

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss

Gaspipe Confessions of a Mafia Boss: Unveiling the Dark Secrets of the Underworld

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss immediately conjure images of shadowy figures, secretive meetings, and long-hidden truths finally coming to light. These confessions, often recounted in hushed tones or through gripping memoirs, offer rare glimpses into the clandestine operations of organized crime. But what exactly are these gaspipe confessions, and why have they captivated the public's imagination for decades? Let's dive into the story behind these revelations and explore their significance in the broader context of mafia history and criminal psychology.

What Are Gaspipe Confessions?

At its core, gaspipe confessions refer to the candid, often incriminating admissions made by a mafia boss, sometimes under duress, but frequently as a form of personal catharsis or bargaining chip. The term "gaspipe" is evocative, suggesting a raw, unfiltered outpouring — like a burst of gas escaping a pipe — that reveals the inner workings and dark realities of mob life. These confessions can come in many forms: taped interviews, written memoirs, courtroom testimonies, or even whispered stories passed down through insiders.

The Origins of the Term

The phrase "gaspipe" gained popularity partly due to its association with notorious mafia figures who spoke openly about their criminal exploits. In some cases, the term is linked to a specific individual or event, but more broadly, it captures the essence of exposing the hidden truths of the mafia world. The confessions often include shocking details about illegal enterprises, betrayals, power struggles, and the psychological toll of living a life steeped in violence and secrecy.

The Psychological Landscape Behind Mafia Confessions

Why would a mafia boss break the code of silence, known as "omertà," to reveal secrets that could endanger themselves and their families? Understanding the psychology behind such confessions provides fascinating insights into organized crime dynamics.

Pressure and Paranoia

Mafia bosses operate under constant threat—from law enforcement, rival gangs, and even their own associates. The stress can be overwhelming, leading some to confess as a way to

relieve psychological burden. The metaphor of a gaspipe breaking under pressure is apt: the pent-up tension eventually forces an outlet.

Bargaining for Leniency

Often, confessions are strategic moves. Facing long prison sentences or life-threatening situations, some bosses opt to cooperate with authorities, exchanging valuable information for reduced charges or protection. These confessions are calculated yet deeply revealing, exposing the structural and operational facets of the mafia.

The Need for Redemption

On a more human level, some mafia bosses reveal their stories as a form of redemption—attempting to make sense of their past, confessing sins, or warning others about the perils of the criminal path. These narratives add layers of complexity to the stereotypical image of the ruthless mobster.

What Do Gaspipe Confessions Reveal About Mafia Life?

The value of these confessions lies in their ability to peel back the layers of secrecy surrounding organized crime. Let's explore some of the key themes and revelations that often emerge.

Inner Workings of the Mafia Hierarchy

Gaspipe confessions frequently outline the mafia's rigid hierarchical structure—from low-level "soldiers" to "capos" and ultimately the "boss." These detailed accounts shed light on how orders flow, how disputes are settled internally, and the mechanisms of control and loyalty enforcement.

Criminal Enterprises and Money Laundering

Many confessions delve into the diverse illegal activities the mafia engages in: drug trafficking, extortion, illegal gambling, loan sharking, and sophisticated money laundering operations. The confessions often highlight how these ventures are interlinked and how the mafia maintains financial secrecy.

Betrayal and Violence

Stories of betrayal are common in these revelations. Gaspipe confessions expose the brutal reality of mob justice—where suspicion leads to violent retribution, and alliances can shift overnight. These narratives help explain the pervasive atmosphere of mistrust and fear within the organization.

Impact of Gaspipe Confessions on Law Enforcement and Pop Culture

The release of such confessions has had a profound impact far beyond the courtroom or jail cell.

Law Enforcement Strategies

Police and federal agencies have used these insider accounts to dismantle mafia operations. Confessions provide actionable intelligence, reveal hidden networks, and expose corrupt officials colluding with the mob. They have led to landmark prosecutions and a better understanding of organized crime's evolving tactics.

Influence on Media and Literature

Gaspipe confessions have inspired countless books, films, and TV shows. From gritty documentaries to Hollywood blockbusters, audiences are fascinated by the authentic voices behind the mafia mystique. These stories humanize criminals while also highlighting the dangers and moral complexities of their world.

Lessons and Insights from Mafia Boss Confessions

Beyond entertainment and law enforcement, gaspipe confessions offer valuable lessons about human behavior, power dynamics, and societal impact.

- **The Cost of Power:** The confessions illustrate how the pursuit of control can lead to isolation, paranoia, and destruction.
- **The Fragility of Loyalty:** Despite codes of honor, self-interest often trumps allegiance in the underworld.
- **The Importance of Transparency:** These revelations underscore how secrecy

enables corruption and crime, reinforcing the need for accountability in all institutions.

Tips for Researchers and Enthusiasts

If you're interested in exploring gaspipe confessions of mafia bosses, here are a few recommendations:

1. **Seek Primary Sources:** Look for autobiographies, court transcripts, and verified interviews rather than secondhand summaries.
2. **Understand the Context:** Mafia culture is complex and varies by region and era. Background research helps interpret confessions accurately.
3. **Analyze Motives:** Recognize that confessions may be self-serving or influenced by external pressures.
4. **Respect the Human Element:** Behind every confession is a person grappling with their past—approach the material with empathy and critical thinking.

Exploring the gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss not only satiates curiosity about the criminal underworld but also provides a mirror to some of society's darker realities. These stories remind us that behind the headlines and the myths, there are intricate human dramas involving ambition, fear, regret, and the quest for identity. As more confessions come to light, our understanding of organized crime continues to deepen, offering lessons that stretch beyond the shadows into the light of justice and awareness.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss' about?

'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss' is a memoir by Gaspipe, a former mafia member, detailing his life in organized crime, his experiences within the mafia, and his eventual decision to turn informant.

Who is the author of 'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss'?

The book is authored by Gaspipe, the nickname of Anthony Gasparino, a former mobster who provides an insider's perspective on the mafia world.

Why is 'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss' considered important?

The book offers a rare and candid glimpse into the operations, hierarchy, and culture of the mafia from someone who lived it, making it a valuable resource for understanding organized crime.

What are some key themes explored in 'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss'?

Key themes include loyalty and betrayal, the code of silence (omertà), the personal cost of a life of crime, and the moral dilemmas faced by those involved in the mafia.

Has 'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss' influenced popular media or true crime genres?

Yes, the memoir has contributed to the true crime genre by providing authentic stories that have inspired documentaries, films, and other books about the mafia.

Where can I find 'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss'?

'Gaspipe: Confessions of a Mafia Boss' is available in bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and in some libraries as a physical book or e-book.

Additional Resources

Gaspipe Confessions of a Mafia Boss: An Investigative Insight into Organized Crime Narratives

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss have long captured the public's imagination, offering a rare glimpse into the clandestine world of organized crime. These revelations, often emerging from court testimonies, autobiographies, or undercover investigations, provide critical details that help law enforcement agencies dismantle criminal networks. The phrase itself evokes a potent image of raw, unfiltered truth emerging from the depths of the mafia's shadowy operations, frequently characterized by violence, loyalty, and betrayal. This article delves into the significance of such confessions, their impact on mafia studies, and the broader implications for society and justice systems.

The Intrigue Behind Gaspipe Confessions

The term "gaspipe confessions" is not merely a dramatic label but a representation of candid admissions made by high-ranking mafia figures, often under duress or as part of plea deals. These confessions can range from detailed accounts of illicit activities, such as money laundering, extortion, and contract killings, to insights about the mafia's internal hierarchy and code of silence, known as omertà. The exposure of this clandestine world

through such confessions has been instrumental in understanding the operational mechanics of organized crime syndicates.

One notable example is the confession of a mafia boss known by the nickname “Gaspipe,” whose revelations brought unprecedented clarity to the inner workings of the mafia. The term has since become synonymous with insider accounts that break through the veil of secrecy surrounding these criminal organizations.

Contextualizing Gaspipe Confessions in Mafia History

Historically, mafiosi have adhered strictly to omertà, making confessions rare and highly valuable. When a mafia boss breaks this code, it is often due to immense legal pressure, fear of life imprisonment, or a strategic decision to protect family members. The consequences of such confessions are far-reaching, often leading to criminal prosecutions, reconfigurations within the mafia, and shifts in power dynamics.

In the United States, the testimonies of mobsters like Joseph Valachi in the 1960s marked a turning point in law enforcement’s approach to tackling organized crime. These confessions revealed the mafia’s structure and rituals, which were largely unknown to the public and authorities. Similarly, more recent confessions—sometimes dramatized in books and films—continue to shed light on the mafia’s evolution in the digital age.

Analyzing the Impact of Mafia Boss Confessions

The gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss carry significant weight in legal, social, and cultural domains. From a judicial perspective, such confessions can be pivotal evidence in prosecuting organized crime figures. However, the reliability and motivations behind these admissions often spark debate.

The Legal Ramifications

Confessions from mafia bosses are frequently part of plea bargains, where defendants cooperate with authorities in exchange for reduced sentences. These statements enable prosecutors to build cases against other members of the organization, effectively disrupting criminal activities.

Nonetheless, the legal system must navigate challenges such as verifying the accuracy of these confessions and guarding against fabricated or exaggerated claims made to gain leniency. Defense attorneys often scrutinize the circumstances under which the confession was obtained, questioning coercion or the defendant’s mental state.

Social and Cultural Dimensions

Gaspipe confessions help demystify the mafia, stripping away the glamorized portrayals often seen in popular media. By revealing the brutal realities of power struggles, violence, and betrayal, these narratives contribute to a more nuanced public understanding of organized crime.

Moreover, these confessions influence cultural productions, inspiring films, documentaries, and literature that explore themes of loyalty, morality, and the consequences of a criminal lifestyle. This cultural feedback loop shapes societal perceptions and policy discussions related to crime prevention.

Key Features of Gaspipe Confessions

Examining the content and characteristics of such confessions reveals common features that underscore their importance:

- **Detailed Operational Insights:** Confessions often include intricate descriptions of illegal enterprises, from drug trafficking routes to money laundering schemes, offering law enforcement actionable intelligence.
- **Hierarchy and Roles:** They clarify the mafia's organizational structure, identifying key players and their responsibilities, which can be crucial for targeting leadership.
- **Code of Silence Violations:** Breaking omertà, these admissions expose methods of enforcing silence and intimidation within the group.
- **Personal Motivations:** Many confessions reveal the emotional and psychological pressures that lead mafia bosses to cooperate, such as fear, remorse, or strategic calculation.

The Pros and Cons of Relying on Mafia Confessions

While gaspipe confessions are invaluable, they come with inherent advantages and limitations:

1. Pros:

- Provide insider knowledge that is otherwise inaccessible.
- Facilitate law enforcement breakthroughs and convictions.
- Help dismantle criminal enterprises systematically.

2. Cons:

- Potentially unreliable due to self-interest or coercion.
- May lead to miscarriages of justice if not corroborated.
- Risk of glamorizing criminals if handled sensationally.

The Evolution of Mafia Confessions in the Digital Era

Technology and media have transformed how mafia confessions are recorded, disseminated, and analyzed. Digital recording devices, surveillance technologies, and data analytics have augmented traditional investigative methods, making confessions more verifiable and impactful.

Furthermore, the internet has facilitated broader public access to these narratives, sometimes through leaked documents, podcasts, or investigative journalism platforms. This increased transparency challenges the mafia's ability to maintain secrecy and intimidation.

However, the digital age also raises concerns about the security and authenticity of such confessions. Cybercrime elements intertwined with traditional organized crime demand sophisticated investigative techniques to interpret and utilize confession data effectively.

The Role of Investigative Journalism and Media

Investigative journalists play a crucial role in contextualizing and disseminating mafia boss confessions. Through painstaking research, interviews, and cross-referencing, they ensure that these confessions are not only reported but critically analyzed for accuracy and implications.

Media portrayals can influence public opinion and policy, making responsible reporting essential to avoid sensationalism. The balance between exposing criminal truths and respecting legal processes remains a delicate task for the press.

The gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss thus serve as a bridge between clandestine criminal worlds and public awareness, mediated by law enforcement, the judiciary, and the media.

As these confessions continue to emerge, they remain vital tools for understanding and combating organized crime, while also challenging society to confront the complexities of justice, loyalty, and morality within the underworld.

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gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss: Mafia Informants Larry J. Hausner, Ron Haggett, 2024-05-23 For many years, the FBI, led by J. Edgar Hoover, ignored organized crime, as the Bureau regarded local law enforcement as best equipped to handle it. That changed when Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy (in the 1960s) and New York City's Rudy Giuliani (in the 1980s) pursued eradication of the Mafia.. In this book, readers are introduced to several characters in the American Mafia, known as rats in the criminal world, whose cooperation with law enforcement resulted in the arrest of Mafia members across the country. Short biographies of each informant detail their crimes and deals made to stay alive or reduce lengthy prison sentences. FBI and CIA records released in 2017, and books written by the criminals themselves, reveal why previously loyal Mafia members and associates became informants. Most of the criminals written about are dead; a few are presumed to be alive and in the witness protection program.

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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.

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss: Underworld Roman Martín, 2020-10-23 Accurately describes 'the Life,' and the pros and cons of becoming a mobster . . . in a very unique manner that will no doubt have you in stitches. —Frank Cullotta, coauthor of *Cullotta: The Life of a Chicago Criminal*, *Las Vegas Mobster*, and *Government Witness* For the first time in history, there is now an easy-to-follow self-help guide on how to join and rise in the most exclusive men's club in the world—the Italian-American Mafia (aka La Cosa Nostra). Learn everything from loansharking to leg-breaking to corpse disposal, all without leaving the comfort of your mobile home or prison cell. Based on interviews with dozens of former high-ranking Mafiosi and many other hardcore mobsters from across the globe, true-crime auteur Roman Martín has risked life and limb to bring you this spellbinding tour de force. Whether you're a couch-surfing gangster-wannabe or simply someone who's watched *The Godfather* too many times, this breathtaking exposé of the Honored Society offers something for everyone. Pushing the bounds of the First Amendment to their breaking point, Don Martín also reveals the FBI's most closely guarded secrets when it comes to wiseguys and goodfellas. Wanna know the one surefire way to find out who in your crew is an undercover cop or fed? Or the best way to deal with those annoying witnesses? Then look no further, friends, for all your questions about the outlaw lifestyle shall be answered in *Underworld*. I laughed so hard at times that my jaws ached! —Dennis N. Griffin, award-winning true-crime author of *The Rise and Fall of a Casino Mobster: The Tony Spilotro Story*

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No-Body Homicides provides the reader with a historical overview of prosecutions in which a killer destroyed or hid the body of the victim. It explains why prosecutions were once extremely rare, and how legal, attitudinal, and technical changes have made them more common. The book also explores how the logic of no-body homicide prosecutions differs from body-present homicides. It allows police and prosecutors to draw on the accumulated experience of hundreds of prosecutions. For criminology students, it provides fascinating insights into the process of investigating and prosecuting homicides – as well as a glimpse into the motivations and practices of killers who are so determined to avoid punishment that they remove the bodies of their victims. No-Body Homicides will be of practical interest to police or prosecutors confronted with a missing person's case that could be sinister. It is also written to be appropriate as a supplementary text in an undergraduate criminology class or for an aficionado of "True Crime."

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Brooklyn. Anthony “Gaspipe” Casso, Al Capone, Frankie Yale, Paul Vario, Roy DeMeo and so many more malicious malcontents and maniacs stalk these pages, as author Craig McGuire rank a rogues’ gallery of the best of the worst from Brooklyn’s crime-ridden past and present. This includes more than a century of screaming crime blotter headlines, spotlighting epic cases, like The Brooklyn Godmother, The Sex Killer of Brooklyn, The Nurse Girl Murder, The Long Island Railroad Massacre, The Thrill Kills Gang, and many more. From “Son of Sam” to “Son of Sal,” “Little Lepke” to “Big Paulie,” “The Butcher of Brooklyn,” “The Vampire of Brooklyn,” “The Gang Who Couldn’t Shoot Straight,” and even “The Man Who Murdered Brooklyn Baseball,” they’re all here. Much more than Murder Incorporated, this book features kingpins and lone wolves alike, with a line-up featuring many of the multi-ethnic mobs mimicking the original La Cosa Nostra—the Russian Mafia, the Albanian Mafia, the Polish Mafia, the Greek Mafia—in fact, this book contains more mafias than you can shake a bloody blackjack at. The author’s proprietary Notorious Brooklyn Index analyzes criminal activity, socio-economic type, notoriety, relation to Brooklyn and more for a final score that’s far from conjecture—though it will undoubtedly spark debate. Praise for Brooklyn’s Most Wanted “Never has anyone put together a look into so many of Brooklyn’s worst. This is a great read I highly recommend.” —Thomas Dades, retired NYPD detective, bestselling author of *Friends of the Family* “If you love all-things-Brooklyn like I do, this is an absolute must-read you need on your shelf. . . . A revealing, rousing, rip-roaring tour that will slice you right into the underbelly of New York City’s most historic borough.” —Ron Valdes, co-founder, Brooklyn Creative Partners

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss: *Read On...Biography* Rick Roche, 2012-03-07

Categorizing hundreds of popular biographies according to their primary appeal—character, story, setting, language, and mood—and organizing them into thematic lists, this guide will help readers’ advisors more effectively recommend titles. *Read On...Biography: Reading Lists for Every Taste* is that essential go-to readers’ advisory guide, filling a gap in the growing readers’ advisory literature with information about 450 biography titles, most published within the last decade, but also including some classic titles as well. The book focuses on life stories written in the third person, with subjects ranging from individuals who lived in ancient times to the present-day, hailed from myriad nations, and gained fame in diverse fields. The contents are organized in order to facilitate identification of read-alikes and easy selection of titles according to appeal features such as character, story, language, setting, and mood. Written specifically with librarians and their patrons in mind, this readers’ advisory title will be invaluable in public, high school, and college libraries.

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss: *Carmine and the 13th Avenue Boys* Craig McGuire, Carmine Imbriale, 2022-04-26 Now in hiding, a former wiseguy teams up with a veteran true-crime writer to take you inside Brooklyn’s gangland at the height of its violence. This is the true story of Carmine Imbriale—a gambler, a brawler, a bandit, a bookie, an enforcer. For two decades, Imbriale was a street-level operative in one of the most violent crews in the Colombo Family, and he endeared himself to some of the major figures of organized crime while developing deadly disputes with others. *Carmine and the 13th Avenue Boys* is the jarring account of his lawless lifestyle culminating in a gang war in South Brooklyn, from which he emerges a survivor. From his first arrest at fifteen for robbing a Coney Island pimp to surviving multiple assassination attempts, Imbriale offers up dozens of too-good-to-be-true tales featuring some of the most notorious gangsters, including Joe Colombo, Christie Tick, Jimmy Ida, Joe Waverly, Sammy “The Bull” Gravano, Johnny Rizzo, as well as other lions and lackeys of La Cosa Nostra, and details a beef with none other than Greg “The Grim Reaper” Scarpa Sr. A young streetwise hustler, Imbriale thought he found loyalty, a brotherhood. Instead, he descended into a world of treachery and deceit, where your best friend is your executioner, and no one gets out alive. But no one expected him to become the domino that helped bring it all down.

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gaspie confessions of a mafia boss: Sonny S. J. Peddie, 2022-03-29 Award-winning investigative journalist S. J. Peddie writes the first groundbreaking account of the legendary mafia boss, Sonny Franzese, the head of the Colombo crime family and the financier of the infamous pornographic film *Deep Throat*. "Sonny Franzese was a standup guy. He lived his life, and he didn't hurt innocent people. And I knew him my whole life." —Former Philadelphia crime boss Ralph Natale. John "Sonny" Franzese reportedly committed his first murder at the age of fourteen. A "made man" for the Colombo crime family, he operated out of his Long Island home, specializing in racketeering, fraud, loansharking, and other illicit deeds he would deny to his dying day. His career in organized crime spanned over eight decades—and he was sentenced to fifty years in prison for robbery charges. But even behind bars, Sonny Franzese never stopped doing business . . . Through it all, Franzese refused to break the Mafia's code of silence. Authorities believe he may have murdered, or ordered the murders of, forty to fifty people. Yet he earned a grudging respect from law enforcement and an absolute reverence from his fellow gangsters. Eventually he managed to outlive them all—until his death in 2020 of natural causes, a rare event in the Mafia. Thanks to a series of exclusive firsthand interviews, the astonishing life story of John "Sonny" Franzese can be told in all its bold, brutal, and blood-spattered glory. This is a must-read for anyone fascinated with Mafia history—and a rare look inside a criminal mind that has become the stuff of legend. "By turns blood-curdling and hilarious, Sonny regales us with the life and career of one of the most powerful and least-known New York Mafia crime bosses. A scrupulously documented and compulsive read." —Teresa Carpenter, Pulitzer Prize-winner and author of *Mob Girl: A Woman's Life in the Underworld*

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dramatic, often funny and never less than compelling' Irish Independent Peter Daly was nineteen when he left Donegal, bound for America. Nine years later, in 1961, following a stint with the US Army, he joined the New York Police Department. His beat was the Lower East Side of Manhattan during one of the worst crime-waves in the city and, determined to make his mark, Daly was quickly earmarked for promotion to the Special Investigating Unit - the Princes of the City. The SIU played by its own rules and answered to nobody and, in 1970, at the pinnacle of his career, Daly made one of the department's biggest drug bust: 105 kilos of pure heroin and cocaine. But only 100 kilos was surrendered ... From his remarkable rise within the NYPD to his time served in Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary on 'Mafia' Row with some of the most notorious gangsters in American history, including the Lufthansa robber Jimmy 'the Gent' Burke, Benny Ong, 'Godfather of Chinatown', and New York wiseguy Charlie Brody, Peter Daly's story is the stuff of Hollywood scriptwriters. The only thing is: it is true. 'Of course, I was dishonest, but you have to make your own judgement. I was brought up to know right from wrong. My regrets are innumerable. It is all part of life. But I would die rather than inform on my police friends. The oath of office I took included loyalty. I gave up my family, my life and all that it meant to me ...' Peter Daly

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss: The Killer Within Philip Carlo, 2011-01-11 Philip Carlo's successful and acclaimed books reveal the truth about notorious characters such as LA serial killer Richard Ramirez, Mafia contract killer Richard Kuklinski and crime-family boss Anthony Casso. Working closely with the DEA, Carlo also wrote the definitive account of Bonanno Mafia family assassin Tommy 'Karate' Pitera. Carlo's investigative achievements were remarkable, but what wasn't known to his readers was that, while working on *The Ice Man*, he learned he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a form of motor neuron disease. Suddenly, after years of penetrating the minds of killers, Carlo was himself being pursued by the grim reaper. But rather than lying down and succumbing to the disease, Carlo continued to work right up until his death in 2010. In *The Killer Within*, Carlo provides an intimate account of his relationships with Ramirez, Kuklinski and Casso and reveals intriguing information about writing his bestsellers while simultaneously coping with ALS as it slowly began to steal his life away.

gaspipe confessions of a mafia boss: Greed and Glory Sean Deveney, 2018-05-15 On October 28, 1986, just one day after winning one of the most thrilling World Series in history, the New York Mets were feted by more than two million fans with a parade through the city. In news accounts of the event, there was a small aside, as this one in the New York Times: Notable in his absence was the pitcher Dwight Gooden, who Mets officials later said had overslept. No, the Mets' twenty-one-year-old phenom had not slept too late. He had not slept at all, in fact. For Gooden, his postgame champagne celebration kicked off a cocaine binge that took him to a club in Long Island and wound up with him, wired, watching his teammates roll through the streets as he sat with strangers in a public housing project. Such were the 1980s in New York City, a gilded era buttressed by fast money from a real estate boom and the explosion of Wall Street wealth. The Mets and Giants, bolstered by lightning-rod personalities like Gooden and Lawrence Taylor, brought the city sporting glory while its celebrity wealthy added a tabloid-friendly touch of intrigue and national envy. Iconoclastic real estate developer Donald Trump gained national celebrity for his deal-making skill and the flaunting of his outsize ego. Even mayor Ed Koch had gained coast-to-coast fame and mention as a potential future president. Beneath the opulence was a tenuous foundation, one that collapsed spectacularly over the last half of the decade. Away from the cameras focused on the city's nouvelle riches, New York was beset by crisis after crisis--homelessness, AIDS, crack cocaine, organized crime. The swell of outrage over the unwillingness of the city elite to address those problems took years to finally reach a tipping point. Through interviews and detailed research, *Greed and Glory* gives the narrative of New York during these times, tracing the arc of its sports heroes and celebrities of that era, from their memorable highs to their ultimate lows.

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