

sammy the bull gravano

sammy the bull gravano is a name that resonates profoundly within the annals of American organized crime history. As one of the most notorious figures associated with the Gambino crime family, Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano's life is a complex tapestry woven with crime, loyalty, betrayal, and redemption. His story offers a unique window into the inner workings of the Mafia during the late 20th century, illuminating the inner conflicts faced by those caught in the web of organized crime. From his early days in Brooklyn to his rise as a feared underboss, and eventually to his dramatic turn as a government informant, Gravano's life story continues to captivate both law enforcement and the public alike.

Early Life and Entry into Organized Crime

Background and Childhood

Salvatore Gravano was born on March 14, 1945, in Brooklyn, New York, into a working-class Italian-American family. Growing up in a neighborhood rife with economic hardship and social challenges, Gravano was exposed early on to the realities of urban life and the lure of street gangs. His Italian heritage and proximity to Mafia influence played a significant role in shaping his future path.

Joining the Gambino Family

In his teenage years, Gravano became involved with local street gangs, eventually crossing paths with members of the Gambino crime family. Demonstrating a combination of street smarts and a ruthless streak, Gravano quickly earned a reputation as a dependable enforcer. His loyalty and fearlessness caught the attention of senior Mafia figures, paving the way for his ascent within the organization.

Rise Through the Ranks

Becoming an Underboss

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, Gravano's influence within the Gambino family grew significantly. His involvement in various criminal enterprises, including extortion, loan sharking, and illegal gambling, solidified his reputation as a formidable figure. His strategic mind and brutal enforcement tactics led to his appointment as underboss—a position second only to the boss—by the late 1980s.

Criminal Activities and Operations

As underboss, Gravano oversaw a vast array of illegal activities that contributed millions of dollars to the Gambino family's coffers. These included:

- Extortion schemes targeting local businesses
- Loan sharking operations
- Illegal gambling rings
- Racketeering and protection rackets

His role made him one of the most powerful and feared figures in New York organized crime.

The Hit on Paul Castellano and Power Shift

The 1985 Assassination of Paul Castellano

One of the most pivotal moments in Gravano's criminal career was the assassination of Gambino boss Paul Castellano on December 16, 1985. The hit was orchestrated by John Gotti, who sought to take control of the family. Gravano played a crucial role in executing the plan, which involved ambushing Castellano outside a Manhattan restaurant.

Aftermath and Gotti's Reign

Following Castellano's death, John Gotti ascended to the boss position, ushering in a new era of leadership. Gravano's loyalty and strategic acumen made him Gotti's trusted confidant and underboss. Under Gotti's leadership, the Gambino family expanded its influence, with Gravano managing many operational aspects.

Criminal Activities Under Gravano's Leadership

Expanding the Criminal Empire

During his tenure as underboss, Gravano was involved in an array of illicit ventures:

1. **Drug Trafficking:** Although initially cautious, Gravano eventually became involved in

drug deals, which increased the Gambino family's profits but also attracted law enforcement attention.

2. **Violent Enforcements:** Gravano was known for his ruthlessness in eliminating rivals and enforcing the family's interests.
3. **Corruption and Bribery:** He cultivated connections with corrupt officials and law enforcement to shield their operations.

Relationship with Other Mafia Families

Gravano maintained strategic alliances with other New York Mafia families, facilitating inter-family cooperation on various schemes and consolidating power within the criminal underworld.

The Turning Point: Betrayal and Cooperation with Law Enforcement

The Decision to Turn State's Witness

Despite his loyalty to the Gambino family, Gravano's world began to unravel in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Facing increased federal scrutiny and the looming threat of indictment, Gravano made a life-altering decision: to cooperate with authorities. His decision was driven by a desire to avoid life imprisonment and to protect his family.

Testimony and Key Cases

In 1991, Gravano became a crucial witness in the federal government's crackdown on organized crime. His testimonies led to:

- Convictions of numerous Mafia figures
- The dismantling of several criminal enterprises
- Significant reductions in Mafia influence in New York

His cooperation was instrumental in the FBI's efforts against organized crime.

Impact and Consequences

Gravano's decision to turn informant shocked the Mafia world and led to severe repercussions:

- He was sentenced to a reduced prison term
- He entered the witness protection program
- His defection marked a turning point in Mafia law enforcement strategies

Life After Testimony and Public Persona

Post-Prison Life

After serving time, Gravano initially tried to stay out of the public eye. However, his notoriety kept him in the spotlight, and he eventually became a media figure, sharing his story through interviews and books.

Authorship and Media Appearances

Gravano authored several books, including his autobiography "Underboss," which provides an insider's perspective on Mafia life. His media appearances often discuss themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the costs of a life of crime.

Legal Troubles and Controversies

Despite his cooperation, Gravano faced ongoing legal issues, including accusations of involvement in subsequent criminal activities. His life remains a testament to the turbulent and perilous world of organized crime.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Influence on Organized Crime History

Sammy the Bull Gravano's story exemplifies the complex morality and brutal realities of Mafia life. His insights have provided law enforcement with invaluable intelligence, shaping anti-Mafia strategies.

Portrayal in Media and Popular Culture

Gravano's life has inspired numerous books, documentaries, and fictional portrayals. His character appears in movies and TV series like "Mob Wives" and "Gotti," highlighting his enduring influence on popular culture.

Controversial Figure

While some view Gravano as a traitor who betrayed his comrades, others see him as a tragic figure caught in the relentless machinery of organized crime. His legacy remains debated among law enforcement, scholars, and the public.

Conclusion

Sammy the Bull Gravano's life is a compelling narrative of power, loyalty, treachery, and redemption. From a young man drawn into the criminal underworld to a key player in the downfall of the Mafia's most powerful families, Gravano's story underscores the perilous nature of organized crime and the profound consequences of choosing to cooperate with law enforcement. His impact on the fight against the Mafia has been profound, making him one of the most significant figures in the history of American organized crime. Whether viewed as a villain or a whistleblower, Sammy Gravano's story continues to fascinate and inform, serving as a cautionary tale about the costs of a life in the shadows.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Sammy the Bull Gravano and what is he known for?

Sammy the Bull Gravano is a former underboss of the Gambino crime family who became a government informant, helping to bring down numerous mafiosos and significantly impacting organized crime in New York.

What role did Sammy Gravano play in the Gambino crime family?

Sammy Gravano served as underboss, overseeing criminal operations and participating in key decisions, until his decision to cooperate with authorities in exchange for a reduced sentence.

Why did Sammy Gravano decide to become an informant?

Gravano turned state's witness after facing multiple charges and fearing a life sentence,

believing that cooperating would offer him a better chance at survival and a reduced sentence.

What impact did Sammy Gravano's cooperation have on the Mafia?

His cooperation led to the conviction of numerous Mafia members, dismantling parts of the Gambino family and exposing internal operations, which marked a significant blow to organized crime.

What is Sammy Gravano doing now?

After serving his prison sentence, Sammy Gravano has given interviews and appeared in media discussing his life and criminal activities, though he remains a controversial figure due to his past.

Additional Resources

Sammy the Bull Gravano: A Comprehensive Overview of the Notorious Underworld Figure

In the annals of American organized crime, few names evoke as much intrigue and notoriety as Sammy the Bull Gravano. As a pivotal figure within the Gambino crime family, Gravano's life story weaves through the dark tapestry of Mafia history, marked by violence, loyalty, betrayal, and eventual redemption. His journey from notorious hitman to government informant offers a compelling narrative that continues to captivate historians, law enforcement, and crime enthusiasts alike.

Early Life and Rise in the Mafia

Origins and Background

Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano was born on March 12, 1945, in Brooklyn, New York. Growing up in a working-class Italian-American family, Gravano was introduced early on to the rougher streets of Brooklyn, which would shape his future endeavors. His early involvement in petty crimes eventually led him into the fold of organized crime.

Entry into the Gambino Crime Family

By the late 1960s, Gravano had established himself within the Gambino crime family, one of New York's most powerful Mafia syndicates. Recognized for his ruthless efficiency and loyalty, Gravano quickly climbed the ranks, earning a reputation as a formidable enforcer and hitman. His reputation for brutality and unwavering loyalty made him a valuable asset to the family's leadership.

Key Contributions and Roles

- Enforcer and Hitman: Gravano was responsible for numerous violent acts, including

murders that solidified his position within the organization.

- Loyalty to Leadership: His unwavering support to the family boss, John Gotti, positioned him as a trusted confidant and operational enforcer.
- Control Over Criminal Enterprises: Gravano oversaw various illegal activities, including extortion, loansharking, and drug trafficking.

The Dark Side: Crimes and Violence

Notable Crimes

Sammy Gravano's criminal portfolio is extensive, with involvement in several high-profile crimes:

- Multiple Murders: Gravano personally participated in or orchestrated the deaths of numerous rivals and perceived threats, including the infamous assassination of Paul Castellano in 1985, which marked a turning point in Gambino family history.
- Extortion and Racketeering: He was deeply involved in extorting businesses and collecting debts through intimidation and violence.
- Drug Trafficking: Gravano played a significant role in the Gambino family's drug distribution networks, which brought substantial profits but also increased law enforcement scrutiny.

The Paul Castellano Assassination

One of the most significant moments in Gravano's criminal career was his involvement in the assassination of Paul Castellano, the Gambino boss, in 1985. This act was orchestrated by John Gotti to seize control of the family and eliminate Castellano's influence. Gravano's participation cemented his reputation as a ruthless and loyal soldier, but also set in motion events that would eventually lead to his downfall.

The Turning Point: Cooperation with Law Enforcement

The Decision to Flip

In the early 1990s, law enforcement agencies intensified their efforts against organized crime, leading to numerous indictments and convictions. Gravano found himself at a crossroads—continue to risk his life in the violent world of the Mafia or cooperate with authorities for a lighter sentence.

- Betrayal of the Mafia: Gravano made the pivotal decision to become a government informant, providing detailed testimony against his former associates.
- Cooperation and Testimony: His cooperation was instrumental in securing convictions against high-ranking Mafia members, including John Gotti.

Motivations Behind the Decision

Several factors contributed to Gravano's decision to turn state's witness:

- Fear for Personal Safety: The Mafia's code of silence (omertà) meant that betrayal often led to death; Gravano sought protection.
- Desire for a Lighter Sentence: Facing life imprisonment, cooperation offered a chance at a more lenient sentence.
- Disillusionment with Mafia Life: The violence and internal conflicts may have also played a role in his decision to break away.

Legal Consequences and Sentencing

Trials and Sentences

- Testimony Impact: Gravano's testimony was critical in the convictions of numerous Mafia figures, including John Gotti, who was convicted of multiple charges including murder and racketeering.
- Sentencing: In 1992, Gravano pleaded guilty to multiple charges and was sentenced to five years in prison, a relatively light sentence considering his criminal history.

Aftermath of Cooperation

- Protection and Witness Protection Program: Gravano was placed under federal protection, relocating to Arizona to start anew.
- Public Revelation: His cooperation and subsequent testimony made headlines, shocking many who viewed him as a quintessential Mafia hitman.

Life After the Mafia: From Outlaw to Public Figure

Rebuilding a Life

After serving his prison sentence, Gravano attempted to live a quieter life, distancing himself from his past.

- Relocation: He moved to different states, including Arizona and later back to New York.
- Business Ventures: Gravano engaged in various legal activities, attempting to establish a legitimate life.

Return to the Public Eye

Despite efforts to stay under the radar, Gravano became a media figure and author:

- Author: He co-wrote books detailing his life in the Mafia, providing inside perspectives on organized crime.
- Media Appearances: Gravano appeared in documentaries, interviews, and reality TV shows, fueling ongoing public fascination.

Controversies and Legal Issues

Alleged Re-Engagement in Crime

There have been rumors and allegations suggesting Gravano re-engaged in criminal activities after his initial cooperation, though these claims are often debated.

Legal Troubles

- Tax Evasion and Other Charges: Gravano faced legal issues related to financial crimes post-cooperation, highlighting the ongoing risks associated with his notoriety.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Influence on Organized Crime Narratives

Sammy Gravano's life has been a focal point in understanding the inner workings of the Mafia, serving as a case study for law enforcement and criminologists.

Popular Culture

- Books and Documentaries: His story has been chronicled in several books, including his own autobiography, as well as in TV series and movies.
- Symbol of Loyalty and Betrayal: Gravano's journey epitomizes the complex dynamics of Mafia loyalty, violence, and eventual betrayal.

Key Takeaways

- Loyal Enforcer: Gravano's reputation as a ruthless enforcer made him a feared figure within the Gambino family.
- Betrayal and Cooperation: His decision to turn informant was pivotal in dismantling parts of the Mafia's New York operations.
- Complex Legacy: While he is remembered for his violent crimes, his cooperation also contributed significantly to law enforcement victories.

Final Thoughts

Sammy the Bull Gravano remains one of the most infamous and complex figures in the history of organized crime in America. His life story offers a window into the brutal world of the Mafia, the moral ambiguities faced by those involved, and the profound consequences of choosing to cooperate with law enforcement. Whether viewed as a villain, a whistleblower, or a cautionary tale, Gravano's legacy endures as a testament to the violent allure and ultimate peril of the mob lifestyle.

Sammy The Bull Gravano

sammy the bull gravano: Mob Daughter Karen Gravano, Lisa Pulitzer, 2012-02-14 The daughter of a former Gambino crime family underboss relates her struggle to reconcile the image of her elusive yet loving father with that of a murdering mafioso, and shares how she was able to forge a life after the truth was out.

sammy the bull gravano: Underboss Peter Maas, 1999-01-27 Sammy the Bull Gravano is the highest-ranking member of the Mafia in America ever to defeat. In telling Gravano's story, Peter Maas brings us as never before into the innermost sanctums of the Cosa Nostra as if we were there ourselves--a secret underworld of power, lust, greed, betrayal, and deception, with the specter of violent death always waiting in the wings.

sammy the bull gravano: *The Gotti Tapes* Ralph Blumenthal, 1992

sammy the bull gravano: Salvatore Sammy Bull Gravano: The Turncoat Underboss, Jerry Capeci, an investigative and crime reporter, provides a biographical sketch of the Italian mobster Salvatore Sammy Gravano (1945-1997), the underboss of the Gambino crime family who turned government witness in the mid-1990s. His testimony helped jail 36 of his former Mafia associates, including John Gotti.

sammy the bull gravano: Underboss; Sammy the Bull Gravano's Story Peter Maas, 1997

sammy the bull gravano: *The Mafia Encyclopedia* Carl Sifakis, 2006 More than 500 alphabetical entries provide information on the people, places and events associated with the Mafia.

sammy the bull gravano: *The Gotti Tapes* Ralph Blumenthal, 2012-05-09 The author of *Last Days of the Sicilians* presents a look into the Mafia in the tradition of *Wiseguy* and *Boss of Bosses*. Culled from years of wiretapping, here are the unexpurgated FBI tapes of mobster John Gotti, which reveal in detail how he and his crew commanded the most powerful organized crime family in the country. Gotti talks: "I'm not gonna leave a circus when I go to jail. I don't wanna be a phony...One thing I ain't gonna be is two-faced. I'm gonna call 'em like I see 'em...I'd like to kill all the lawyers."

sammy the bull gravano: *Organized Crime and American Power* Michael Woodiwiss, 2001-01-01 Historisch overzicht van de samenhang en wederzijdse beïnvloeding van de georganiseerde misdaad en de politiek in de Verenigde Staten.

sammy the bull gravano: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Mafia* Jerry Capeci, 2005-01-04 Offers a comprehensive overview of the world's most notorious criminal organization, tracing the history of the Mafia, changes in the ranks and power following the conviction of key members, and their diverse roles in cities across the United States.

sammy the bull gravano: *Crimes of the Centuries* Steven Chermak Ph.D., Frankie Y. Bailey, 2016-01-25 This multivolume resource is the most extensive reference of its kind, offering a comprehensive summary of the misdeeds, perpetrators, and victims involved in the most memorable crime events in American history. This unique reference features the most famous crimes and trials in the United States since colonial times. Three comprehensive volumes focus on the most notorious and historically significant crimes that have influenced America's justice system, including the life and wrongdoing of Lizzie Borden, the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, the killing spree and execution of Ted Bundy, and the Columbine High School shootings. Organized by case, the work includes a chronology of major unlawful deeds, fascinating primary source documents, dozens of sidebars with case trivia and little-known facts, and an overview of crimes that have shaped criminal justice in the United States over several centuries. Each of the 500 entries provides information about the crime, the perpetrators, and those affected by the misconduct, along with a short bibliography to extend learning opportunities. The set addresses a breadth of famous trials across American history, including the Salem witch trials, the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti, and the prosecution of O. J. Simpson.

sammy the bull gravano: *Big Apple Gangsters* Jeffrey Sussman, 2020-11-30 The great founding figures of organized crime in the 20th century were born and bred in New York City, and

the city was the basis of their operations. Beginning with Prohibition and going on through many illegal activities the mob became a major force and its tentacles reached into virtually every enterprise, whether legal or illegal: gambling, boxing, labor racketeering, stock fraud, illegal unions, prostitution, food service, garment manufacturing, construction, loan sharking, hijacking, extortion, trucking, drug dealing – you name it the mob controlled it. The men who organized crime in America were the sons of poor immigrants. They were hungry for success and would use whatever means available to achieve their goals. They were not interested in religious identity and ethnic identity. Their syndicate of criminals was made up, primarily of Italians and Jews, but also Irish and black gangsters who could further their ambitions. Their sole objective was always the same – money. It began with Arnold Rothstein, who not only helped to fix the 1919 World Series, but who also mentored and financed the individuals who would control organized crime for decades. Individuals such as Frank Costello, Lucky Luciano, Bugsy Siegel, Joe Adonis, and Meyer Lansky, who would then follow suit setting up other criminal organizations. They established rules of governance, making millions of dollars for themselves and their cohorts. All the organized crime bosses and their cohorts had the same modus operandi: they were far-seeing opportunists who took advantage of every illegal opportunity that came their way for making money. *Big Apple Gangsters: The Rise and Decline of the Mob in New York* reveals just how influential the mob in New York City was during the 20th century. Jeffrey Sussman entertainingly digs into the origins of organized crime in the 20th century by looking at the corporate activity that dominated this one city and how these entrepreneurial bosses supported successful criminal enterprises in other cities. He also profiles many of the colorful gangsters who followed in the footsteps of gangland's original founders. Throughout the book Sussman provides fascinating portraits of a who's who of gangland. His narrative moves excitingly and entertainingly through the pivotal events and history of organized crime, explaining the birth, growth, maturation, and decline of various illegal enterprises in New York. He also profiles those who prosecuted the mob and won significant verdicts that ended many careers, responsible for bringing many organized crime figures to their knees and then delivering a series of coups de grace – such as Burton Turkus, Thomas Dewey, Robert Kennedy, and Rudolph Giuliani.

sammy the bull gravano: New York Magazine , 1997-06-02 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

sammy the bull gravano: The How-to-win Trial Manual - Sixth Edition Ralph Adam Fine, 2015-02-01 Win More Cases and Help More Clients! Ralph Adam Fine pulls no punches. In the sixth edition of his highly acclaimed How-To-Win Trial Manual shows why the traditional ways to try a case in court are suicidal, and gives extensive examples of such suicidal advocacy by famous, high-profile, well-paid trial lawyers. In each of his examples, Ralph Adam Fine shows how the lawyers could have done a better job. This will help you hone your winning skills! Ralph Adam Fine also demonstrates why many of Irving Younger's famous Ten Commandments of Cross-Examination are not only wrong, but why following them significantly reduces your chances of winning. Since it was first published by JURIS in 1998, Ralph Adam Fine's The How-To-Win Trial Manual has been giving lawyers that special edge so they can win even the toughest cases. Now, in this newly revised sixth edition, The How-To-Win Trial Manual takes the unique extra step of showing how and why famed trial lawyers Vincent Bugliosi and Gerry Spence, both superb advocates, could have been even more effective in their ground breaking face-off when Bugliosi "prosecuted" and Spence "defended" Lee Harvey Oswald in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The trial, memorialized in a superb two-disc DVD set, *On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald*, was before a sitting Texas federal district-court judge and a jury of Dallas citizens taken from the Dallas jury rolls. Although the trial was more than two-decades removed from the assassination, Bugliosi and Spence managed to get as witnesses many of the people who were at the assassination and its aftermath;

none of the witnesses testifying in the trial were actors. The “trial” was in London, in a replica of a Texas federal courtroom, and both Bugliosi and Spence gave it their all—preparing as they would have for a real trial, and arguing their respective positions with the gusto for which each is justifiably famous. Ralph Adam Fine has taken the transcript of the two-disc DVD set and shown with his interleaved comments, as he has done with the O.J. Simpson, Martha Stewart, and Enron (Jeffrey Skilling and Ken Lay) trials, as well as a federal-court antitrust trial, how Bugliosi and Spence could have been better. The Oswald chapter, new for the sixth edition, will help all trial lawyers nail the winning techniques to be successful in the courtroom. The sixth edition also gives us Ralph Adam Fine’s special insights into the strategies and trial techniques of the prosecution and defense in the murder trial of Michael Peterson, memorialized in the six-hour DVD set, *Death on the Staircase*. Peterson was charged with killing his wife. He claimed at trial that she accidentally fell down the stairs in their Durham, North Carolina, mansion. This chapter, too, is new for the sixth edition *How-To-Win Trial Manual* and it shows what works and what does not work and why. It will help lawyers avoid the common traps that sink even the best “plans well laid.” The *How-To-Win Trial Manual* shows how to win by using your most powerful tool: The jury’s belief that you, the lawyer, know the “truth” of the case. Ralph Adam Fine also shows how to ask questions on both direct-examination and cross-examination so the jury will know the answers before the witnesses (whether lay or expert) respond. Simply put, if you phrase your questions so that the jury answers them the way you want, before your witnesses answer and irrespective of what your adversary’s witnesses may say on cross-examination, you will win! For a further explanation of Ralph Adam Fine’s - and winning - techniques, as well as what other lawyers have said about *The How To Win Trial Manual*, visit his website www.win-your-trial.com Ralph Adam Fine shows you how to do all of this and more! You and your clients deserve no less!

sammy the bull gravano: *The Ice Man* Philip Carlo, 2007-04-01 Philip Carlo's *The Ice Man* spent over six weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List. Top Mob Hitman. Devoted Family Man. Doting Father. For thirty years, Richard The Iceman Kuklinski led a shocking double life, becoming the most notorious professional assassin in American history while happily hosting neighborhood barbecues in suburban New Jersey. Richard Kuklinski was Sammy the Bull Gravano's partner in the killing of Paul Castellano, then head of the Gambino crime family, at Sparks Steakhouse. Mob boss John Gotti hired him to torture and kill the neighbor who accidentally ran over his child. For an additional price, Kuklinski would make his victims suffer; he conducted this sadistic business with coldhearted intensity and shocking efficiency, never disappointing his customers. By his own estimate, he killed over two hundred men, taking enormous pride in his variety and ferocity of technique. This trail of murder lasted over thirty years and took Kuklinski all over America and to the far corners of the earth, Brazil, Africa, and Europe. Along the way, he married, had three children, and put them through Catholic school. His daughter's medical condition meant regular stays in children's hospitals, where Kuklinski was remembered, not as a gangster, but as an affectionate father, extremely kind to children. Each Christmas found the Kuklinski home festooned in colorful lights; each summer was a succession of block parties. His family never suspected a thing. Richard Kuklinski is now the subject of the major motion picture titled *The Iceman*(2013), starring James Franco, Winona Ryder, Ray Liotta, and Chris Evans.

sammy the bull gravano: 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.

sammy the bull gravano: Mob Chronicles Anton Schwartz, 2025-02-26 Did you know that Joseph Bonanno took acting classes before leading one of New York's most powerful crime families? Or that Al Capone formed a banjo band while imprisoned at Alcatraz? Has anyone told you how Santo Trafficante Jr., Florida's crime boss, narrowly escaped the brutal prisons of Castro's Cuba? These extraordinary stories shed valuable light on the many personalities who elevated the mafia to mythic status in American consciousness. From the Prohibition era to the present day, delve into the hidden world of organized crime through two hundred anecdotes, meticulously organized into twelve thematic chapters.

sammy the bull gravano: ABA Journal , 1997-10 The ABA Journal serves the legal profession. Qualified recipients are lawyers and judges, law students, law librarians and associate members of the American Bar Association.

sammy the bull gravano: Mafia Wife Lynda Milito, 2012-12-26 When Lynda Lustig met Louie Milito, she was a sixteen-year-old high-school dropout with a taste for adventure and an agonizing childhood. When they were married two years later, he was not yet a made man in the powerful Gambino crime family. Louie was a hairdresser who dabbled in petty thievery. But Lynda was so happy to be out of her domineering mother's loveless house. And over the years, she was willing to forgive her husband for anything: his violent rages, his frequent absences, his shady associates, and the blood on his hands. For twentyfour years Lynda Milito remained loyal to this charming and dangerous criminal -- her children's father and close friend of crime boss John Gotti and underboss Sammy the Bull Gravano. But in 1988, Louie Milito disappeared, murdered by the very people he had always trusted to protect him. A crime story, a family story, a love story, *Mafia Wife* is the shockingly intimate, brutally honest tale of a survivor -- and of the life she lived in the dark bosom of the underworld.

sammy the bull gravano: Collectible Meals Rob DiSilvestre, 2002-10 From George Washington to Elvis to Princess Diana, *Collectible Meals* includes an extensive collection of celebrity and historic meals. A brief anecdote outlining the participants and circumstances of each meal accompanies a description of the menu.

sammy the bull gravano: The Most Evil Mobsters in History Lauren Carter, 2004 A fascinating study of fifteen of America's 'most wanted' mobsters--Page 4 of cover. During the 1920s and 1930s, U.S. cities such as New York and Chicago were at the mercy of bands of mobsters--violent criminals affiliated to organized-crime rings who made illegal fortunes from gambling, prostitution, contract killings, abortions, labor union kickbacks, protection rackets, bribery, corruption and, during the Prohibition era, bootlegging. While the Italian Mafia was the largest and most powerful, other ethnic groups had similar organizations, most notably the Jews and the Irish. Mobsters belonged to a hierarchical structure organized like a corporation, hence the name syndicate. The different gangs often clashed violently in vicious territorial turf wars. While their business interests and tactics have changed over the years, many of the organizations established in the gangsters' heyday prior to the Second World War still live on today under other names. This book contains profiles of fifteen of the most notorious mobsters.--From publisher description

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