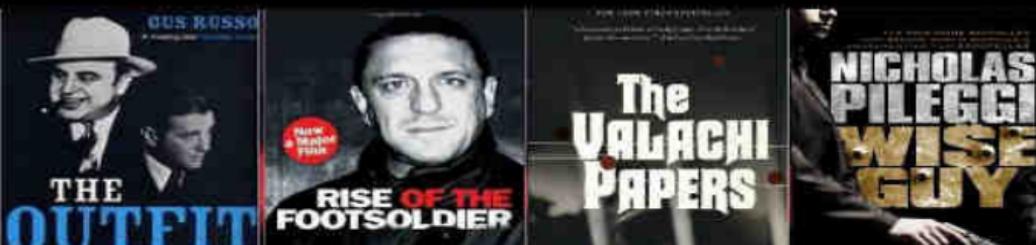


YOUR 25 KEY BOOKS ABOUT GANGLAND AND GANGSTERS

IAIN PARKE



Your 25 Key Books About Gangland and Gangsters

A free guide to essential reading about gangster life, from the Italian mafia and the Kray twins to modern gangland. The best true crime books and what's the reality behind the world of Martina Cole books and

Lynda La Plante crime stories

Introduction

As a writer of what might loosely be regarded as 'gangland' fiction in The Brethren Outlaw Motorcycle Club series of crime thrillers, working my way through a range of true crime books by way of research is part of the job.

So following the success of my free guide *Your 25 Key Books About Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs*, it seemed only natural to produce a companion guide to the true crime genre, and specifically books about gangland and gangsters. Particularly since from the success of TV shows from either side of the world such as *The Wire* and *Underbelly*, or closer to me at home in the UK, crime novels like those of Martina Cole, Lynda La Plante and many many others, this seems to be a subject that fascinates many people.

Again, much like the outlaw biker world with which it shares a tendency towards secrecy (for obvious reasons), the books on offer here are a mix of autobiography by retired denizens of the community giving an insider's view, or works usually by journalists giving more of an overview or history of a particular subject.

So in compiling my list of 25 key books about gangland and gangsters, for ease of reference I have grouped them into categories:

American crime, and particularly organised crime immediately brings the mob to mind and unsurprisingly most of the books in this section are indeed to do with the Mafia with a token nod towards other types of modern gangland in David Simon's *Homicide*.

Old school British gangland calls to mind a swinging salubrious sixties *Get Carter* world of

the Kray twins, old style armed blaggers, and the Richardson gang. There's a strong London focus in this genre so I've included an example from elsewhere as gangland has always stretched far beyond the smoke.

Modern gangland seems to be much less about stick ups and more about drug busts with a small publishing and film making industry having grown up around the 1995 Rettendon 'Range Rover' murders, while across the water in Ireland exactly the same pressures on winning and defending drug dealing turf seems to drive amazing levels of violence.

Biker crime, or at least the view that outlaw bikers are some kind of new international mafia is obviously, given the sort of fiction I write, of particular interest, and so I cover a couple of books here, and there are many

more discussed in the companion volume.

Australian gangland seems to be creating a written culture all of its own, if only based on the remarkable output of Chopper Read.

And the **Rest of the World** isn't just a catch all category, capturing as it does books about the origins and present state of organised crime in Italy (the Mafia and Camorra), and a look at the world of the Columbian cocaine cartels.

Obviously this is not a comprehensive guide to all the books out there on the subject, but I hope it provides a reasonable guide to a fair range of the most readable by way of a starting point. Where possible I have included links to Amazon (.com and .co.uk) in case you are interested in buying any of the featured books and/or the films and TV series they have inspired.

Iain Parke 2015

The Books

American crime

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Casino | Nichol |
| 2 | Donnie Brasco | Joseph Wood |
| 3 | Gotti | Jerry C |
| 4 | Homicide | David |
| 5 | The Ice Man | Philip |
| 6 | The Outfit | Gus R |
| 7 | The Valachi Papers | Peter |
| 8 | Wiseguy | Nichol |

Old school British gangland

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 9 | I Am Not A Gangster | Bobby |
| 10 | The Last Gangster | Charli
Franki |

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------|
| 11 | Mad Frank | Mortc |
| 12 | Profession of Violence | john F |
| 13 | Viv Graham | Steph |

Modern gangland

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------|
| 14 | Essex Boys | Berna |
| 15 | Gangland | Tony T |
| | The General Godfather of | |
| 16 | Crime | Paul V |
| 17 | Murder Inc | Paul V |
| 18 | Rise of the Footsoldier | Carlto |

Biker crime

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------|
| 19 | Angels of Death | Willia |
| 20 | Outlaw | Tony T |

Australian gangland

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 21 | Chopper | Mark |
| 22 | Leadbelly | Andre |

Rest of the world

23	Cosa Nostra	John L
24	Gomorra	Robert
25	Killing Pablo	Mark

Casino

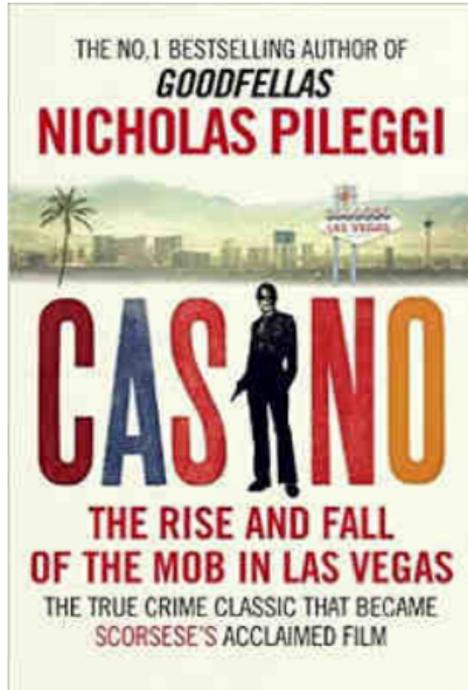
The Rise And fall Of The Mob In Las Vegas

Nicolas Pileggi

The Book

Martin Scorsese

The Film



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1VJrcz>

Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1KpnPp2>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1/>

Amazon description

The Stardust... The Fremont... The Marina.

They ran them all. And they lost.

Big time.

No one knew more about casinos than Frank 'Lefty' Rosenthal, the gambling mastermind who, along with his best friend and partner, Anthony 'the Ant' Spilotro, virtually ran Las Vegas for the mob. For years it was the perfect arrangement – Lefty provided the smarts, while Tony kept the bosses happy with weekly suitcases filled with millions in skimmed cash. It should have lasted for ever but Lefty's obsessions with running the town – and Tony's obsession with Lefty's beautiful showgirl wife, Geri – eventually led to

betrayals and investigations that exploded into one of the greatest scandals in mob history.

Casino is the shattering inside account of how the mob finally lost its stranglehold on Las Vegas, the neon money-making machine it had created.

Commentary

A book that starts with a bomb and is a rollicking ride from then on in.

It's easy to see why Pileggi's books have been adapted into two of the greatest US gangster films as they're a combination of nitty gritty detail and masterful storytelling.

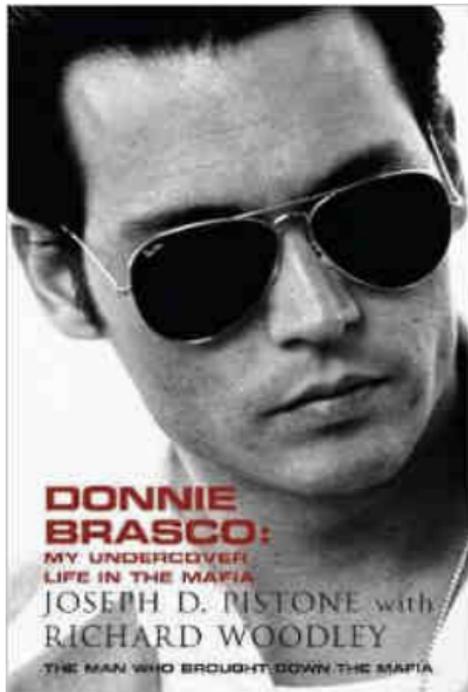
If you've seen the film you'll want to read the book.

Donnie Brasco

My Undercover Life In The Mafia

**Joseph D Pistone
with Richard
Woodley
The Book**

**Mike New
The Film**



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1MrVp2e>

Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1JkyLtr>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon description

In 1978, the US government waged a war against organised crime. One man

was left behind the lines. From 1976 until 1981, Special Agent Pistone lived undercover with the Mafia. Only able to visit his young family once every few months, Pistone – under the alias Donnie Brasco – ate, drank, partied, worked and sometimes killed with the wiseguys. He got so close that his Mafia partner, Lefty Ruggiero, asked him to officiate as best man at his wedding.

Pistone's eventual testimony, in such spectacular prosecutions as 'the Pizza Connection' and 'the Mafia Commission' resulted in more than 200 indictments and 100 convictions of members of organised crime.

Commentary

Fuggeddaboutit.

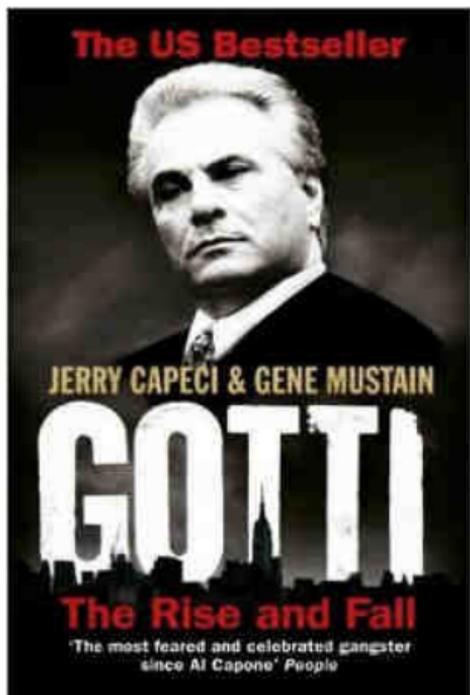
The detailed personal story behind the film.

There is a subsequent book *Unfinished Business* that looks to fill in some of the gaps left in the original due to the need not to prejudice ongoing prosecutions (as well as a fair bit of name dropping and discussion of what it's like to have Jonny Depp play you in a film).

Gotti

The rise And fall

Jerry Capeci and Gene Mustain



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1MrVra9>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Kpo0k8>

Amazon description

John Gotti: Gangster, killer, celebrity.

From the tough streets of Queens to the heights of the American Mafia, John Gotti thought he was invincible. Ruthless, brutal and always immaculately dressed, he was known as the Teflon Don, because no charge the Feds brought against him would stick.

Told by organised crime reporters and bestselling authors Jerry Capeci and Gene Mustain using inside sources on both sides of the law, this is the definitive account of how New York's

last great Godfather was finally brought to justice.

Commentary

A comprehensive and readable book, doing exactly what it says on the cover in telling the story of Gotti's career, based on a wide range of sources and including elements of dialogue sourced from police surveillance.

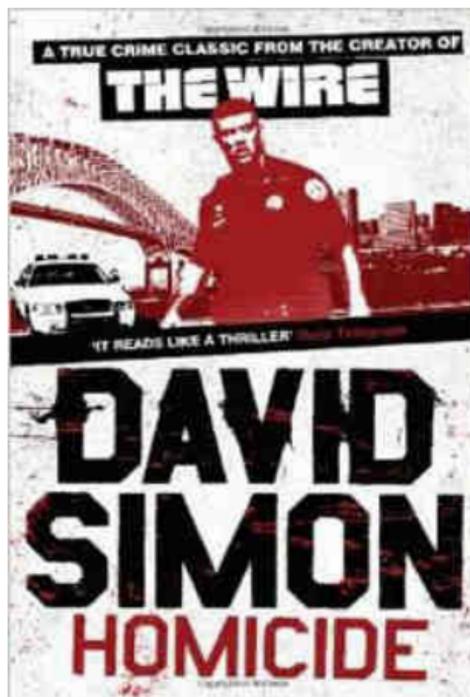
It's particularly interesting both for the account of his early days as he was making his way as a relatively junior member of the family, and for its insights into his psychology, self-belief and manipulative charisma.

Homicide

A Year On The Killing
Streets

David Simon

The Book



Homicide

Life On The Streets

The TV Series



Amazon.com:

Amazon.com

<http://amzn.to/1EvTdjl>

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon.co.uk:

Amazon.co.uk

<http://amzn.to/1KpnXVq>

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon description

The scene is Baltimore. Twice every three days another citizen is shot, stabbed, or bludgeoned to death. At the centre of this hurricane of crime is the city's homicide unit, a small brotherhood of men confronted by the darkest of American visions.

David Simon was the first reporter ever to gain unlimited access to a homicide unit, and his remarkable

book is both a compelling account of casework and an investigation into our culture of violence. The narrative follows Donald Worden, a veteran investigator nearing the end of his career; Harry Edgerton, an iconoclastic black detective in a mostly white unit; and Tom Pellegrini, an earnest rookie who takes on the year's most difficult case, the brutal rape and murder of an eleven-year-old girl.

Commentary

A real tome of a book but David Simon knows how to write and creates a fascinating portrait of a crime infested section of Baltimore from the point of view of the

detectives trying to deal with its horrific murder rate.

Has to be included for the quality of its writing, for the insight it provides on American inner city blight, as an alternative to the mafia focus of much of the rest of the books in this section and last but not least for the two stunningly successful TV shows that it gave rise to.

The Ice Man / The Icer

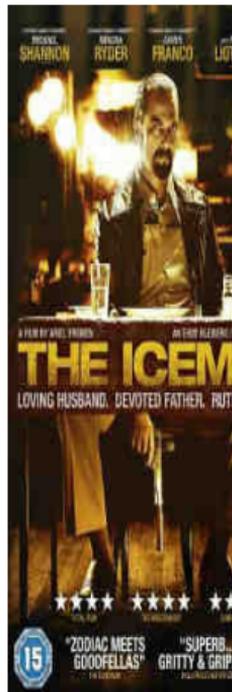
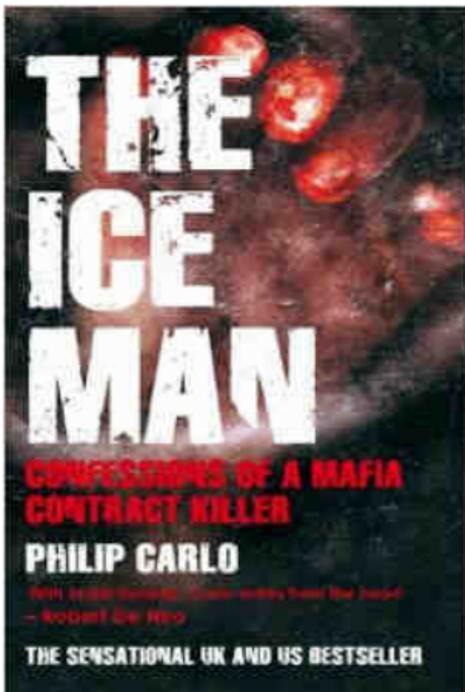
Confessions Of A Mafia Contract Killer

Philip Carlo

Ariel Vror

The Book

The Film



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1EvTgMo>

Amazon.co

<http://amzn.to/>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1Ww2vHy>

Amazon.co

<http://amzn.to/>

Amazon description

Top Mafia hit man. Doting father. For 30 years, Richard 'the Ice Man' Kuklinski led a double life beyond anything ever seen on *The Sopranos*, becoming one of the most notorious professional assassins in American history while hosting neighbourhood barbecues in suburban New Jersey.

Kuklinski was Sammy 'the Bull' Gravano's partner in the killing of Paul Castellano, John Gotti hired him to kill

his neighbour and he was also intimately involved in the killing of Jimmy Hoffa. He conducted this sadistic business with cold-hearted intensity, never disappointing his customers. For an additional price, he would make his victims suffer. By his own estimate, he killed over 200 men, taking enormous pride in his cunning and the ferocity of his technique.

The Ice Man is a blood-chilling insight into the mind of one of the world's most prolific contract killers.

Commentary

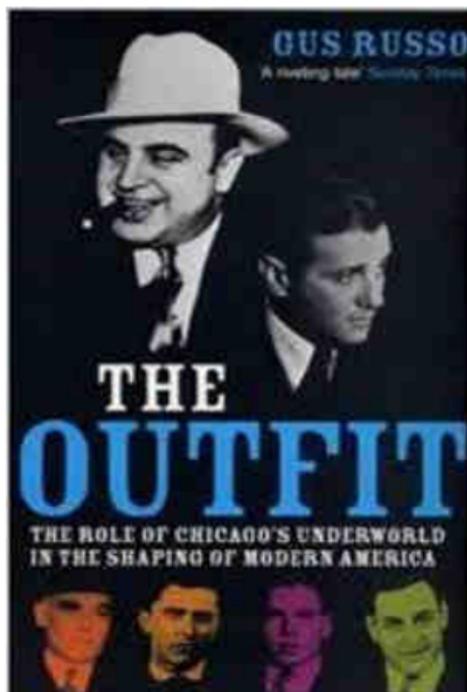
Simply chilling from its horrific opening onwards. Has images that

you will struggle to get out of your head.

The Outfit

The role of Chicago's underworld in
the shaping of modern America

Gus Russo



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1MrVL8V>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Kpoabm>

Amazon description

Perhaps the most compelling gangster tale is one that has been, until now, surprisingly well hidden.

This is the story of the Outfit: the secret organised crime cartel that began its reign in prohibition era Chicago before becoming the puppet master of Hollywood, Las Vegas and Washington DC. Moving with purpose and panache, the Outfit blended effortlessly with underworld corporate heads, Hollywood moguls, and national political icons. It was only after a fifty-year run that their

world started to crumble in the 1970s. With extensive research including recently released FBI files, original interviews with Outfit associates and members of the Fourth Estate (who pursued the Outfit for over forty years) and first ever access to the journals of Humphreys' long-in-hiding widow, veteran investigative journalist Gus Russo uncovers sixty years of corruption and influence.

Commentary

Fascinating, informative, and tells you who was known as 'Joe the plumber'.

Sheds an interesting light on American organised crime in that despite the

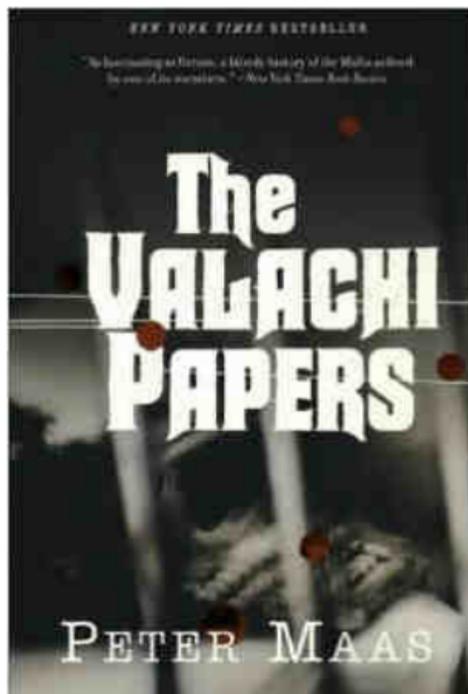
influence of Al Capone, the Chicago mob wasn't a strictly Italian ethnically based mafia but were to a degree 'equal opportunity' gangsters.

It also makes for very interesting reading for anyone with a passing interest in American politics and the strong links between the worlds of organised crime and the sort of machine politics that can determine who ends up sitting in the White House...

The Valachi Papers

Peter Maas

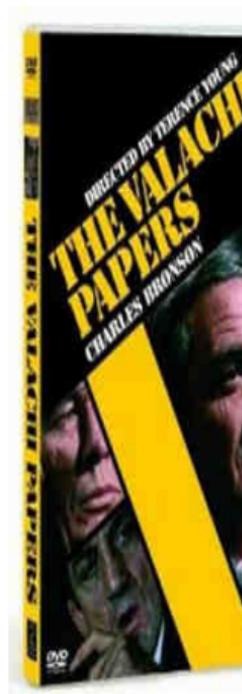
The Book



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1MrVQcB>

The Film



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1Ww2Fyl>

Amazon.co

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon description

The first Inside account of the Mafia.

In the 1960s a disgruntled soldier in New York's Genovese Crime Family decided to spill his guts. His name was Joseph Valachi. Daring to break the Mob's code of silence for the first time, Valachi detailed the organization of organized crime from the capos, or bosses, of every Family, to the hit men who 'clipped' rivals and turncoats. With a phenomenal memory for names, dates, addresses, phone numbers – and where the bodies were buried – Joe Valachi

provided the chilling facts that led to the arrest and conviction of America's major crime figures.

The rest is history.

Never again would the Mob be protected by secrecy. For the Mafia, Valachi's name would become synonymous with betrayal. But his stunning exposé broke the back of America's Cosa Nostra and stands today as the classic about America's Mob, a fascinating tale of power and terror, big money, crime... and murder.

Commentary

Along with *Wiseguy* (below), this

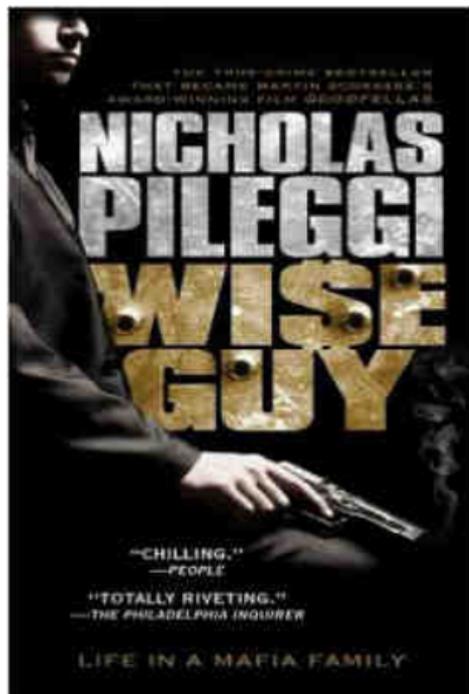
biography of one of the first mafia members to testify in the US is an essential read for anyone interested in an insider's guide to life in the mob and I see parts of it reflected in scenes in the Godfather trilogy of films.

And speaking of films, I was somewhat surprised when pulling this guide together to find that a movie starring Charles Bronson was apparently made based on the book. I've not seen it but I've included a link above for anyone who's interested.

Wiseguy

Nicholas Pileggi

The Book



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1EvTpPU>

GoodFellas

Martin Scorsese

The Film



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1EvTpPU>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1KpnTVQ>

Amazon.co.i

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon description

Nicholas Pileggi's vivid, unvarnished, journalistic chronicle of the life of Henry Hill – the working-class Brooklyn kid who knew from age twelve that 'to be a wiseguy was to own the world,' who grew up to live the highs and lows of the gangster's life – has been hailed as 'the best book ever written on organized crime' (Cosmopolitan).

This is the true-crime bestseller that was the basis for Martin Scorsese's film masterpiece GoodFellas, which brought to life the violence, the

excess, the families, the wives and girlfriends, the drugs, the payoffs, the paybacks, the jail time, and the Feds... with Henry Hill's crackling narration drawn straight out of *Wiseguy* and overseeing all the unforgettable action.

Read it and experience the secret life inside the mob – from one who's lived it.

Commentary

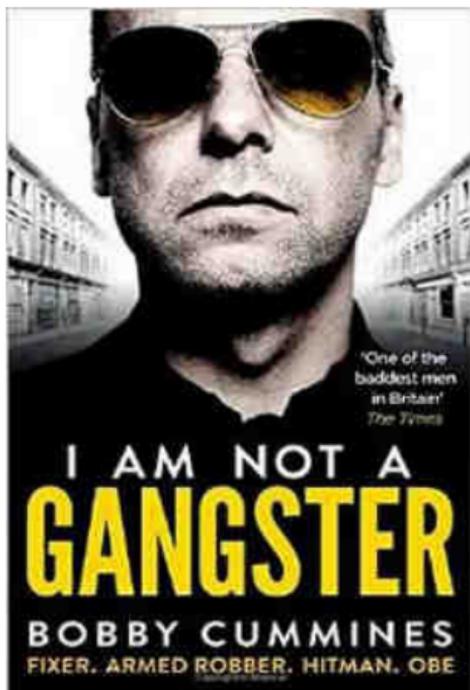
What can I say?

One of the classic books about American organised crime that inspired one of the classic gangster films.

A must read for anyone interested in the subject.

I Am Not A Gangster

Bobby Cummings



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1IVKmtj>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Ww2LpX>

Amazon description

‘I am not a gangster’, I spat. ‘I’m a businessman trying to make a hard-earned crust. Understood?’

I didn’t give him time to reply. I took the barrel out of his mouth and smashed him in the face with the butt. His lip split, but he wasn’t a dead man. He seemed to appreciate that his life had been spared.

He spluttered his thanks: ‘OK, you’re not a gangster. You are not a gangster.’

This is the gripping true story of how one man ruled his north London manor with an iron fist – and a sawn-off shotgun called Kennedy. It’s a

shocking insight into a society where the rules are made by gangland leaders and if anybody dare break them, they have to deal with the consequences.

I Am Not A Gangster is an explosive account of life in the criminal underworld by one of Britain's most dangerous men, but above all it's a remarkable tale of redemption with the biggest turnaround in gangland history.

Commentary

The story of a hardened criminal (who for example met the Krays aged 16 while he was on trial for armed

robbery), who has subsequently gone straight and is now active in prison reform.

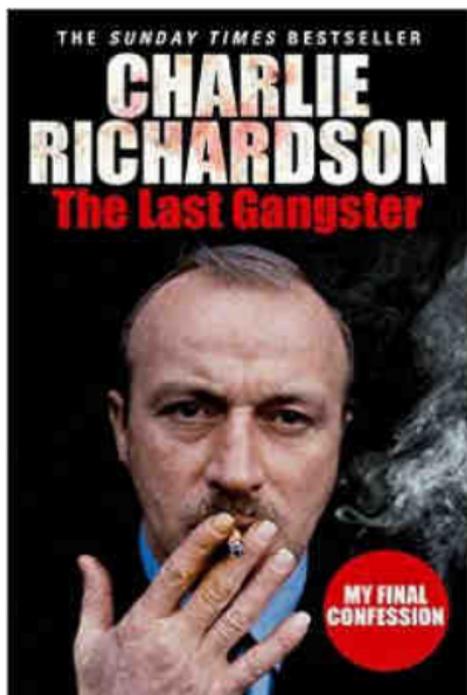
Unflinching in his description of his early career the book does raise interesting questions about the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders, the description of his experiences in first getting a job after release are fascinating and the book is worth reading for this alone.

For me however the tone did get a bit self righteous at times which did become somewhat wearing.

The Last Gangster

My Final Confession

Charlie Richardson



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1EvTwem>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Kpodnj>

Amazon description

Charlie Richardson, one of Britain's most notorious gangland bosses, sheds light on his extraordinary life story completed just weeks before his death in September 2012.

Notorious Charlie Richardson was the most feared gangster in 1960s London. Boss of the Richardson Gang and rival of the Krays, to cross him would result in brutal repercussions. Famously arrested on the day England won the World Cup in 1966, his trial heard he allegedly used iron bars, bolt cutters and electric shocks on his enemies.

The *Last Gangster* is Richardson's frank account of his largely untold life story, finished just before his death in September 2012. He shares the truth behind the rumours and tells of his feuds with the Krays for supremacy, undercover missions involving politicians, many lost years banged up in prison; and reveals shocking secrets about royalty, phone hacking, bent coppers and the infamous black box.

Straight up, shocking and downright gripping, this is the ultimate exposé on this legendary gangster and his extraordinary life.

Commentary

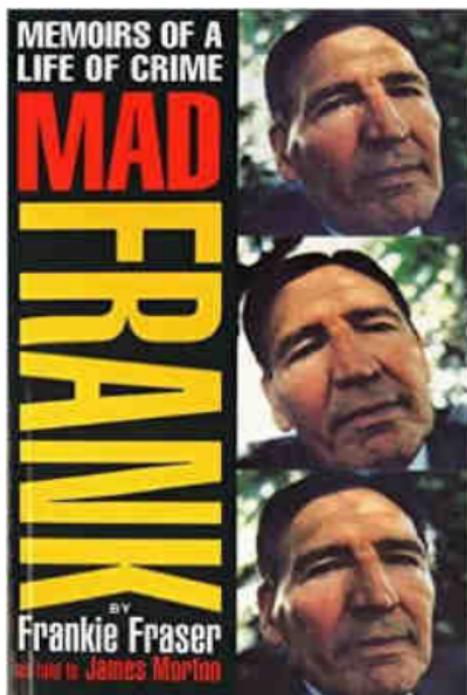
An engaging 'first person' account from Charlie Richardson's view point. In common with some other books (like Cummings above) Richardson spends quite a bit of time explaining why he's a businessman and not a gangster.

Interestingly, in his book, Cummings discusses Richardson, describing him as being intelligent and praising his level of 'vision' in his business planning and acumen.

Mad Frank

Memoirs of a life of crime

Frankie Fraser and James Morton



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1IVKucg>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Jkz6wn>

Amazon description

Mad Frank is Frankie Fraser's own extraordinary story – the truth about the legendary villain who for fifty years was a key figure in Britain's underworld. A peer of the Krays and the Richardsons, arguably as influential and certainly as dangerous, Fraser has served over forty years in prisons and mental institutions for his various crimes.

Mad Frank – A man who has been at the cutting edge of crime in this country, and who took the time to sharpen it while he was there.

Commentary

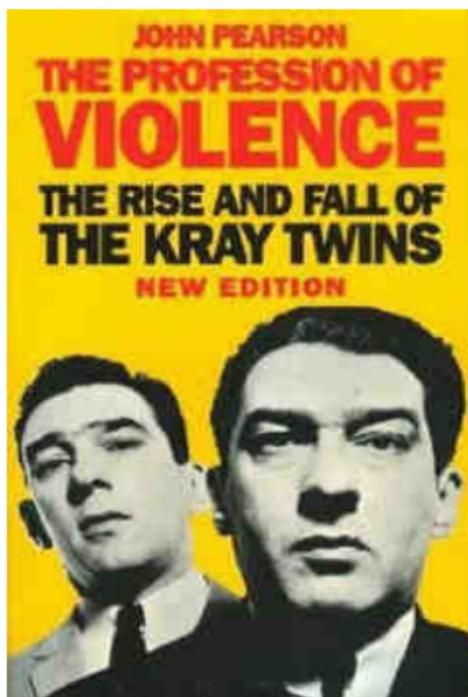
Probably one for either completists looking for another viewpoint having read say *Profession of Violence*, of which more below, or anyone wanting an inside view of the British prison system, a subject on which Frank Fraser has forty years' experience.

A subject of mixed reviews, the book is episodic with some readers complaining that it jumps about, and that apart from the prison material, much of the gangland crime story has been covered elsewhere.

The Profession Of Violence

The rise and fall of the Kray twins

John Pearson



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1EvTyTo>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Kpoh6K>

Amazon description

Reggie and Ronald Kray ruled London's gangland during the 1960s with a ruthlessness and viciousness that shocks even now.

This book has been expanded to include further material on such matters as Lord Boothby's close relationship with the killer twins.

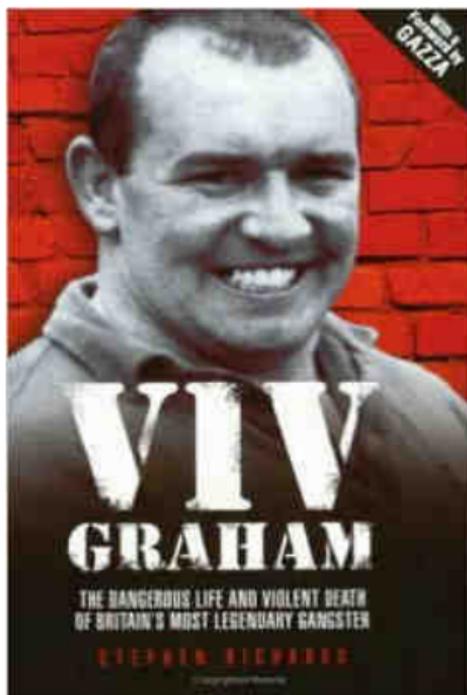
Commentary

One of the first true crime books I ever came across, this has to be one of the standard works about British crime and the gangland scene of the 1960s.

Impressive and readable.

Viv Graham

Stephen Richards



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1IVKBEO>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1KpokiU>

Amazon description

Viv Graham's name means many things to many people.

A legend in his own lifetime, he worked his way to the very top of the North East's criminal elite until his iron grip on its activities extended to the darkest corner of the underworld. The mere mention of his name would strike dread into the hearts of his enemies and all knew that, if Viv was after you, then hell was coming with him. His frightening capacity for extreme violence was never questioned, and his size and ability to fight enabled him to exert a huge influence on those around him – but he also had a reputation as a hard

man with a heart of gold who looked after those who looked after each other.

In this frank and astonishing book, Stephen Richards peels away the tissue of lies surrounding the life and death of Viv Graham and, using information from over 350 of Viv's closest friends, family associates, he finally tells the brutal and tragic stories of one of gangland's greatest heroes.

Commentary

Give the notoriety of the Kray twins and Richardson gangs, writing about the traditional British gangland scene

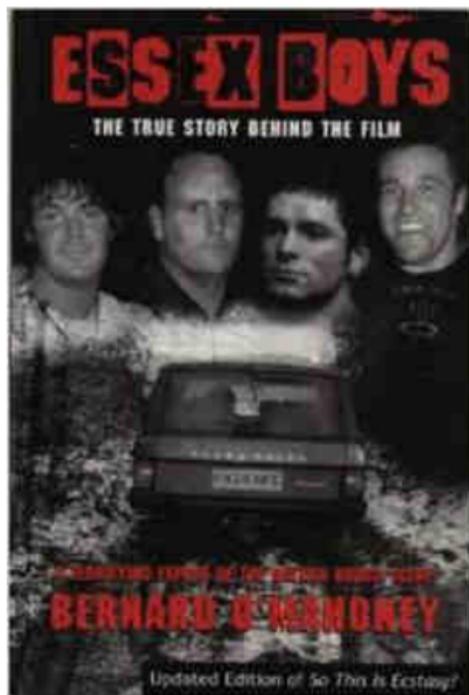
has always been heavily focused on London, so I thought it was important to include something to demonstrate the wider picture.

It's fair to say however that as shown in the Amazon reviews of his books, and indeed his own comments on Amazon about some of them, opinion is fairly sharply divided on Mr Richard's writing style and so this book comes with a substantial readability warning.

Essex Boys

Bernard O'Mahoney

The Book

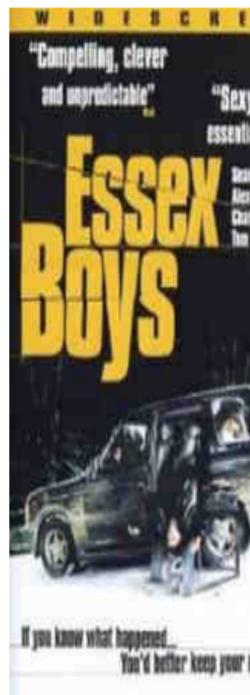


Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1MrWgjb>

Terry Win

The Film



Amazon.co

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1JkzjPW>

Amazon.co.

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon description

Essex Boys is the brand new edition of the shocking bestseller known as *So This Is Ecstasy?*

It is the true story of the rise of one of the most violent and successful criminal gangs of the 90s whose reign of terror was finally terminated when the three leaders were brutally murdered in their Range Rover one winter's evening.

On their way they had built the drug-dealing organisation that which supplied the pill that killed Leah Betts.

They were responsible for a wave of intimidation, beatings and murder. Until, it seems, they took one step too far.

Now there is compelling evidence that the men convicted of shooting the dead men are innocent. Which means the real murderers are still at large.

Bernard O'Mahoney was a key member of what has been one of the most feared gangs of the decade. His inside account of their cold-blooded violence reveals that facts can be more terrifying than fiction.

Commentary

The Rettendon murders have

prompted a range of books about the gang (for example see also Carlton Leach's *Rise of the Footsoldier*, discussed below, which has also been filmed), the convictions, and even subsequent developments in the local crime scene (Essex Boys The New Generation). Other films include the somewhat fictionalised film *Essex Boys* while the [*Fall Of The Essex Boys*](#) gives yet another viewpoint.

From a writer's viewpoint this is all very useful stuff as it gives a number of differing close perspectives on a real life gang, relationships and way of life.

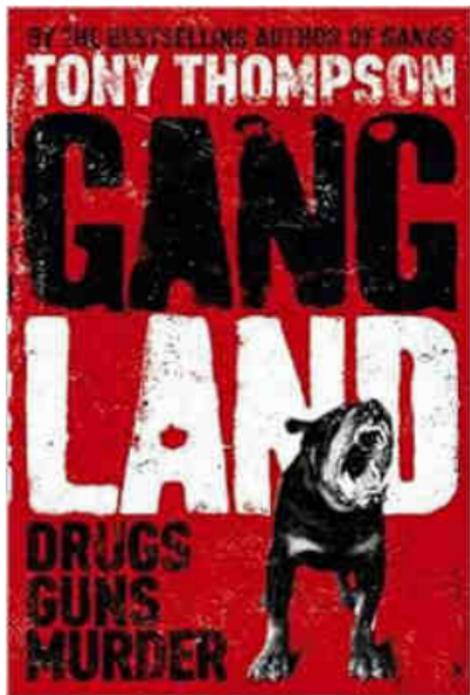
As a reader while O'Mahoney's book

is fascinating in some of its details such as reasons why you really don't want to hire your local hard men to collect in debts for you, as a read its style makes it a bit 'we did this then we did that' heavy going.

Gangland

Drugs Guns Murder

Tony Thompson



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1MrWhUr>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1KpowhZ>

Amazon description

The landscape of British organised crime has changed beyond all recognition over the last five years. Youth violence, the drug trade and rising levels of gun crime are rarely out of the news. The country also continues to experience an influx of powerful foreign criminal syndicates who are establishing operations here in order to take advantage of Britain's global connections.

Beginning on the troubled streets of the inner cities, *Gangland* takes its readers on a journey up through the underworld hierarchy until it finally reaches the very highest levels,

occupied by elusive and shadowy Mr Big characters.

Written using a mix of personal experiences, undercover work, primary research and cutting edge investigation, this fully updated paperback edition of *Gangland* sheds new light onto this highly secretive, often terrifying and utterly fascinating world.

Commentary

Experienced, and obviously well connected, crime journalist Tony Thompson has written a number of books on the modern British crime and gangland scene so it's a bit

difficult in some ways to select one in particular.

Gangland is a highly readable and recommended tour around modern British gangland illustrating the range of gangs operating in the UK today and the criminal activities they are involved with.

One common theme that comes across strongly to me is the way successful gangs need to be able to rely on members not to cooperate with outsiders, which might go some way to explaining the number of those which have a basis in particular concentrations of a range of ethnic groups.

The Gen

Godfather c

Paul Will



Amazon.com: <http://a>

Amazon description

The extraordinary life and crimes of Martin Cahill, gangster, criminal mastermind, most wanted man.

In a twenty-year career marked by obsessive secrecy, brutality and meticulous planning, Cahill netted over £40 million. He was untouchable – until a bullet from an IRA hitman ended it all.

The General tells the inside story of:

The Beit robbery – one of the world's biggest art heists

The attempted assassination of a top

forensic scientist

The O'Connor Jewellers robbery,
netting £3m

The tyre-slashing and intimidation

The crucifixion of a suspected grass

The millions still missing.

The book reveals Cahill's bizarre personality and the activities of the Tango Squad, the special police unit which targeted him with tactics used on the infamous Kray Gang.

Commentary

Martin Cahill, universally known as The General, could be described as the founding figure of modern

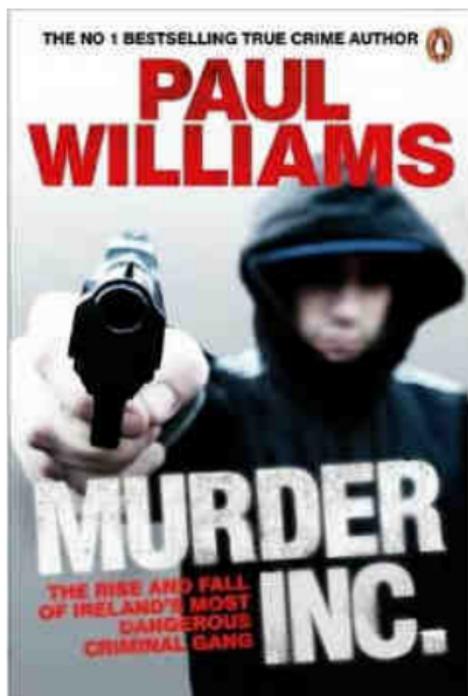
organised crime in Ireland. This book tells the extraordinary story of a man who actively sought to play cat and mouse with the authorities throughout his career, whilst also, fatally as it turned out, making paramilitary enemies.

As with Tony Thompson in the UK, Paul Williams is a crime journalist by trade and this shows in the way he can write a gripping story that reads more like a thriller at times than most thrillers.

Murder Inc

The rise and fall of Ireland's most dangerous criminal gang

Paul Williams



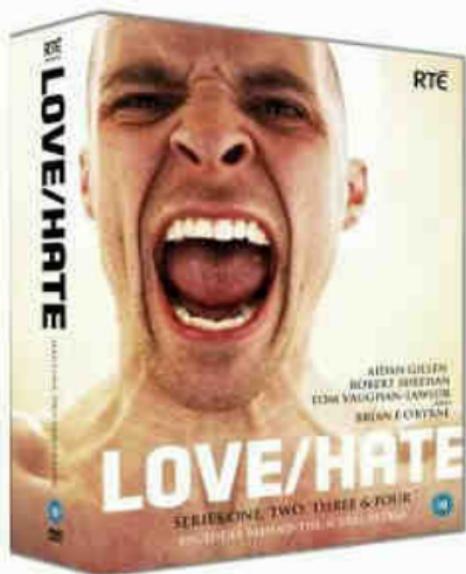
Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1EvTH9k>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1Kpoy9B>

Amazon description

Murder Inc is the latest blockbuster by Ireland's most respected crime writer and journalist, Paul Williams. *Murder Inc* is the definitive account of how organized crime exploded in Limerick from the 1990s and in the noughties. It describes the depravity and decadence of the gangs, their deadly rivalries, and their reigns of terror over the community in which they lived. Finally, Williams traces the fault lines that eventually led to the implosion of the gangs and their defeat.

Drawing on his vast inside knowledge of the criminal underworld, an unparalleled range of contacts and eye witness interviews, Paul Williams provides a chilling insight into the mobsters and events that corroded entire neighbourhoods and devastated countless lives.



Commentary

The astonishing story of an astonishingly brutal gang war in Ireland and how the

actions of a savage bunch of thugs ran out of control destroying entire communities around them for so long.

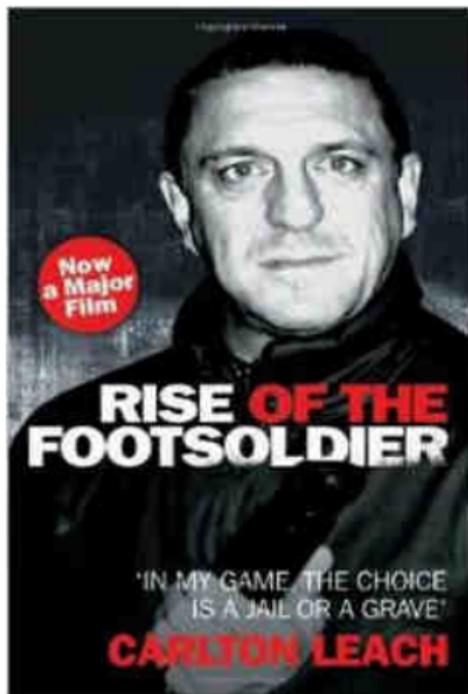
Although there is as far as I know no connection between the two, I can't let a discussion of modern Irish gangland go without referring you to [Love/Hate](#), the outstanding RTE gangster series set in Dublin.

Absolutely essential modern crime viewing.

Rise of the Footsoldier

Carlton Leach

The Book



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1MrWtml>

Julian Gilk

The Film



Amazon.co

<http://amzn.to/>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1Kpot61>

Amazon.co.

<http://amzn.to/1>

Amazon description

‘The first thing that caught my eye was the geezer with the gold tooth – the second was that he was holding a shooter – and the third that he was pointing it at me.’

Carlton Leach is a gangland legend – the mere mention of his name strikes fear into his enemies; yet to his friends he is as loyal and caring as they come. If trouble comes calling, Carlton isn't afraid to let his fists do the talking and woe betide anyone who crosses him, or those close to him. At last, in *Rise of the Footsoldier*,

Carlton gives the full account of his life including how his story has been made into a hugely successful film. Born and raised in East London, Carlton was a key member of the notorious Essex Boys gang and the West Ham InterCity Firm, one of the most violent hooligan gangs to trouble the football terraces during the eighties. He's been shot at, stabbed, glassed – he's even had an axe in his head. Yet the event that really brought turmoil into his life was the murder of his best friend in the infamous Range Rover murders. Carlton vowed that he would find those responsible and make them

pay.

There isn't much that Carlton hasn't seen or experienced in his life and his tales of violence, gang wars and close calls with death will have you on the edge of your seat. He knows how close he has come to dying and has therefore shut the door on a gangland life. He may have changed but, as he himself says, 'I'll always need to exercise the Carlton Leach brand of justice. It's in me.'

Commentary

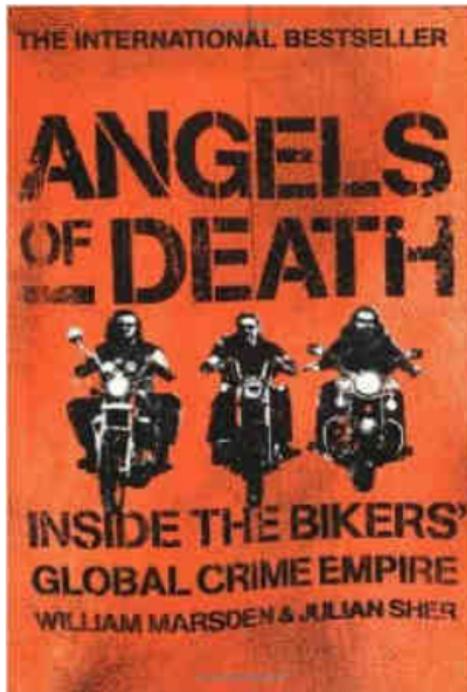
You get a fair idea of the book's style from the opening lines quoted on Amazon above and as a somewhat

intense steroid induced ride it has a wild energy in the writing that sweeps you along – so long as you can keep up the pace.

Angels of Death

Inside the bikers' global crime empire

William Marsden & Julian Sher



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1gDRmEg>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1VToCaJ>

Amazon description

The Hell's Angels leader, Sonny Barger, is toasted as an American legend, and the bikers work hard to promote their folk-hero image.

But the facts tell another story. The Hell's Angels are America's major crime export. Their membership has spread to 25 countries including the UK, Australia and Holland, where they have inspired a violent subculture of biker gangs who traffic drugs and suppress any attempt to stop them.

Angels of Death opens at the darkest moment of the Hell's Angels story, with the beheading of a woman at a

chapter meeting. It tells the true story of the bikers, their crime empire and the attempt of the police to stop them – with only a few successes.

With eyewitness accounts from police officers who have infiltrated the gangs and gang members who have turned informers, and undercover interviews with the bikers themselves, this is a chilling insight into the world's fastest growing crime empire.

Commentary

Marsden and Sher's agenda is pretty clear from the subtitle and this is one of the classics of the *outlaw-motorcycle-clubs-are-a-new-*

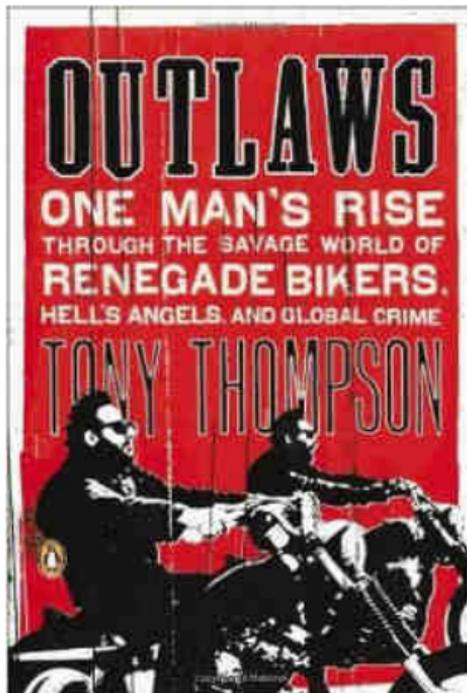
international-mafia school of writing.

This isn't a view I subscribe to personally, but for all the agenda this remains a well written and interesting book, providing a world tour of biker related crime and conflicts as it argues its case.

Outlaws

Inside the violent world of biker gangs

Tony Thompson



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1gDS4l8>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1MBJYVU>

Amazon description

An outlaw motorcycle club is a band of brothers like no other. Hidden away from mainstream society behind multiple layers of secrecy, mythology and a sophisticated campaign of misinformation that portrays them as nothing more than loveable rogues, the brutal truth about the biker world has long escaped public scrutiny.

In reality, today's outlaw bikers are at the epicentre of a violent underworld subculture, enforced by a ruthless code of silence, and control a global criminal empire worth millions.

Spanning the UK, Europe, America,

Canada and Australia, *Outlaws* is a compelling, shocking and chilling story of how bikers are born and made, and how and why they die.

Commentary

Tony Thompson is a highly respected journalist with a track record of successful books on the UK gangland and crime scene and his writing skills show here.

This book is the biography of ex-Outlaws MC member Daniel 'Snake Dog' Boone, but through it Thompson tells the wider story of the development of the UK outlaw biker scene since the eighties and how it

has been affected by international biker politics, up to and including the 2007 murder of Gerry Tobin.

Thoroughly recommended and essential reading for anyone interested in the club scene in England.

I'm just glad this wasn't published until 2011 as if it had come out before [Heavy Duty People](#) I don't think I'd have ever been able to write it.

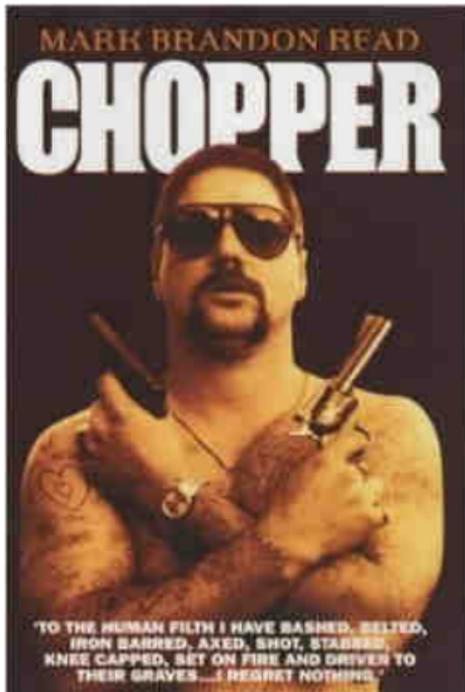
Chopper

Mark Brandon Read

Andrew Dorner

The Book

The Film



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1IVLbSU>



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1E>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1JkzLOA>

Amazon.co.uk

<http://amzn.to/1JkzLOA>

Amazon description

Bullied at school, and growing up dreaming of revenge, Mark 'Chopper' Read determined to be the toughest in any company. This autobiography tells how he became a crime commando who terrorized drug dealers, pimps, thieves and armed robbers on the streets and in jail – but he boasts never to have hurt an innocent member of the public. As a streetfighter, gunman and underworld executioner, he has been earmarked for death a hundred times but has lived to tell the tale.

Commentary

Having moved on due to circumstances beyond his control from a career 'kidnapping smartarse gangsters and taking their money', Mark Brandon Read has reinvented himself as a prolific and completely unapologetic author vividly describing his life story in *Chopper*.

An all to rare example of a non-journalist who can really write, Read has gone on to write a series of imaginatively entitled books such as *Chopper 2: How to Shoot Friends and Influence People*, *Chopper 3: Hell Hath No Fury Like a Mate Shot in the Arse*, and so on.

Shockingly violent, wildly humorous and, leaving the content to one side, very easy and entertaining reads.

Leadbelly

**The true inside story
of an underworld
war**

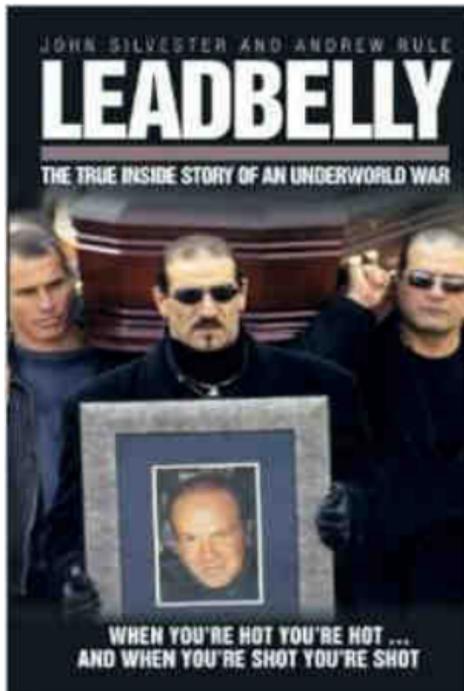
**Andrew Rule and
John Silvester**

The Book

Underbe

**The ten year
that shock
Australia**

**Peter Andrik
The TV Seri**

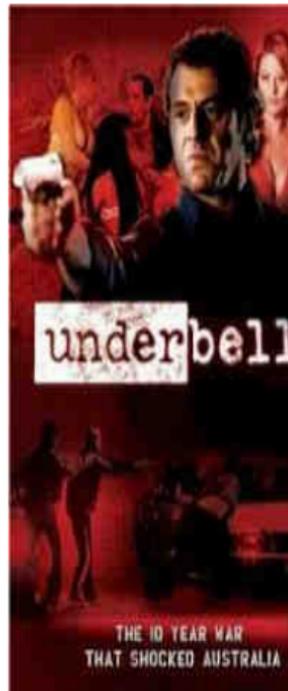


Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1IVLoWh>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1JkzM4F>



Amazon.com:

<http://amzn.to/1...>

Amazon.co.uk:

<http://amzn.to/1...>

Amazon description

John Moran and Carl Williams were the two biggest rival drug barons in

Australia. They certainly weren't partners, but they weren't sworn enemies. One day, they had a meeting to end a dispute over drug money. Thinking he could scare his rival into submission, Moran pulled the trigger on Carl but decided not to finish the job off. It turned out to be the biggest mistake of his life. Carl was hell bent on revenge. Within months, most of the Moran family and a host of underworld figures would die in an astonishing spate of revenge killings which shook the public and the police to the core.

Murder, greed, drugs, sex and corruption abound in a story that

reads like a piece of gangster fiction. But in *Underbelly*, the bullets and the blood are grippingly real. This is true crime of the highest order – the amazing story of a powerful man who did things his way and eventually orchestrated his own terrible downfall.

Commentary

The book that underlay the exceptional true crime drama of the first season of *Underbelly*.

The TV series was superb to watch in the way it laid out the day to day lives of the gangsters involved, their relationships, the way murder was

treated as a business decision with costs to be haggled over and the inexorable tit for tat spiral of violence.

Reviewers seem united that the way the book is structured makes it a frustrating read so if you've not come across this the advice is simply watch the TV series first.

Cosa Nostra

A history of the Sicilian mafia

John Dickie



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1IVLCwA>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1KpoLts>

Amazon description

Cosa Nostra is the compelling story of the Sicilian mafia, the world's most famous, most secretive and most misunderstood criminal fraternity.

The mafia has been given many names since it was founded one hundred and forty years ago: the Sect, the Brotherhood, the Honoured Society, and now *Cosa Nostra*. Yet as times have changed, the Mafia's subtle and bloody methods have remained the same. Now, for the first time, *Cosa Nostra* reconstructs the complete history of the Sicilian mafia from its origins to the present day, from the lemon groves and sulphur

mines of Sicily, to the streets of Manhattan.

Cosa Nostra is a definitive history, rich in atmosphere, and with the narrative pace of the best detective fiction, and has been updated to make it the most vital contemporary account of the Mafia ever published.

The mob genre has finally grown up.

Commentary

A bit of a worthy history that does exactly what it says in the subtitle in presenting a history of the Sicilian mafia.

Quite readable if you enjoy that style.

Gomorra

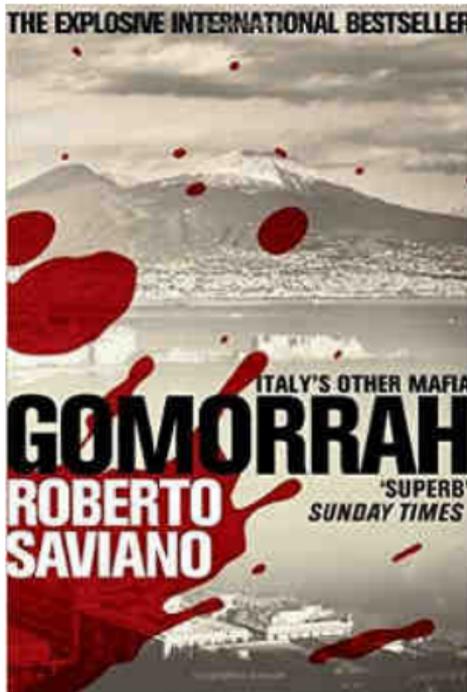
Italy's other n

Roberto Saviano

Matteo Garrone

The Book

The Film



Amazon.com:

Amazon.com

<http://amzn.to/1J9wefr>

<http://amzn.to/1J9wefr>

Amazon.co.uk:

Amazon.co.uk

<http://amzn.to/1JkzSJH>

<http://amzn.to/1K1K1K1>

Amazon description

Published to coincide with the eponymous blockbuster film, Roberto Saviano's groundbreaking and utterly compelling book is a major international bestseller and has to date sold 750,000 copies in Italy alone. Since publishing his searing expose of their criminal activities, the author has received so many death threats from the Camorra that he has been assigned police protection.

Known by insiders as 'the System', the Camorra, an organized crime network with a global reach and large stakes in construction, high fashion, illicit drugs and toxic-waste disposal, exerts a malign grip on cities and villages along the Neapolitan coast is the deciding factor in why Campania has the highest murder rate in all of Europe and why cancer levels there have skyrocketed in recent years.

In pursuit of his subject, Saviano worked as an assistant at a Chinese textile manufacturer and on a construction site, both controlled by the System, and as a waiter at a Camorra wedding. Born in Naples, he

recalls seeing his first murder at the age of fourteen, and how his own father, a doctor, suffered a brutal beating for trying to help an eighteen-year-old victim, left for dead in the street.

Gomorra is both a bold and engrossing piece of investigative writing and one heroic young man's impassioned story of a place under the rule of a murderous organization.

Commentary

In contrast to Cosa Nostra's slightly academic and distanced approach this is a lot more intensive and personal read, densely told, almost

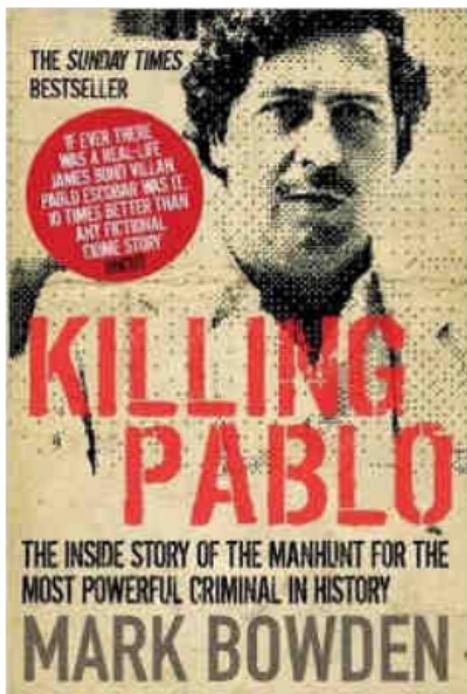
overwhelmingly so at times.

Good at giving a gritty and somewhat squalid insight into a gangster dominated world.

Killing Pablo

The hunt for the richest, most powerful criminal in history

Mark Bowden



Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/1J9wvic>

Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/1JkzXNn>

Amazon description

The bestselling blockbusting story of how American Special Forces hunted down and assassinated the head of the world's biggest cocaine cartel.

Killing Pablo charts the rise and spectacular fall of the Columbian drug lord, Pablo Escobar, the richest and most powerful criminal in history. The book exposes the massive illegal operation by covert US Special Forces and intelligence services to hunt down and assassinate Escobar.

Killing Pablo combines the heart-stopping energy of a Tom Clancy

techno-thriller and the stunning detail of award-winning investigative journalism. It is the most dramatic and detailed account ever published of America's dirtiest clandestine war.

Commentary

The story of the rise and fall of El Doctor is told in the context of Columbia's history of brutal lawlessness and culture of casual and extreme violence.

If many of the books covered so far tell the story of people at the bottom of the gangland pyramid, there's no doubt that Pablo Escobar was unquestionably one of those at the

top; and this book illustrates that for all the talk of 'untouchables', if you are a big enough target then in the end there may be little security when they come for you.

Iain Parke

I import industrial quantities of Class A drugs, kill people and lie (a lot) for a living, being a British based crime fiction writer.

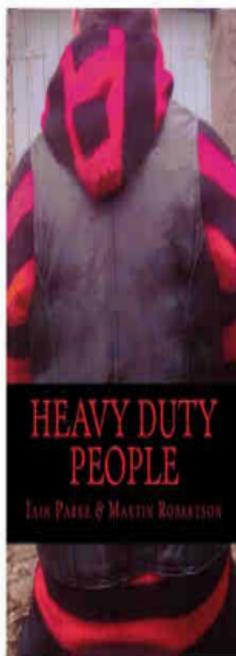
Armed with a MBA degree, I worked in insolvency and business restructuring in the UK and Africa (which inspired my first novel [*The Liquidator*](#) a conspiracy thriller set in East Africa – whatever you do, don't take it on holiday as your safari reading!).

This was then followed by my series of gangland crime thrillers, starting with [*Heavy Duty People*](#) set amongst UK outlaw bikers and which is now in TV

development.

EXTRA BONUS!

GRAB A DISCOUNTED GANGLAND THRILLER



~~\$2.99?~~ No, \$0.99

As a thank you for downloading Your 25 Key Books About Gangland And Gangsters, read 'Gangland' set thriller *Heavy Duty People* today for the discounted price of \$0.99

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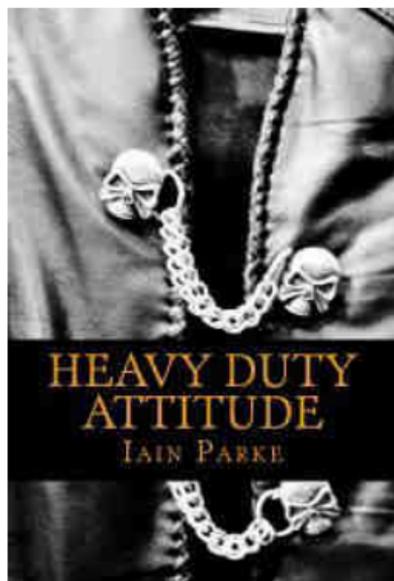
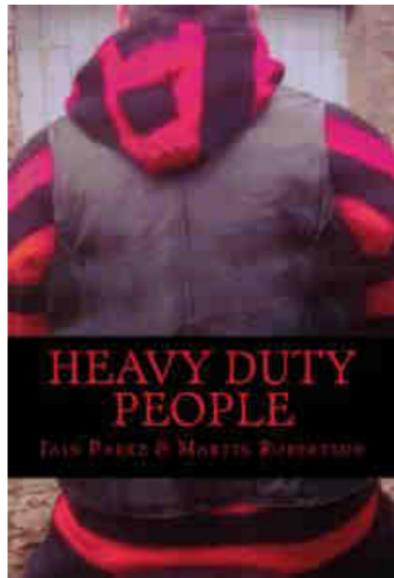
The next book in the series, *DILLIGAF*, is due out Autumn 2015.

Today I live off the grid, high up on the North Pennines in Northumberland with my wife, dogs, and a garage full of motorcycle restoration projects and I'm working on a number of book projects.

For my books, or to read sample chapters, please follow the links below:

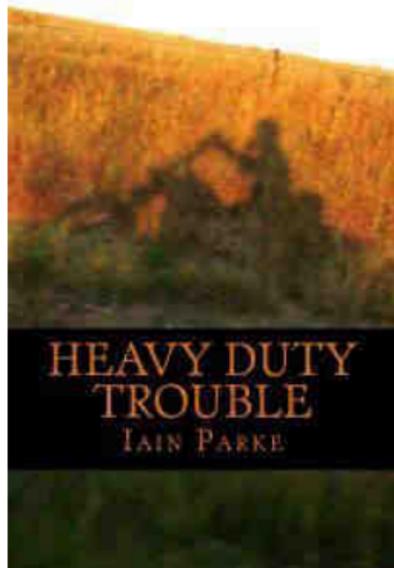
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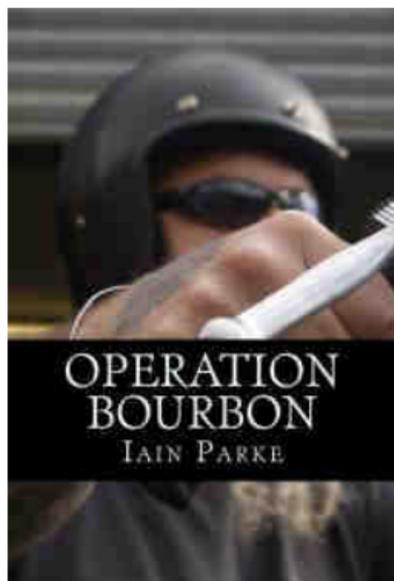
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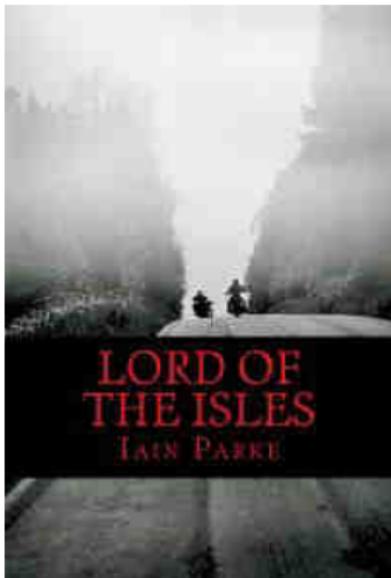
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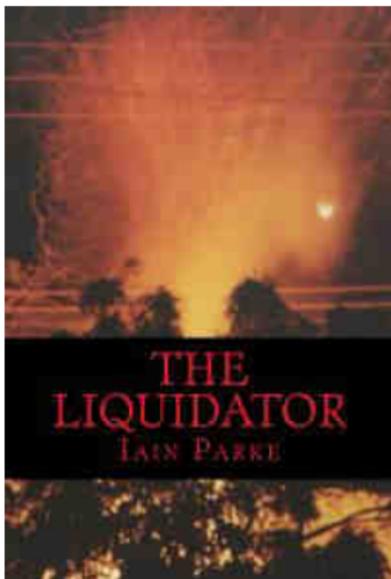
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The Ultimate Biker Anthology

An Introduction To Books About
Motorcycle Clubs And Outlaw Bikers

1%ER

Edited by
Edward Winterhalder & Iain Parke

Jointly with Edw

<https://www.smashwork>

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