

wiseguy life in a mafia family

Wiseguy Life in a Mafia Family: Inside the Shadows of Organized Crime

wiseguy life in a mafia family is often depicted in movies and novels as a thrilling mix of loyalty, danger, and power. But beyond the glitz and dramatization, the reality of being a wiseguy—an integral member of the mafia—is complex, layered with strict codes, hidden hierarchies, and an unyielding dedication to family. To truly understand what life entails for a wiseguy, one must look beyond stereotypes and explore the daily routines, responsibilities, and challenges that come with living in the shadows of organized crime.

Understanding the Role of a Wiseguy in the Mafia

When people talk about wiseguys in a mafia family, they're referring to made men—fully initiated members who have earned their place through loyalty, respect, and proving their worth. Becoming a wiseguy isn't simply about involvement in illegal activities; it's about embodying a code of conduct that governs every aspect of life within the family.

The Path to Becoming a Wiseguy

Joining the mafia family as a wiseguy is a long and careful process. Typically, one starts as an associate—someone who works with the family but isn't yet “made.” It can take years of service, trust-building, and sometimes acts of violence or loyalty before an associate is offered induction. This induction ceremony is secretive and symbolic, often involving oaths of silence (*omertà*) and commitment.

Responsibilities and Daily Life

Wiseguys are not just foot soldiers or muscle; they often act as intermediaries between the boss and the lower ranks. Their duties may range from collecting debts, managing illegal enterprises like gambling or loan sharking, to negotiating with rival families. The wiseguy's life is a balancing act between maintaining family operations and ensuring personal survival in a world where trust is scarce and betrayal is punished severely.

The Code of Conduct: Loyalty, Silence, and Respect

At the heart of wiseguy life in a mafia family is an unbreakable code. The concept of *omertà*—complete silence—is perhaps the most critical aspect. A wiseguy must never cooperate with law enforcement or betray the family, regardless of the consequences. This code ensures the survival of the organization and preserves its secrecy.

Loyalty Above All Else

Loyalty is not just expected; it's demanded. A wiseguy's allegiance lies first and foremost with the family and its boss. This loyalty extends beyond business dealings into personal sacrifices, sometimes even risking life and freedom. The mafia family operates like an extended family unit, where relationships and trust are currency.

Respect: The Currency of the Underworld

Respect forms the basis of every interaction within the mafia. Wiseguys earn respect through their actions—whether it's standing up in a meeting, handling a sensitive situation, or showing deference to higher-ranking members. Disrespect can lead to severe consequences, including violence or expulsion from the family.

Challenges and Risks in Wiseguy Life

While movies often glamorize the wiseguy lifestyle, the reality is fraught with danger and uncertainty. Wiseguys live with constant threats—from law enforcement surveillance to rival factions. The pressure to maintain secrecy and loyalty can take a heavy psychological toll.

Living Under Constant Scrutiny

One of the toughest aspects of wiseguy life is the need to constantly monitor one's surroundings. Wiretaps, undercover agents, and informants are always a looming threat. Wiseguys must be savvy, cautious, and sometimes paranoid to avoid detection or betrayal.

The Ever-Present Danger of Violence

Violence is a common tool for maintaining order within the mafia. Wiseguys might find themselves involved in intimidating rivals, enforcing debts, or even orchestrating hits. This violent element, while brutal, is often seen as necessary to protect the family's interests and maintain authority.

Economic Activities: The Business Side of a Wiseguy

Behind the scenes, wiseguys are often involved in a variety of profitable enterprises. These illegal businesses fund the family's operations and provide the financial rewards that come with mafia life.

Loan Sharking and Gambling Rings

One of the most classic mafia businesses is loan sharking—offering high-interest loans to people who can't get credit elsewhere. Wiseguys often act as enforcers, making sure debts are paid on time. Gambling operations, both legal and underground, also play a significant role, providing steady income streams.

Protection Rackets and Legitimate Fronts

Wiseguys may run protection rackets, demanding payment from local businesses in exchange for "security." Additionally, many mafia families invest in legitimate businesses such as restaurants, construction companies, or waste management to launder money and maintain a façade of legality.

The Social and Psychological Impact of Wiseguy Life

Living as a wiseguy means navigating complex social dynamics, both inside and outside the family. The isolation from mainstream society, combined with the constant pressure of secrecy, often shapes wiseguys in profound ways.

The Family Within the Family

The mafia family often becomes the primary social circle for a wiseguy. Outside relationships can be limited due to the risk of exposing secrets or conflicts of interest. This insular lifestyle fosters a deep sense of brotherhood but can also lead to emotional strain.

The Burden of Secrecy and Fear

Carrying secrets and living with the fear of arrest or betrayal can lead to anxiety and paranoia. Wiseguys must constantly guard their words and actions, which can affect mental health and personal relationships.

Popular Culture vs. Reality: Dispelling Myths About Wiseguy Life

Thanks to films like **The Godfather** and **Goodfellas**, the image of the wiseguy is often romanticized. However, the real life of a mafia member is far less glamorous and much more dangerous.

The Myth of Glamour

Hollywood often portrays wiseguys as suave, sophisticated men living lavish lifestyles. While some mafia members do enjoy wealth, the day-to-day reality involves stress, risk, and a lack of personal freedom.

The True Cost of Loyalty

The loyalty that defines wiseguy life can come at a high cost. Many wiseguys face imprisonment, violence, or even death. Families are sometimes torn apart by the legal and moral consequences of their criminal activities.

Wiseguy life in a mafia family is a world of contradictions—bound by strict rules yet unpredictable, fueled by loyalty yet rife with danger. It demands intelligence, courage, and an unwavering commitment to the family's code. For those inside, it is a way of life steeped in tradition and survival, where every decision carries weight and every action can determine one's fate. Understanding this life offers a glimpse into a shadowy realm that continues to fascinate and mystify the public imagination.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to be a wiseguy in a mafia family?

Being a wiseguy in a mafia family means being a made member of the organization, involved in its criminal activities, and adhering to the code of loyalty and secrecy within the family.

How does one become a wiseguy in the mafia?

To become a wiseguy, an associate must prove their loyalty, capability, and value to the family, often through involvement in illegal activities, before being formally inducted in a secret ceremony.

What are the typical responsibilities of a wiseguy in a mafia family?

Wiseguys often handle day-to-day operations such as collecting debts, enforcing family rules, running illegal businesses, and occasionally carrying out orders from higher-ups.

How is life as a wiseguy portrayed in popular culture?

Popular culture often depicts wiseguys as tough, loyal, and involved in a dangerous lifestyle filled with power struggles, violence, and complex family dynamics.

What are the risks involved in living the wiseguy life in a mafia family?

Risks include legal prosecution, violent retaliation from rival families or within the organization, and constant pressure to maintain secrecy and loyalty.

Can a wiseguy leave the mafia family life?

Leaving the mafia life is extremely difficult and dangerous, as breaking the code of silence or loyalty can result in severe consequences, including death.

How do wiseguys maintain loyalty within the mafia family?

Loyalty is maintained through oaths, mutual benefits, fear of punishment, and a deep sense of brotherhood and family honor.

Additional Resources

Wiseguy Life in a Mafia Family: An Investigative Exploration

Wiseguy life in a mafia family is a subject often romanticized in popular culture yet shrouded in complexity and danger. Far from the glamorous portrayals in films and television, the day-to-day realities of a wiseguy—a fully initiated member of a Mafia family—reveal a world governed by strict codes, loyalty, and a precarious balance of power and violence. This article delves into the nuanced existence of wiseguys within organized crime syndicates, examining their roles, responsibilities, social dynamics, and the broader implications of their involvement in the Mafia.

The Structure and Hierarchy of a Mafia Family

To understand wiseguy life in a mafia family, it is essential first to grasp the hierarchical structure that defines these criminal organizations. At the top sits the boss, or "don," who commands ultimate authority. Below him are the underboss and consigliere, trusted advisors who oversee various operations. The caporegimes, or captains, manage crews of soldiers, who are the made men or wiseguys.

Wiseguys occupy the rank of "soldier," the first official initiation into Mafia membership. Unlike associates—who collaborate with the Mafia but lack formal membership—wiseguys have taken an oath of loyalty and are bound by the Mafia's code of silence, or *omertà*. This status confers both privilege and peril, as wiseguys are expected to perform duties ranging from enforcing orders to engaging in illicit activities such as extortion, racketeering, and loan sharking.

Roles and Responsibilities

A wiseguy's life is characterized by a combination of criminal enterprise and rigid discipline. Their

primary responsibilities include:

- **Enforcement and Protection:** Wiseguys often serve as enforcers, ensuring that debts are paid and that the family's interests are protected. This may involve intimidation or violence.
- **Revenue Generation:** They participate in illegal operations like gambling, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering to generate income for the family.
- **Maintaining Loyalty:** Wiseguys are tasked with fostering loyalty within their crews and reporting to their captains.
- **Conflict Resolution:** They mediate disputes within the family or with rival groups, sometimes resorting to lethal measures.

These duties underscore the precarious balance wiseguys must maintain between obedience to the family hierarchy and the often brutal realities of organized crime.

Social Dynamics and the Code of Omertà

The social fabric of a Mafia family is tightly woven with traditions that govern wiseguy interactions. Central to this is the code of omertà—an unwritten rule demanding absolute silence about criminal activities. Breaching this code often results in severe consequences, including death.

Wiseguys are expected to embody loyalty, honor, and discretion. Their relationships within the family are built on trust and mutual dependence, creating a fraternity-like bond that transcends ordinary social ties. This code fosters an insular world where outsiders are met with suspicion, and internal cohesion is paramount.

Family vs. Mafia Family

One of the profound psychological tensions wiseguys face is balancing their real family life with their Mafia obligations. The Mafia family operates as an alternative kinship network, often demanding sacrifices that strain personal relationships. Time commitments, secrecy, and the inherent dangers of the lifestyle place significant pressure on wiseguys, sometimes leading to fractured family bonds.

Risks and Rewards of Wiseguy Life

The lifestyle of a wiseguy carries a unique blend of rewards and risks. Financially, wiseguys can accrue significant wealth through illegal enterprises, living far beyond the means of average citizens. This economic benefit is a strong motivator for many who pursue or accept the role.

However, the risks are equally daunting:

- **Legal Consequences:** Wiseguys are prime targets for law enforcement and federal investigations, often facing lengthy prison sentences.
- **Violence and Retaliation:** Mafia life is inherently violent, with disputes frequently resolved through bloodshed.
- **Betrayal and Paranoia:** The threat of informants within the ranks can create a climate of mistrust and fear.
- **Psychological Toll:** The constant need for vigilance and secrecy can lead to chronic stress and isolation.

Despite these dangers, the allure of power, respect, and financial gain keeps many tethered to this perilous existence.

Comparative Insight: Wiseguys vs. Associates

It is important to differentiate wiseguys from associates within the Mafia. While associates may collaborate in criminal activities, they lack the formal induction and protections afforded to wiseguys. This distinction impacts their influence, earnings, and vulnerability within the organization.

Wiseguys enjoy a degree of status and can aspire to higher ranks, whereas associates remain on the periphery. The pathway from associate to wiseguy is fraught with scrutiny, requiring demonstration of loyalty, capability, and often the completion of a significant criminal act, sometimes referred to as "making your bones."

Media Portrayals Vs. Reality

Popular media has long shaped public perceptions of wiseguy life in a mafia family, often glamorizing or dramatizing the experience. Films and television shows tend to emphasize elements like extravagant lifestyles, honor codes, and complex family dynamics, sometimes glossing over the harsher realities of violence, legal jeopardy, and moral compromise.

In reality, wiseguys operate in a clandestine, high-risk environment where trust is scarce and survival depends on strict adherence to the Mafia's rules. The mythos of the wiseguy as a charming antihero contrasts sharply with the often brutal and unforgiving conditions they endure.

The Impact of Law Enforcement and Legislation

The advent of law enforcement tools such as the RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act has significantly altered wiseguy life in a mafia family. These legal frameworks

enable prosecutors to target entire criminal organizations rather than individual crimes, increasing the stakes for wiseguys.

Witness protection programs and plea bargains have also incentivized turncoats, threatening the traditional code of silence and reshaping Mafia operations. As a result, wiseguys must navigate an increasingly hostile legal landscape, further complicating their roles.

The Cultural and Societal Influence of Wiseguys

Beyond the internal workings of Mafia families, wiseguys have left a lasting imprint on broader culture and society. They have influenced fashion, language, and even business practices in certain communities. The archetype of the wiseguy has become a symbol of rebellion and power, albeit one intertwined with criminality.

Moreover, the economic impact of Mafia-controlled enterprises on local economies—both legitimate and illicit—has been significant, affecting employment, real estate, and politics. Understanding wiseguy life thus contributes to a fuller picture of organized crime's role in contemporary society.

In dissecting wiseguy life in a mafia family, it becomes clear that this existence is a complex interplay of tradition, power, risk, and loyalty. Far removed from cinematic glamour, the reality is one marked by a rigid hierarchy, an unforgiving code, and constant peril. This duality continues to captivate public imagination while challenging law enforcement and society at large.

Wiseguy Life In A Mafia Family

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Wiseguy Nicholas Pileggi, 2019-04-16 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 mafia 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. “Nonstop...absolutely engrossing” (The New York Times Book Review). Read it and experience the secret life inside the mob—from one who's lived it.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Mafia-Leben Federico Varese, 2018-02-15 Was würden Sie tun, wenn Sie das Gefühl haben, dass Ihr Chef Sie gern loswerden möchte, in Ihrem Unternehmen aber leider die übliche Form der Entlassung nicht die Kündigung, sondern die Ermordung ist? Halten Sie es für besonders klug, einem Mafioso, der für seine Brutalität bekannt ist, ein Paket mit faulen Anleihen anzudrehen? Oder Ihrer Frau auszuplaudern, wer alles bei der Cosa Nostra nach Ihrer Pfeife tanzt, um Eindruck zu schinden? Federico Varese berichtet in seinem spannenden Buch vom Leben und Sterben der Mafiosi, das er so nah und privat erkundet hat wie kaum jemand vor ihm. Die Mafia ist eine verschlossene Welt voller Gewalt und Härte, in die kein Außenstehender je Einblick bekommt. Hinter den Mauern des Schweigens aber gibt es eine Gemeinschaft mit eigenen

Regeln und Werten – und es gibt das Mafia-Leben. Federico Varese hat sich tief ins Herz des organisierten Verbrechens gewagt und kennt Gangster in Italien, Russland, Hongkong und Japan. Sein Buch gibt einen intimen Einblick in die Lebensweise der Mafiosi: die bizarren Rituale und schmutzigen Geschäfte, das Familienleben und den beruflichen Stress, das Sexualleben und die unerfreulichen Todesarten jener Männer, die zu den gefährlichsten Menschen der Welt gehören.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Understanding Organized Crime Stephen Mallory, 2011-07-28
Today, the world is facing an increasing impact from established organized crime, emerging transnational organized crime, and gangs that requires an understanding of who and what these organizations are and how they achieve their goals. Updated to include new and relevant research and statistics, *Understanding Organized Crime, Second Edition* provides students with a better understanding of how and why these criminal groups continue to dominate the world of crime and what law enforcement must do to address this threat. Written by a leading expert in the field and based on his experience and academic research, *Understanding Organized Crime, Second Edition* is a comprehensive introduction to the subject and includes coverage of the types of organized crime, definitions of organized crime, why it continues to exist, and how it has evolved throughout history. Material covered includes the structure and hierarchy of each organization, their methods of operation, and the techniques and laws used by law enforcement to address the dynamic nature of domestic and transnational organized crime. Using the author's unique approach to the topic, students will learn about organized crime through the eyes of the criminal investigator, and how law-enforcement practitioners today are counteracting these criminal organizations. New and Key Features of the Second Edition: • Revised and updated to include new and relevant research, statistics, and case studies to help students understand the true nature of organized crime and the players involved. • Chapter 5 (Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations) has been updated to include the most recent information on new alliances and wars over territories and smuggling routes between established cartels and emerging organizations in Mexico. • A new chapter, *The Nexus of Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism*, addresses the increasing connections between terrorist groups and transnational organized crime, including new challenges facing governments and law enforcement in identifying and prosecuting these cooperative networks. • Provides information outlining the new age of piracy that has resulted in the creation of task forces that focus on areas around the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia. • Additional and updated information is now included in the chapters on the Russian Mafia, the Italian-American Mafia, the Yakuza, and Outlaw Bikers. Instructor Resources: *Test Bank *Microsoft PowerPoint slides Student Resources: * Companion Website (secure) featuring: -interactive glossary -interactive flashcards -practice exercises -and more!

wiseguy life in a mafia family: *Organized Crime* Klaus von Lampe, 2015-07-16 2016
Outstanding Publication Award (The International Association for the Study of Organized Crime)
Organized Crime: Analyzing Illegal Activities, Criminal Structures, and Extra-legal Governance provides a systematic overview of the processes and structures commonly labeled organized crime, drawing on the pertinent empirical and theoretical literature primarily from North America, Europe, and Australia. The main emphasis is placed on a comprehensive classificatory scheme that highlights underlying patterns and dynamics, rather than particular historical manifestations of organized crime. Esteemed author Klaus von Lampe strategically breaks the book down into three key dimensions: (1) illegal activities, (2) patterns of interpersonal relations that are directly or indirectly supporting these illegal activities, and (3) overarching illegal power structures that regulate and control these illegal activities and also extend their influence into the legal spheres of society. Within this framework, numerous case studies and topical issues from a variety of countries illustrate meaningful application of the conceptual and theoretical discussion.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: The Philosophy of Martin Scorsese Mark Conard, 2007-05-31
Academy Award-winning director Martin Scorsese is one of the most significant American filmmakers in the history of cinema. Although best known for his movies about gangsters and violence, such as *Mean Streets*, *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, and *Taxi Driver*, Scorsese has addressed a much

wider range of themes and topics in the four decades of his career. In *The Philosophy of Martin Scorsese*, an impressive cast of contributors explores the complex themes and philosophical underpinnings of Martin Scorsese's films. The essays concerning Scorsese's films about crime and violence investigate the nature of friendship, the ethics of vigilantism, and the nature of unhappiness. The authors delve deeply into the minds of Scorsese's tortured characters and explore how the men and women he depicts grapple with moral codes and their emotions. Several of the essays explore specific themes in individual films. The authors describe how Scorsese addresses the nuances of social mores and values in *The Age of Innocence*, the nature of temptation and self-sacrifice in *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *Bringing Out the Dead*, and the complexities of innovation and ambition in *The Aviator*. Other chapters in the collection examine larger philosophical questions. In a world where everything can be interpreted as meaningful, Scorsese at times uses his films to teach audiences about the meaning in life beyond the everyday world depicted in the cinema. For example, his films touching on religious subjects, such as *Kundun* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, allow the director to explore spiritualism and peaceful ways of responding to the chaos in the world. Filled with penetrating insights on Scorsese's body of work, *The Philosophy of Martin Scorsese* shows the director engaging with many of the most basic questions about our humanity and how we relate to one another in a complex world.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Writing & Selling - Crime Film Screenplays Karen Lee Street, 2013-10-28 Aimed at screenwriters, producers, development executives and educators interested in the crime genre, this book provides an invaluable basis for crafting a film story that considers both audience and market expectations without compromising originality. A brief historical overview of the crime genre is presented for context along with an analysis of various crime sub-genres and their key conventions, including: police, detective, film noir, gangster, heist, prison and serial killer. Karen Lee Street focuses on the creative use of these conventions and offers strategies for focusing theme and improving characterisation, story design, structure and dialogue. Paradigms, story patterns and writing exercises are provided to assist the script development process and strategies for revision are discussed along with key questions to consider before approaching creative or financial partners.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Goodfellas: The True Story of Mafia Loyalty, Betrayal, and American Crime Tim Madsen, *Goodfellas: The True Story of Mafia Loyalty, Betrayal, and American Crime* is a gripping, in-depth exploration of the real-life events behind one of the most iconic gangster films ever made. Drawing from historical records, firsthand accounts, and cultural analysis, this ten-part nonfiction work traces the rise and fall of Henry Hill—a young Brooklyn kid seduced by the Mafia's promise of power, wealth, and respect—and the criminal empire he helped build, and ultimately helped destroy. From the gritty streets of New York and the inner workings of the Lucchese crime family to the infamous Lufthansa heist and Hill's shocking decision to cooperate with the FBI, this book reveals the true story beneath the cinematic legend. It examines not only the crimes themselves, but the psychological toll of life in the mob, the complex codes of loyalty and betrayal, and the darker truths behind the American Dream. Whether you're a fan of *Goodfellas*, a student of organized crime, or a reader drawn to compelling real-life drama, this book delivers a compelling portrait of men who lived by the rules—until they broke them.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Busting the Mob James B. Jacobs, 1996-10 An examination of the forces and events that led to the most successful organized crime control initiatives in American history Since Prohibition, the Mafia has captivated the media and, indeed, the American imagination. From Al Capone to John Gotti, organized crime bosses have achieved notoriety as anti-heroes in popular culture. In practice, organized crime grew strong and wealthy by supplying illicit goods and services and by obtaining control over labor unions and key industries. Despite, or perhaps because of, its power and high profile, Cosa Nostra faced little opposition from law enforcement. Yet, in the last 15 years, the very foundations of the mob have been shaken, its bosses imprisoned, its profits diminished, and its influence badly weakened. In this vivid and dramatic book, James B. Jacobs, Christopher Panarella, and Jay Worthington document the government's relentless attack on

organized crime. The authors present an overview of the forces and events that led in the 1980s to the most successful organized crime control initiatives in American history. Enlisting trial testimony, secretly taped conversations, court documents, and depositions, they document five landmark cases, representing the most important organized crime prosecutions of the modern era—Teamsters Local 560, The Pizza Connection, The Commission, the International Teamsters, and the prosecution of John Gotti.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Internationales Handbuch der Gewaltforschung Wilhelm Heitmeyer, John Hagan, 2013-07-01 Die Forschung zur Gewalt in modernen westlichen Gesellschaften hat in den letzten Jahren zugenommen. Die Erklärungen dafür sind zahlreich: tatsächlicher Anstieg bei bestimmten Gewaltvarianten, neue Sensibilitäten, Rückkehr alter Gewaltformen, Verlagerung von Gewalt in andere gesellschaftliche Bereiche etc. Bisher fehlt jedoch ein systematischer Überblick über die tatsächlichen Entwicklungen. Das vorliegende Handbuch informiert umfassend über Gewalt als soziales Phänomen. Dabei wird fast allen Facetten dieses Themas Rechnung getragen: · Sozialstrukturelle Verhältnisse und Gewalt, · Sozialisation und Lernen von Gewalt, · Gewalterfahrungen und Gewalttätigkeit, · Gewaltopfer, · Gewalt in gesellschaftlichen Institutionen, · Gewalt durch politische Gruppen, · Gewaltdiskurse etc. In 62 Artikeln von Autorinnen und Autoren aus zehn Ländern liefert der Band ein komplexes, transdisziplinäres Bild eines Forschungsfeldes zwischen Ordnung, Zerstörung und Macht.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity Ronald H. Bayor, 2016-06-01 Scholarship on immigration to America is a coin with two sides: it asks both how America changed immigrants, and how they changed America. Were the immigrants uprooted from their ancestral homes, leaving everything behind, or were they transplanted, bringing many aspects of their culture with them? Although historians agree with the transplantation concept, the notion of the melting pot, which suggests a complete loss of the immigrant culture, persists in the public mind. The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity bridges this gap and offers a comprehensive and nuanced survey of American racial and ethnic development, assessing the current status of historical research and simultaneously setting the goals for future investigation. Early immigration historians focused on the European migration model, and the ethnic appeal of politicians such as Fiorello La Guardia and James Michael Curley in cities with strong ethno-political histories like New York and Boston. But the story of American ethnicity goes far beyond Ellis Island. Only after the 1965 Immigration Act and the increasing influx of non-Caucasian immigrants, scholars turned more fully to the study of African, Asian and Latino migrants to America. This Handbook brings together thirty eminent scholars to describe the themes, methodologies, and trends that characterize the history and current debates on American immigration. The Handbook's trenchant chapters provide compelling analyses of cutting-edge issues including identity, whiteness, borders and undocumented migration, immigration legislation, intermarriage, assimilation, bilingualism, new American religions, ethnicity-related crime, and pan-ethnic trends. They also explore the myth of model minorities and the contemporary resurgence of anti-immigrant feelings. A unique contribution to the field of immigration studies, this volume considers the full racial and ethnic unfolding of the United States in its historical context.

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wiseguy life in a mafia family: Inside the Criminal Mind (Newly Revised Edition) Stanton

Samenow, 2014-11-04 A brilliant, no-nonsense profile of the criminal mind, newly updated in 2022 to include the latest research, effective methods for dealing with hardened criminals, and an urgent call to rethink criminal justice from expert witness Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D. "Utterly compelling reading, full of raw insight into the dark mind of the criminal."—John Douglas, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Mind Hunter* Long-held myths defining the sources of and remedies for crime are shattered in this groundbreaking book—and a chilling profile of today's criminal emerges. In 1984, Stanton Samenow changed the way we think about the workings of the criminal mind, with a revolutionary approach to "habilitation." In 2014, armed with thirty years of additional knowledge and insight, Samenow explored the subject afresh, explaining criminals' thought patterns in the new millennium, such as those that lead to domestic violence, internet victimization, and terrorism. Since then the arenas of criminal behavior have expanded even further, demanding this newly updated version, which includes an exploration of social media as a vehicle for criminal conduct, new pharmaceutical influences and the impact of the opioid crisis, recent genetic and biological research into whether some people are "wired" to become criminals, new findings on the effectiveness of cognitive behavioral therapy, and a fresh take on criminal justice reform. Throughout, we learn from Samenow's five decades of experience how truly vital it is to know who the criminals are and how they think. If equipped with that crucial understanding, we can reach reasonable, compassionate, and effective solutions. From expert witness Dr. Stanton E. Samenow, a brilliant, no-nonsense profile of the criminal mind, updated to include new influences and effective methods for dealing with hardened criminals

wiseguy life in a mafia family: American Literature on Stage and Screen Thomas S. Hischak, 2014-01-10 The 525 notable works of 19th and 20th century American fiction in this reference book have many stage, movie, television, and video adaptations. Each literary work is described and then every adaptation is examined with a discussion of how accurate the version is and how well it succeeds in conveying the spirit of the original in a different medium. In addition to famous novels and short stories by authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Willa Cather, many bestsellers, mysteries, children's books, young adult books, horror novels, science fiction, detective stories, and sensational potboilers from the past two centuries are examined.

wiseguy life in a mafia family: Organized Crime Jay Albanese, 2014-11-20 *Organized Crime: From the Mob to Transnational Organized Crime, Seventh Edition*, provides readers with a clear understanding of organized crime, including its definition and causes, how it is categorized under the law, models to explain its persistence, and the criminal justice response to organized crime, including investigation, prosecution, defense, and sentencing. This book offers a comprehensive survey, including an extensive history of the Mafia in the United States; a legal analysis of the offenses that underlie organized crimes; specific attention to modern manifestations of organized crime activity, such as human smuggling, Internet crimes, and other transnational criminal operations; and the application of ethics to the study of organized crime. A new section has been added on threat assessment in organized crime. Chapters are enhanced by updated photos, tables, charts, and critical thinking exercises that help students apply concepts to actual organized crime cases. Every chapter includes two student-friendly special features: *Organized Crime Biography* and *Organized Crime at the Movies*. A glossary gives students a quick reference for looking up important definitions of organized crime-related terms, and a *Timeline of Organized Crime in the United States* highlights important events in the history of organized crime.

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most powerful, violent and colorful criminal organizations. It is the West End Gang, whose members controlled the docks and fought the Hells Angels and Mafia for their share of the city's prostitution, gambling, loan sharking and drug dealing. At times, they did not disdain forging alliances with rival gangs when huge profits were at stake, or when a killing needed to be carried out. The West End Gang—the Irish Mafia of Montreal—is a legendary beast. They sprang out of the impoverished southwest of the city, some looking for ways to earn enough just to survive, some wanting more than a job in an abattoir or on a construction site. In that sense, they were no different from other immigrants from Italy and other European countries. A shortcut to wealth was their common goal. And Montreal, with its burgeoning post-WWII population, was ripe for the picking. The Irish Mob made headlines with a spectacular Brinks robbery in 1976, using the money to broker a major heroin and cocaine trafficking ring. It took over the Port of Montreal, controlling the flow of drugs into the city, drugs which the Mafia funnelled to New York. The West End Gang had connections to the cocaine cartel in Colombia; hashish brokers in Morocco and France; and marijuana growers in Mexico. The gang imported drugs on an enormous scale. One bust that took place off the coast of Angola in 2006 involved 22.5 tonnes of hashish, destined for Montreal. The West End Gang is a ripping tale that unveils yet another chapter in Montreal's colorful criminal underworld.

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