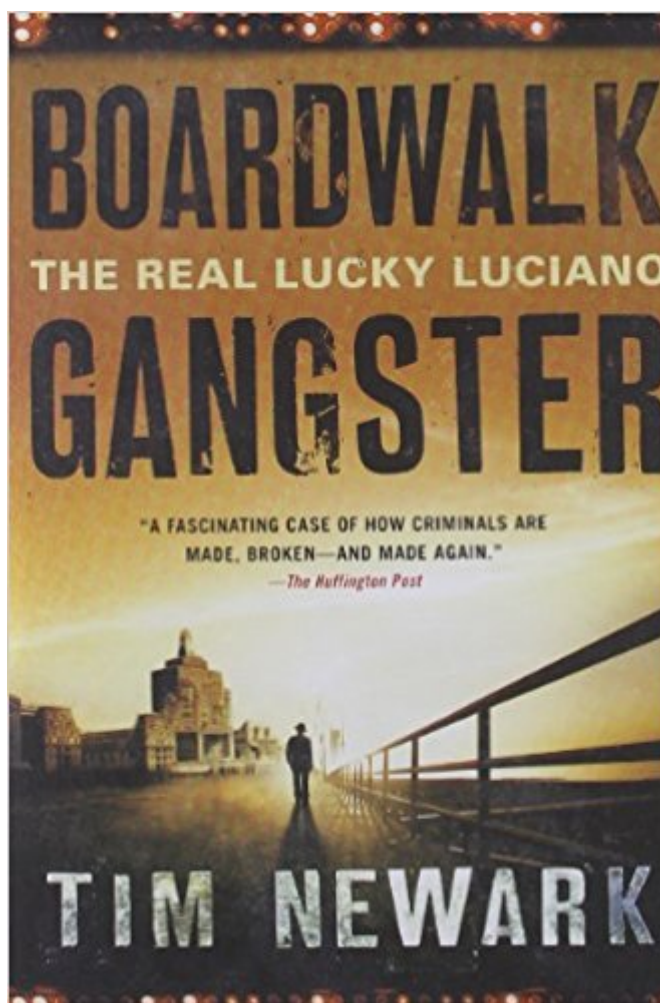


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Boardwalk Gangster: The Real Lucky Luciano



Synopsis

For the first twenty-five years of his career, Lucky Luciano was a vicious mobster who became the king of the New York underworld. For the next twenty-five, he was a fake, his reputation maintained by government agents. Boardwalk Gangster follows him from his early days as a hit man to his sex and narcotics empires, exposing the truth about what he did to help the Allies in World War II, and revealing how he really spent his twilight years. Drawing on secret government documents in the United States and Europe, this myth-busting biography tells a story that has never been told beforeâin which the American Mafia becomes entangled with foreign war and Cold War conspiracy.

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Customer Reviews

Americans have a tendency to romanticize some of our worst criminals. Thankfully, Newark avoids that in his absorbing and well-researched biography of one of our most interesting gangsters. For the most part, he confirms that Luciano was a murderous thug. Still, as Newark illustrates, he was a cut above most of his fellow hoods in terms of intelligence and his understanding of the American political and economic landscape. Although he was born in Sicily, Luciano was Americanized in that he had contempt for most of the older, Sicilian-born Moustache Petes and their pretensions to codes of honor and disdain for working with Jewish mobsters. Perhaps it was his streak of independence that allowed Luciano to survive the vicious New York Mob wars of the 1920s and 1930s, but it also left him particularly vulnerable to Thomas Dewey's crusade against the Mob.

Newark's recounting of his later career after his deportation is interesting and provocative. He clearly worked for the U.S. government, but his activities were so murky that it is unclear who was being manipulated. --Jay Freeman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A fascinating case of how criminals are made, broken--and made again. • The Huffington Post • Well written and well researched. • The Telegraph (Books of the Year) (UK) • This interesting book separates the truth about Luciano from the stories and movies about his life. • The Oklahoman • A must for true-crime fans. • News of the World (UK) • Newark provides what is, probably, the most balanced biography of a man who often claimed to be a victim, but had little thought for his own victims. • BBC History Magazine • Great detective work here. Tim Newark has uncovered fascinating new angles on the Lucky Luciano story and tells it well. • John Dickie, author of Cosa Nostra • Tim Newark's beautifully written and thoroughly researched studies offer new information and penetrating insights on hitherto little-known chapters in the history of American organized crime. • Robert Rockaway, author of But He Was Good to His Mother • The victory of Mafia Allies is the depth the author brings to the subject. • New York Post on Mafia Allies • Mafia Allies follows the fortunes of the Italian and American Cosa Nostra during the Second World War and brilliantly explodes a large number of myths in the process. • Daily Telegraph (UK) on Mafia Allies

My mafia-obsessed daughter is especially fond of Charles "Lucky" Luciano - the photographs therein are terrible because they're all the typical run-of-the-mill hum-drum ones - with no candid shots that are easily enough obtained. The author gives a bit of a different perspective on Luciano's life - some of it seems a bit far fetched - other parts of it are truthful and correct - although he does quote The Last Testament quite a lot he provides reasons for doing so. Another oddity is in the first chapter of the book he prefaces it by explaining that Luciano was going to Germany for business reasons - but spends the rest time speaking about Jack "Legs" Diamond.

Author Tim Newark appears to have done a lot of research in delving into the life of Charles "Lucky" Luciano. He provides us with several sides of various incidents in Mr. Luciano's life using such phrasing as "In another version...", "It is believed", along with other phrases that lead the reader to wonder what actually happened. Both Meyer Lansky and Luciano were rivals of mobster Vito Genovese, and may have sought revenge on Vito by informing authorities of the November, 1957,

mobster get-together in Apalachin, New York, which proved to be very embarrassing to Genovese as he sought to become the kingpin after the murder of Albert Anastasia. Dutch Schultz, the noted Beer Baron of the Bronx, wanted a "hit" on prosecutor Tom Dewey, but Luciano didn't want a loose cannon like Schultz to bump off such a high profile target. Instead Schultz found himself the target and paid with his life in a Newark, New Jersey, chophouse. Ironically Luciano was sent to upstate New York's Dannemora prison for a sentence as long as thirty to fifty years for drug dealing and prostitution with Thomas Dewey as the prosecutor. Newark delves into the role played by Luciano in helping out the United States during World War II in regards to the United States landing in Sicily, and the mob's role in protecting the docks in New York City. Newark speculates as to a possible role played by "The Mad Hatter" Albert Anastasia in the sinking of The Normandie in New York harbor to entice the government to ask the mob's help in sifting out so-called enemy espionage. No promises were made to Luciano regarding his lengthy prison sentence in exchange for any assistance he may provide to the United States, but after nine years Luciano was paroled and deported from his beloved New York and the United States. Newark also speculates to the death of singer Mario Lanza who died under mysterious circumstances after turning down Luciano's invitation (order?) to take part in a charity performance to enhance the gangster's image in Naples, Italy. I did find the book to be interesting although there were some chapters that went beyond my interest level, and found it hard to keep track of the various individuals involved. Newark also spends time on the controversy regarding the book entitled "The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano." Newark's book involves a lot of speculation on Luciano's career, and perhaps we'll never know the definitive answers.

Entertaining and has an interesting premise. But this is not a scholarly work. It is very loosely annotated. Should have been fact-checked, but unfortunately publishers don't pay for editors, let alone proofreaders any more. But it may be a stimulant to better investigation of certain questions and events.

absolutely great book

Some facts are mixed up. Not as accurate as I thought.

Not a bad book. It was interesting to read about the person behind the myth.

book in very good condition

Great read!

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