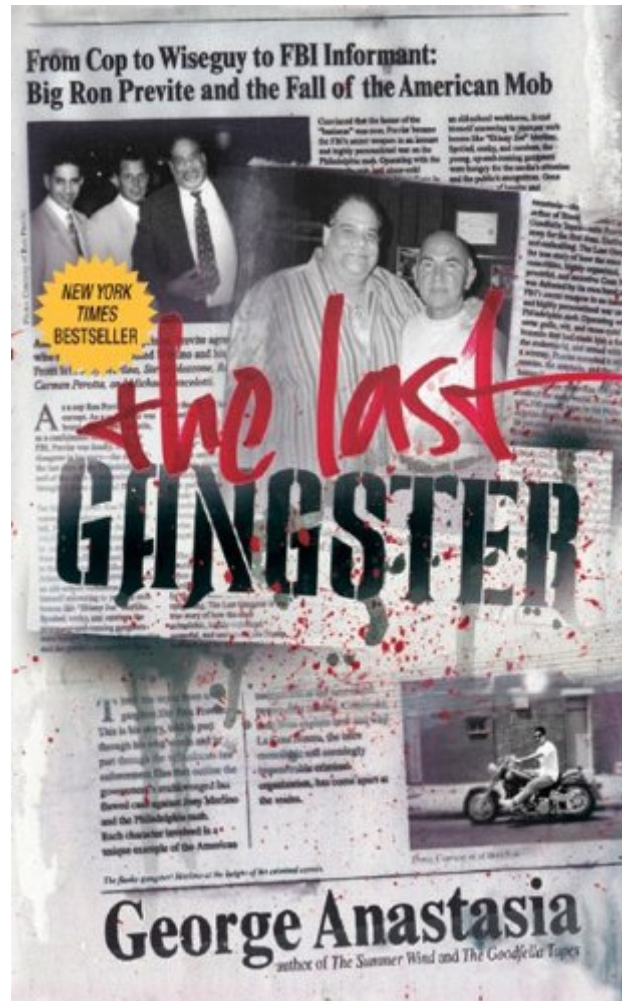


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The Last Gangster



Synopsis

"It's over. You'd have to be Ray Charles not to see it." —former New Jersey capo Ron Previte, on the mob today As a cop, Ron Previte was corrupt. As a mobster he was brutal. And in his final role, as a confidential informant to the FBI, Previte was deadly. *The Last Gangster* is his story—the story of the last days of the Philadelphia Mob, and of the clash of generations that brought it down once and for all. For 35 years Ron Previte roamed the underworld. A six-foot, 300-pound capo in the Philadelphia–South Jersey crime family, he ran every mob scam and gambit from drug trafficking and prostitution to the extortion of millions from Atlantic City. In his own words, "Every day was a different felony." By the 1990s, Previte, an old-school workhorse, found himself answering to younger mob bosses like "Skinny Joe" Merlino, who seemed increasingly spoiled, cocky, and careless. Convinced that the honor of the "business" was gone, he became the FBI's secret weapon in an intense and highly personalized war on the Philadelphia mob. Operating with the same guile, wit, and stone-cold bravado that had made him a force in the underworld—and armed with only a wiretap secured to his crotch—Previte recorded it all; the murder, the mayhem, and even the story of mob boss Ralph Natale's affair with his youngest daughter's best friend. Previte and his FBI cronies eventually prevailed, securing the convictions of his nemeses, "Skinny Joey" Merlino and Ralph Natale.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Living in the Philadelphia area, I remember many of the events from this book. I liked getting the inside story on how Ron Previte did what he did. It was a story only someone like George Anastasia, who knows Philadelphia and all the players, could tell.

Entertaining enough, but not one of the best in the genre. As most people know the mafia has turned from a past reputation of silence (omertà) to an exchange of government informers for leniency. Still, it is a very catchy society, and over the years have read many books on this subject.
3.5 Stars.

I always love to read George Anastasia. He knows how to make the reader feel as if he is an eye-witness to the unfolding events. And this book is right up there with his best. This work gives you a nice long stare into how things went in the Philly Mob from the Scarfo debacle to Skinny Joey Merlino. I wish I could give it six stars!

I have read a number of books about the Philadelphia mob, and this is one of my favorites. It ranks up there with Blood and Honor also written by George Anastasia.

From mobfather to this and everything George writes is a classic. He truly understands this thing of ours. I would rank him as one of the best. Selwyn Rabb is another great writer.

George Anastasia does a great job of story telling. He weaves the fabric of the story into segments that are easy to follow and comprehend.

very interesting how 1 book could change a lot of gangsters lives

The book was very exciting..I enjoyed it!

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