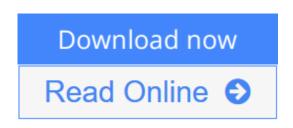


# Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story

By Michael Franzese, Dary Matera



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A former Mafia boss, who once had earned millions of dollars each week, tells of his life in the Colombo crime family and describes how he managed to escape the Mafia and live to write about it. Reprint.

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- Sales Rank: #771243 in Books
- Published on: 1992-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.75" h x 6.75" w x 1.00" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 301 pages

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

Franzese grew up on Long Island as Michael Grillo, believing himself the stepson of Mafia member John "Sonny" Franzese, with six other children in the family. He worshipped "Sonny," who may have been his biological father, abandoned his plan to become a doctor and was taken into the Cosa Nostra in 1975. With the mob's blessing, he began to work on the fringes of legitimate businesses, where he was enormously successful. Among his enterprises was a partnership dealing in retail and wholesale gasoline that evaded paying taxes; from this he made millions of dollars and began to play around with the movie industry. His first marriage on the rocks, he wed a Mexican American dancer, a born-again Christian who urged him to reform, which he did by testifying against two criminals who were sent to prison. They were not Mafiosi, nor did his testimony implicate anyone in the Mafia, but both he and Matera ( Are You Lonesome Tonight? ) believe that the mob wants to kill him anyway. The so-called "Mafia Prince," according to recent newspaper accounts, has just been arrested in Los Angeles for violating federal probation and for defaulting on bank loans and defrauding the owners of various Bel-Air mansions he rented. In some respects a conventional gangster saga, and not altogether credible. Photos not seen by PW. First serial to Cosmopolitan. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From Kirkus Reviews

A young mobster's progress, 1980's sizzle-style. After his powerful and feared father, a capo in N.Y.C.'s Colombo crime family, took a 50-year fall, Franzese became, at age 24, a made Colombo man. Here, with the help of former Miami Herald reporter Matera, he tells of his meteoric criminal career, which ended in 1989, at age 38, in a plea bargain taken against a 177- count Florida indictment. College-educated Franzese, disliking violence (or so he says), was apparently a businessman with a genius for operating on the fringes of laws and regulations, and here he lovingly details the schemes that caused him to become, at age 32, as financially powerful as the five New York mafia families combined. Among his coups was a gas wholesale business that took advantage of a New York law designed to return more tax dollars to the state. This complex shell game--a daisy chain that ended in a ``burnout company" in Panama--netted Franzese \$5 to \$8 million per week for three years (and incidentally lowered the price of gas to Gotham motorists). Between discussions of his craft, Franzese speaks of Manuel Noriega, who provided banking connections for the gas scam; of boxing promoter Don King--a ``tough negotiator"; of black advocate Al Sharpton--``a player...[who] offered to use the considerable black power forces he commands to assist me in any way"; and of the ``Jewish Scarface"--a kingpin in the new wave of Russian and Eastern European immigrant thugs taking over parts of Brooklyn. Throughout, Franzese's estimate of his own and others' characters gives a depth unusual for this type of memoir. On a sit- down with capo de tutti capi John Gotti: ""Who's John Gotti?' I remarked to an associate....`Remember, I came from the best.' It was a psychological edge I carried throughout my mob tenure. By comparing every opponent to my father, I could never be intimidated." Sharp and contemporary; a bullet rising. (Eight pages of b&w photos--not seen.) -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

#### **Users Review**

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#### Ann Lemieux:

The book Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the great thing like a book Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story? A number of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you could give for each other; you could share all of these. Book Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by start and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

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Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story can be great book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

#### **Barbara Figueroa:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Quitting the Mob: How the "Yuppie Don" Left the Mafia and Lived to Tell His Story, you can enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

#### Melissa Broussard:

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