



The Rise and Fall of a 'Casino' Mobster: The Tony Spilotro Story Through A Hitman's Eyes

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The True Story Behind The Hit Film 'Casino' From An 'Enforcer' Who Lived It

Tony Spilotro was the Mob's man in Las Vegas. A feared enforcer, the bosses knew Tony would do whatever it took to protect their interests. The "Little Guy" built a criminal empire that was the envy of mobsters across the country, and his childhood pal, Frank Cullotta helped him do it. But Tony's quest for power and lack of self-control with women cost the Mob its control of Vegas; and Tony paid for it with his life.

"I was a little nervous before my first meeting with former mobster Frank Cullotta. It turned out we had a pleasant conversation that ended with an agreement for me to write his book. As I drove home, I realized I had made a deal with a career thief and killer on a handshake. What was I thinking?"--Dennis N. Griffin, author of SURVIVING THE MOB

The Rise and Fall of a 'Casino' Mobster: The Tony Spilotro Story Through A Hitman's Eyes Details

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From Reader Review The Rise and Fall of a 'Casino' Mobster: The Tony Spilotro Story Through A Hitman's Eyes for online ebook

P.e. lolo says

A book about Tony Spilotro, who was the enforcer for the mob in Vegas, and was one of the characters in the movie Casino. The author begins with how they met and then takes you through their childhood and the different crimes they committed together or that he heard about. Both of them growing up in Chicago and knowing the same people this is not so hard to believe. You begin to see the rise of Tony and slowly the author takes you through the different crimes that maybe you have read about or heard about, I had at least had heard of some of them. Then it was off to Vegas and not only was he to work with running, watching the outfit's take of the casinos they owned but also Lefty Rosenthal. Lefty had also grown up in Chicago and for Lefty he was always into betting and point spread. He would take that to Vegas and really Vegas was the down fall for both of them. One in Lefty's book he began to think he was bigger than everyone including the mob and so when he was denied a gambling license by Vegas he would not stay out of the casinos. It would become Tony's job among other's to make sure he would stay out but he could not do that because he could not keep his pants away from Lefty's wife, and now you have the one of the many beginnings of Tony's downfall. There are many others, money, drugs, unauthorized killings, and other things all of which bring notice to the wrong people. Not only was Tony killed, but also his brother. Lefty survived his car bomb because of the way his Cadillac was made. Not in the book was that about ten years ago also in a field Illinois a farmer found many graves with bones in them it was thought to have been the place where Tony and his crew would take the people for their death, and why he was beaten and buried the way he was. Overall not a bad book a good story if you want to know about the Chicago mob. I received this book from Netgalley.com I gave it 4 stars. Follow us at www.1rad-readerreviews.com

Carlos Martinez says

A great book about Frank and the vegas mob

As a film student, Scorsese's Casino had a big influence on me. I was recommended this book and I too would highly recommend it. It's an easy read, yet very detailed. To go more in depth into the story of Frank Cullotta, the mob and Casino (All the more intriguing since I live in Las Vegas), has been very delightful for me. Easily 5/5.

Kristine says

The Rise and Fall of a 'Casino' Mobster by Dennis Griffin & Frank Cullotta is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in late April.

Informed by several inside sources, Tony Spilotro was an enforcer for The Outfit, an organized crime syndicate where he held territory in Chicago, Arizona, and California, as well as siphoning money through fronts of Las Vegas jewelry stores. He gained notoriety and entry into the Outfit by acting out with punitive punishment on personal/Outfit affronts, orchestrating robberies (including several on his marital honeymoon), acting as a perpetrator or accomplice to multiple murder-homicides, a gambler with an entry in

the Black Book of Las Vegas, and, finally, being found dead of blunt force trauma to the head alongside his brother on the property of an Outfit-owned farm in 1986.

kate says

Gripping

Gripping story of what really happened, film is close to the book
But the book is more detail. Good book if you enjoy these books.

Tom mosedale says

Excellent

hands down the best and most informative book I have read about Tony spilotro, the accounts from his right hand man are brutal in some cases. Great read and I would recommend to anybody who loves reading about "the mob".

Denise Wallace says

A hitman's perspective--from living the "good life" or getting "whacked" to who killed Marilyn Monroe--all while history is being made.

Steven says

Tony Spilotro's life of crime with the Chicago outfit, and as their representative in Las Vegas as told by close associate Frank Culotta.

Mark says

A DIFFERENT VIEW OF "CASINO"

Most of us by now have seen the movie CASINO starring Robert DeNiro. We became acquainted with real life mob boss based on Tony Spilotro as portrayed by Joe Pesci. Brash, explosive and extremely violent, the picture painted there as told from the point of view of Frank Rosenthal, the man in charge of the casinos placed the by the mob. But there are always two sides to every story.

This book tells the tale from a much different perspective, that of mob member and hit man Frank Cullotta, a man who turned informant when a contract was put out on him. Cullotta gives us plenty of background into his life with organized crime, one that he really was on the fringes of rather than being made a permanent

made man.

Cullotta knew Spilotro, fought with him as a youngster before the pair became lifelong friends. At the same time his association with Tony brought him to the point where Spilotro actually put the contract out on him which resulted in his providing evidence that brought about Spilotro's demise, a brutal killing that is still talked about to this day.

As the book progresses we witness the rise of Tony Spilotro from a rank and file member of organized crime to a top earning member placed in charge of the growing investment known as Las Vegas. He was an ambitious player in the mix but his own personal vices brought him down. A major earner for himself and the organization back home, his greed and lust for power would do him in. Cullotta was there to witness it all and describes events from the start, middle and end.

Books like this can provide an interesting look into the mind of a professional criminal. At the same time we need to realize we're not talking about someone most of us would like to call bosom buddy. They're a dangerous group who would just as soon take your money as say hello. But revelatory books like this one and HIT #29 by "Joey" give us a look behind the scenes without the danger it would involve being there.

Perhaps the most surprising thing to learn in this book is that Spilotro and Rosenthal were not the close friends that were depicted in both the book and film CASINO. According to Cullotta Spilotro despised Rosenthal. While no proof or confirmation is given the odds are that he was even involved in the car explosion that almost killed Rosenthal. Even with that discussed here, Rosenthal actually is mentioned very little in the book.

Instead it focuses squarely on Spilotro. Cullotta presents the story in a conversational tone, relating incidents from their shared past, jobs he was given and sights he was witness to. He comments on murders that he was aware of and who was responsible for each. He discusses other members of organized crime and their relationship to Spilotro. But being his friend, it is more about Spilotro than anyone else.

The book is an easy read and interesting to those who enjoy reading about criminals and organized crime. While there is little doubt they haven't gone away, the attention they had brought on them in the sixties and the filmic versions of their lives in the seventies seem to be a thing of the past. As the first generation passes away or retires the new seem to have retreated back into working behind the scenes. While the chance of reading their exploits is nearly non-existent we can read about what it was like when they began. Cullotta's book is a nice introduction to this world

Brian Warren says

Amazing read.

I would decompress book to true mob story lovers. Very descriptive scenes, well written, and an extremely fast read. You feel like your are talking to him about it at a bar on the strip in Vegas.

Great book.

Amanda Forry-Fino says

10 stars!!! I been waiting for a book about Tony Spilotro for years now, and Frank Cullotta delivered this wonderful story that no one else can write a book like this but him!! If you want to get know the "REAL" Tony Spilotro then this is definitely the book. I highly recommend this amazing book! :)

Peter Eichstaedt says

When it comes to true crime, truth is stranger than fiction. This could not be more true than with this latest book by former mob hit man Frank Cullotta, writing with former police investigator turned crime writer, Dennis Griffin. The duo has written others in the same genre. This one is the real story behind the life and times of Tony Spilotro, whose story became the 1995 hit movie "Casino." Frank was a street lieutenant for Spilotro and did what hit men do with calculated ferocity. To read his insider accounts of the sinister underbelly of Las Vegas is all the more chilling because it's real. Not only is it hard to put down, it will be hard to forget.

Craig McGuire says

Highly addictive reading for fellow True Crime fans, "The Rise And Fall Of A 'Casino' Mobster" delivers an engaging depiction of one of the more interesting, and certainly psychotic gangsters in mob lore. Mining Frank Cullotta's remarkable recollections of his close personal relationship starting from childhood with Mafia legend Tony Spilotro, the authors provide a compelling narrative. There have been other works on this subject, but not with this level of intimate detail, offering a gritty first-hand, front-lines perspective of both the Chicago and Las Vegas underworlds. Not only does Cullotta know where the bodies are buried, but he shares what they did and how they got there, making for quite the harrowing ride for the reader. Well-paced and exceptionally detailed, with plenty of page-turning crimes and capers, I highly recommend this book.

Valerity (Val) says

My thanks to NetGalley and WildBlue Press for providing me with an ARC of this book for review purposes. This mob book by Frank Cullotta looks back on the life of Tony Spilotro, one of the major characters in the movie Casino who was formerly such a close friend and associate of his for so many years.

Having already written his own memoir and getting up in years, Frank decided he wanted to set the record straight in respect to Tony Spilotro, friend and feared enforcer. People are often curious and he was the closest to Tony for so many years. This book gives the story of their dealings in Chicago and in Las Vegas later when they worked together. All of the gory details of crimes, murders, rumors and myths. And where he feels things went all wrong. A very gripping read.
