THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE · THE SECOND TERM · BOOK EIGHT

Kash Patel

Let Good Cops Be Cops

The Ninth Director of the FBI and the Mission He Carried for President Donald J. Trump

by Robert Miller

Free Sample · Author's Note, Prologue, and Chapter One

The President's Choice · The Second Term · Book Eight

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Author's Note

This book is an account of the public career of Kashyap Pramod Patel, known to the country as Kash Patel. He is the son of Gujarati immigrants from East Africa. He grew up on Long Island, defended accused criminals in the courtrooms of Miami, prosecuted terrorists for the Department of Justice, and helped expose serious failures in the FBI's surveillance of a Trump campaign adviser. He served President Donald J. Trump at the National Security Council, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Pentagon, and in February 2025 he became the ninth Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It is Book Eight of The Second Term in The President's Choice Series, a set of portraits of the men and women whom President Trump chose to carry out his agenda. Like the other books in the series, it is written from a point of view, and the point of view is stated plainly at the outset. This book argues that Kash Patel was a deliberate, well-reasoned, and consequential choice. It argues that he came to the FBI with a clear mission: to put violent crime, the protection of children, and the defense of the homeland back at the center of the Bureau's work, and to hold the Bureau's own leadership to account. And it argues that by the close of his second year in office he had changed the direction of one of the most powerful institutions in American government in the way the President intended.

A word about method. Every fact in these pages has been checked against the public record as it stood at the end of November 2026. The sources include the official statements, press releases, and testimony of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice; the records of the Senate and House of Representatives, including Director Patel's written testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 12, 2026, and to the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 15, 2026; the questionnaire he submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee as a nominee; court filings; Patel's own

published writing; and contemporaneous reporting by national and international news organizations. Where Patel's own words are quoted, they come from remarks he delivered in public, from his testimony, from his statements on social media as reported by the press, or from his published articles. Where a figure is an FBI figure, it is identified as one. Where independent analysts or news organizations have questioned a figure, the dispute is noted, and the reader is told what the Bureau said in reply. Where a fact could not be confirmed from a reliable public source, it was left out.

The book does not pretend that Patel's tenure has been free of controversy. It has not been. His time at the FBI has drawn sharp criticism from Democrats in Congress, from former Bureau officials, from much of the national press, and at times from voices on the right. A chapter near the end of this book sets out those criticisms as fairly as the author can state them, together with the answers Patel and his defenders have given. A book that argues for a conclusion owes its readers the strongest version of the other side, and that chapter is written in that spirit. Readers who reach a different verdict will at least find the opposing case presented honestly.

Finally, The President's Choice Series is an independent work. This book has not been authorized, reviewed, or endorsed by its subject, by President Donald J. Trump, by the FBI, or by the White House. No interviews were conducted for it, and no confidential sources were used. It rests entirely on the public record, which is where any reader may go to test its conclusions.

Robert Miller
Washington, D.C.
November 2026

Prologue

Thirty-Three Hours

At approximately 12:23 in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, a single rifle shot rang out across the courtyard of Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. Charlie Kirk, the thirty-one-year-old founder of Turning Point USA and one of the most recognizable conservative voices of his generation, had been speaking to a crowd of students and taking their questions. He was struck and killed. The murder of a young husband and father, in front of an audience of college students, at an event devoted to open debate, shocked the country and set off one of the most intense manhunts in recent American history.

Kash Patel had known Charlie Kirk personally. Like the President, the Vice President, and many in the President's circle, he counted Kirk a friend. Now, seven months into his tenure as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he faced the most closely watched case of his career, with the whole country looking on and the killer still at large.

What followed over the next day and a half is worth recounting in some detail, because it shows, in compressed form, how Patel understands the job he was given.

The first FBI agents reached the scene sixteen minutes after the shot was fired. Police chiefs arrived at 12:39 in the afternoon, and the scene was secured. The Bureau's resources began moving toward Utah almost at once: evidence response teams, technical specialists, tactical personnel, and the forensic capabilities of the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia. Utah would lead the prosecution. The FBI would bring to bear everything a national law enforcement agency could offer a state that had suffered a political assassination on its soil.

The investigation had its difficulties in those first hours, which a later chapter of this book discusses frankly. But the decisive choices were

made quickly. At ten o'clock on the morning of September 11, local time, the FBI released its first photographs of the suspect. At 10:45 that morning, the Bureau announced a reward of $100,000 for information. Patel and Deputy Director Dan Bongino arrived in Utah at about 5:30 that afternoon. At about eight o'clock that evening, at a press conference held by Governor Spencer Cox, the FBI released video of the suspect along with new images. The public responded on a massive scale. By that night the Bureau had received some 7,000 leads. By the next morning it had more than 11,000.

At about ten o'clock on the night of Thursday, September 11, a twenty-two-year-old Utah man named Tyler Robinson was taken into custody. Investigators later said that a family member had helped bring him in. The Utah County Attorney would later describe the sequence in his own public account: over approximately thirty-three hours, police conducted a manhunt for the shooter until Robinson surrendered at the Washington County Sheriff's Office on the evening of September 11.

On the morning of Friday, September 12, Kash Patel stood beside Governor Cox and Utah's Commissioner of Public Safety, Beau Mason, at a press conference in Orem. When Cox turned the microphone over to him, the Director opened with a single sentence that summed up the philosophy he had brought to the Bureau seven months earlier.

"Thank you, Governor. This is what happens when you let good cops be cops."

He then walked the country through the timeline, from the first agents on scene to the release of the photographs, the reward, the video, the flood of tips, and the arrest. He put the result in plain terms. "In less than 36 hours, 33 to be precise," he said, the suspect had been apprehended.

He was careful to share the credit. He thanked President Trump, the Vice President, and the White House. He thanked Governor Cox, the state and local partners, the sheriffs, and the Utah Department of

Public Safety. He named the FBI field offices that had contributed to the effort: Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, San Antonio, Las Vegas, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, together with the Bureau's components at Quantico. He thanked the evidence response teams, the special operators, the agents, and the support staff who had worked without sleep. Local law enforcement leaders, speaking the next day, made the same point in their own words. A Utah County undersheriff described the thirty-three hours as "no sleep and go to work," and recalled how hundreds of officers, many of them off duty, had converged on the campus within minutes.

Patel ended on a personal note. "Lastly, to my friend Charlie Kirk," he said, "rest now, brother."

The case against Tyler Robinson belongs to the courts of Utah, and this book does not try it. The Utah County Attorney announced that his office would seek the death penalty. But the thirty-three hours in Utah captured much of what defines Kash Patel as Director of the FBI. There was urgency: the conviction that in a manhunt every hour matters. There was partnership: the belief, rooted in his whole career, that the Bureau is strongest when it works shoulder to shoulder with state and local police rather than above them. There was a willingness to go public quickly and to trust the American people with information, a choice that produced the tips that closed the case. And there was an unshakable faith in the men and women of the FBI, freed to do the work they joined the Bureau to do.

That phrase, "let good cops be cops," was not a slogan Patel invented for the cameras in Orem. He had used it at his confirmation hearing in January 2025, when he told the Senate Judiciary Committee that his plan for the Bureau was to restore trust, work with Congress, and let good cops be cops. It is the theme of this book, because it is the theme of his tenure.

This book tells how a first-generation American from Long Island came to stand at that podium in Utah, and what he did with the job

once he got there. It begins far from Utah, and far from America, in a village in western India and a country in East Africa that expelled its Asian citizens in 1972.

Part One

An American Story

Chapter One

Bhadran, Kampala, and the Long Road to Long Island

The story of Kash Patel begins in the village of Bhadran, in the Anand district of the state of Gujarat in western India. Bhadran is a modest place, home to some thirteen thousand people, set in the fertile farmland of central Gujarat, a region known for its dairy cooperatives, its tobacco fields, and its long tradition of sending its sons and daughters abroad.

The Patel family belongs to the Patidar community, one of the most enterprising and widely traveled communities of the Indian subcontinent. The Patidars were traditionally landholding farmers, and over the past century and a half they have become one of the great diaspora communities of the world, with branches in East Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. In the Anand district, a community organization called the Chh Gam Patidar Mandal keeps a vanshavali, a family tree, for the Patidar families of the area. When Kash Patel was confirmed as Director of the FBI in February 2025, the secretary of that organization told the Press Trust of India that the family tree contained the names of Patel's father, Pramod Patel, his father's brothers, and his grandfather, and that it recorded eighteen generations of the family. Kash Patel's own name, he said, had not yet been added. According to the community's records, the family had lived in the Moti Khadki area of Bhadran and had migrated to Uganda some seventy to eighty years earlier, selling its ancestral houses when it moved to Africa.

That migration was part of a much larger story. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, when much of East Africa came under British rule, tens of thousands of people from western India, many of them Gujaratis, settled in what are now Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Some came as laborers, recruited to build the railway that ran from the Kenyan coast to Lake Victoria. Many more came as traders, shopkeepers, clerks, artisans, and later professionals. Over several generations they built a prosperous and close-knit community. They ran the shops in the market towns, staffed the offices of the colonial administration, founded schools and temples, and became, by the middle of the twentieth century, an indispensable part of the commercial life of the region.

Kash Patel's father, Pramod Patel, grew up in this world, in Uganda. His mother, Anjana, came from Tanzania. Both studied in India, and they married there before eventually making their life in North America. Their families were part of the generation that had come to regard East Africa as home.

The Expulsion of 1972

That home was taken from them. In January 1971, an army officer named Idi Amin seized power in Uganda in a military coup. His rule would become one of the most brutal of the twentieth century. In August 1972, Amin announced that Uganda's Asian population, the descendants of those generations of Indian settlers, would be expelled from the country. They were given ninety days to leave.

The decree fell on tens of thousands of people who had lived in Uganda for decades, many of whom had been born there and had never known another home. They were permitted to take almost nothing with them. Homes, shops, factories, farms, and savings were left behind and handed over to others. Families scattered across the world in search of any country that would take them. Britain admitted the largest number. Canada, under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau,

accepted thousands more. Others went to India, to the United States, and to other countries.

The Patel family was among those caught up in the expulsion. According to the account of community leaders in Bhadran and published accounts of the family's history, they returned for a time to India after being forced out of Uganda, applied for refuge in several countries, and were accepted by Canada. From Canada, they later moved to the United States.

Kash Patel has spoken publicly about what that history meant to his family and to him. In an op-ed published in January 2025, shortly before his confirmation hearing, he wrote that his commitment to equal justice was deeply rooted in his family's history. "My father fled Idi Amin's genocidal dictatorship in Uganda," he wrote. "My mother was born in Tanzania." The lesson he drew was not an abstract one. His own father had seen, at first hand, what happens when a government turns its power against people because of who they are, and strips them of their property, their livelihoods, and their rights by decree.

That lesson runs like a thread through the whole of Kash Patel's public life. It is visible in the career he chose as a young lawyer, standing beside the accused in the criminal courts. It is visible in his years of work exposing the misuse of the government's surveillance powers against an American citizen. And it is visible in the promise he made to the Senate in January 2025 that there would be no politicization of the FBI under his leadership. Whatever one thinks of his record, it would be a mistake to understand Kash Patel without understanding that he is the son of a refugee from a tyrant.

Rebuilding in America

The family that came to the United States in the 1970s rebuilt from very little. Pramod Patel went into business and, over the years, rose to become the chief financial officer of a global distributor of aircraft bearings, a company serving the aviation industry. It was the kind of career that millions of immigrant families have built in America: steady, unglamorous, and grounded in long hours, careful work, and a determination to give the next generation more than the last had been allowed to keep.

Kashyap Pramod Patel was born on February 25, 1980, in Garden City, New York, on Long Island. He grew up in a Hindu household that kept the traditions, the language, and the values of Gujarat alive in suburban New York. Those values were the ones that immigrant families from every corner of the world have carried to America: faith, family loyalty, respect for elders, hard work, and an almost reverent regard for education.

The faith of that household would be visible decades later, at two of the most important moments of his professional life. When Kash Patel appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing on January 30, 2025, his parents were in the room. He introduced them to the senators, greeted them with the traditional Hindu salutation “Jai Shri Krishna,” and, before the hearing began, bent down to touch their feet, a gesture of respect for elders in Indian culture. The moment was captured on video and shared widely, especially in India and among Indian Americans around the world. Three weeks later, when he was sworn in as Director, he placed his hand on a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, the sacred scripture of Hinduism.

Those gestures meant a great deal to millions of Hindus and Indian Americans, many of whom said so publicly. But they meant something to other Americans as well. They were reminders that the oath of office binds a person of any faith to the same Constitution, and

that the highest positions in American government are open to the children of refugees who arrived with nothing.

A Family Story and an American Story

It is worth pausing on how extraordinary this family history is, and how ordinary. It is extraordinary because few Americans have traveled so far, through so much, in so few generations: from a village in Gujarat to the trading towns of East Africa, from a dictator's expulsion order to a refugee's new start in Canada, and from there to the suburbs of New York. It is ordinary because it is, in its essentials, the story of tens of millions of American families. Most Americans are descended from people who came to this country with little, often fleeing hardship or persecution, and who built new lives through work and sacrifice.

Kash Patel has never been shy about telling that story, and he has always told it as an American story. On the day he was sworn in as Director of the FBI, February 21, 2025, with his sister Nisha, his relatives, and his girlfriend, Alexis Wilkins, at his side, he summed up the whole journey in a few sentences that were quoted around the world.

"I am living the American dream," he said. "Anyone who thinks the American dream is dead, just look right here. You're talking to a first-generation Indian kid who's about to lead the law enforcement community of the greatest nation on God's green earth. That can't happen anywhere else."

That is the conviction that frames this book. The President's choice of Kash Patel was, among other things, a statement about what America is: a country where a refugee's son can rise, on the strength of his own work, to lead the most famous law enforcement agency in the world. The rest of this book is about what he did once he got there. But the story has to start where his did, with a family that lost everything to a tyrant and found, in America, the chance to begin again.

About the Author

Robert Miller is the President and Treasurer of International Publishing Corporation of Washington, D.C., and the author of its China Series. He is the Executive Director of Vets Working for Vets, Inc. (vetsworkingforvets.com), a Washington, D.C., nonprofit organization, and he serves as International Defense and Government Relations Advisor for G3 Global Solutions LLC (g3globalsolutions.com).

Mr. Miller is a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War era. He served from 1970 to 1976 as a military policeman with the 545th and 709th Military Police Battalions in Germany and the United States, and later as an Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) narcotics undercover operative in Frankfurt, achieving the rank of Sergeant, and he received an honorable discharge. After his military service he held police commissions with two agencies, serving as a commissioned Special Police Officer with the New Orleans Police Department from 1977 to 1979 and as Honorary Police Captain of the Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department from 1979 to 1981, a commission given to him by Chief Fred E. O'Sullivan. He is an OSIS Master Police Instructor, a USPDTA Police Instructor, a PSDI Police Instructor, and a PR-24 instructor, and he was appointed editor of American Law Enforcement Officer magazine by Lt. Frank P. Hayward, the New Orleans police officer who arrested Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963.

He served as Civic Bureau Chairman of the Young Men's Business Club of New Orleans from 1976 to 1977, and as Religion Director and host of a religious radio program for WNPS, the NBC affiliate radio station in New Orleans, from 1975 to 1977. In 1986 he received the Key to the City of Butler, Pennsylvania.

He holds two law degrees, a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) and a Juris Doctor (J.D.), and has led legal services firms in Washington, D.C. A

justice reform advocate since 2004 with Constitutional Law Advocates, he has helped free more than 100 people from prison over the past twenty years. A Grand Master holding the seventh-degree black belt in Taekwondo and Hapkido, he earned his first black belt in 1969 and a black belt in Judo in Germany in 1972. He set the world karate speed-breaking record at Olympia, London, on June 16, 1982, at the grand opening of the Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit, and he served as Assistant Director of the 1988 Pre-Olympic Taekwondo Championships in New Orleans. He has taught Asian and Eastern philosophy for more than five decades, including at Hammersmith & West London College and at the American School of London in St John's Wood. He is the co-author of The Metaphysics of Creative Consciousness series and the author of The President's Choice Series, of which this book is a part. He lives in Washington, D.C.

CONTINUE READING

The President’s Choice

Portraits of the people who served
President Donald J. Trump.

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