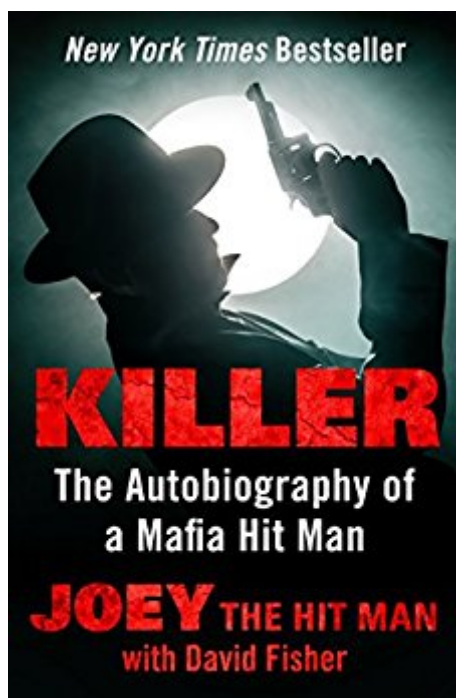


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Killer: The Autobiography Of A Mafia Hit Man



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller: This groundbreaking tell-all by a mob hit man is a chilling and compelling "a must-read" (Former FBI agent Joe Pistone, aka Donnie Brasco). The Bronx-born son of a Jewish bootlegger, "Joey the Hit Man" was introduced to crime when he was just eleven years old. For the next thirty years he was a numbers king, scalper, loan shark, enforcer, and drug smuggler. He hijacked trucks, fenced stolen goods, and trafficked in pornography. But Joey really made his name as a Mafia assassin, racking up thirty-eight cold-blooded hits "thirty-five for cash, three for revenge." In *Killer*, Joey tells the true story of life in organized crime. He exposes the reality of gang wars, discusses how he raised a family while living on the wrong side of the law, and documents the day-to-day business of crime "from making and breaking alliances to staying one step ahead of the cops. He reveals how he faced a grand jury seven times with no convictions ("never lie to your lawyer") and kept a seven-figure fortune out of reach of the IRS. He lays out in graphic detail the difference between getting paid to kill and doing it for personal reasons. "People think because they saw [The Godfather] they know everything there is to know about organized crime," Joey contends. In this no-holds-barred account, he reveals the brutal truth behind the Hollywood fantasy. Forty-five years after this true crime classic shocked readers all over the world and set the standard for bestselling Mafia biographies including Joseph Bonnano's *A Man of Honor* and Philip Carlo's *Ice Man*, the new edition of *Killer* includes an afterword by coauthor David Fisher that unmask's Joey's real identity "and the circumstances behind his death that add another layer of mystery to his complicated, colorful, and fascinating life."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A good read, IMO of an authentic mafioso. I read the paperback when it came out in the early 70s and "The Godfather" was the buzz, and "Joey" did a memorable review of that film and fictional mob family. I also liked Joey's hardcore honesty when it came to his personal thoughts on doing his job ("like a guy lays brick"). Intensely sociopathic, as you'd expect. The only thing I take exception to is in the book's description/teaser: "...includes an afterword by coauthor David Fisher that unmask's Joey's real identity..." is only true in a very general sense. No names are named, so "Joey Black" is still the only name we know him by.

Great read on the inner working of the schemes run by the organization in the old days. The guy has a good sense of humor and the whole thing reads very well. Definitely glad I bought a copy and read through the entire text.

This is an adequate book about the life of a member of the mob. It seems true and I have no real reason to disbelieve it's veracity, although a couple passages made me scratch my head (he uses a .38 revolver and a silencer? Not normally possible.) One thing to note is that the vast majority of this book is NOT about actual "hits" or killings, but about the daily operations of organized crime from approximately the 1940's through the 1970's. It covers the details of activities like loansharking, drug smuggling, underground gambling, fencing stolen goods, etc. Few actual murders committed by the (co)author are described and fewer are described in detail. Still, this is entertaining and informative enough to belong on the shelf of crime fiction writers or those interested in organized crime during the middle of the 20th century. Just don't expect a lot of blood and guts.

Written well, and it was not to put the book down. Would recommend to anyone.

Joey's books on the Mafia are required reading for learning the ways of the Mafia during their heyday. Joey's version of things doesn't always ring true -- he sugar-coats the damage done by the drug trade and the labor/extortion rackets -- but he is otherwise the authentic article. The new version of the book adds an interesting postscript to the story of Joey, but it also made odd omissions to the original, to include removing the chapter he wrote on women.

Not a great book. It was interesting in parts. I was interested in it because I was involved in the investigation and saw him taken away by the coroner.

I have no doubt this book is written by a true hitman for the mob. He seems to know the way it actually functions as opposed to the Hollywood version. He gives so many details and tips about various mob crime schemes from running numbers and fencing, to shylocking and bookmaking that you could start your own illegal business.

very satisfied with the contents of this book..the subject matter was covered to my satisfaction. everything you want to know about the mob, organizations and individual from that period was covered.

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