prisoners. Because of his naval exploits, Cochrane was awarded the Order of the Bath. Now, in 1814 as the war with France was nearing its climax, Cochrane was tried with others for conspiracy to defraud the Stock Exchange, before the intimidating figure of Lord Ellenborough, the Lord Chief Justice. To his astonishment, Cochrane was found guilty and imprisoned. But this was merely the start of the greatest battle of his life - the epic fight to prove his innocence and clear his name.

About the Author Richard Milton is a British writer, journalist and broadcaster. He currently freelances for The Daily Telegraph and other newspapers. He is the author of a dozen books - both fiction and non-fiction - all now available on Kindle as well as in book form. His non-fiction books are highly controversial. "Bad Company", which The Sunday Times chose as its Business Book of the Week, sets out to explain why large corporations sometimes behave in self-defeating and even insane ways. His equally controversial "Shattering the myths of Darwinism" caused some members of the scientific establishment to start chewing the carpet and foaming at the mouth, by daring to demand real empirical evidence in support of Darwinian beliefs, in place of conjecture and pseudoscience. "Alternative Science" (also published as "Forbidden Science") examines how and why good science is sometimes thrown out with the bad for purely ideological reasons. His book "Best of Enemies" looks at Anglo-German relations through two world wars and charts the origins of modern propaganda. The book is currently the subject of a TV film of the same name to be broadcast on German and British TV later in 2016. His latest non-fiction book, "The Ministry of Spin", reveals for the first time the story of how the post-war Labour government secretly held onto the wartime Ministry Of Information: how they buried this powerful propaganda machine deep in Whitehall: and how they turned its wartime propaganda powers on the British Parliament, media and people in order to push through their peacetime political programme. In fiction, he has published three mystery thrillers and a book of short stories. "True Stories: Mysteries of Crime and Punishment" is a collection of short stories with a difference. Every story in the book is true - except one. Some tell of crimes that have gone unpunished by the law. Some are crimes against laws that are unwritten. And some are crimes that exist only in the mind.