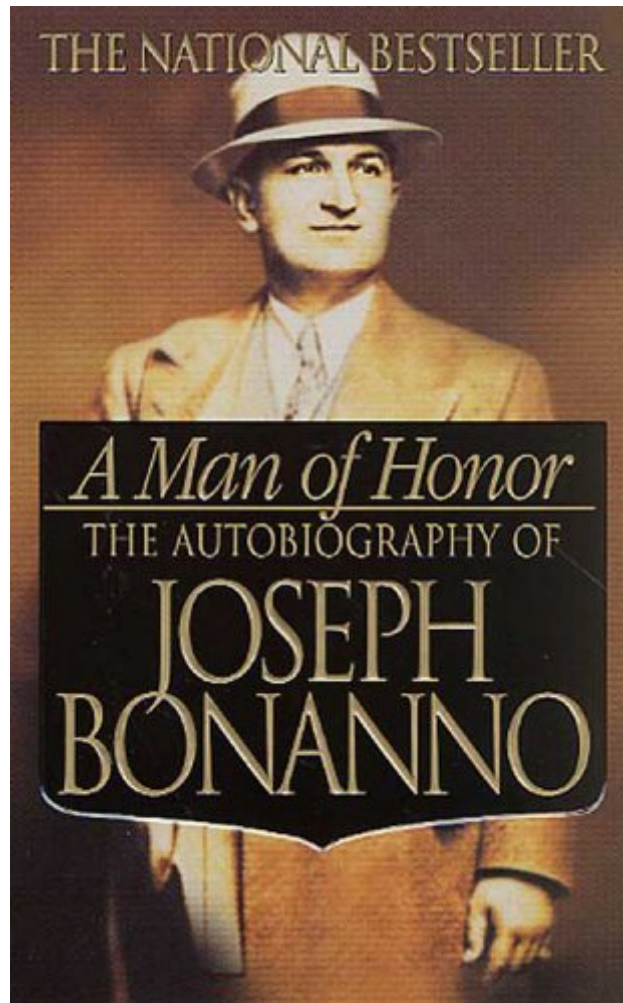




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# **A Man Of Honor: The Autobiography Of Joseph Bonanno**



## Synopsis

"Friendships, connections, family ties, trust, loyalty, obedience-this was the 'glue' that held us together." These were the principles that the greatest Mafia "Boss of Bosses," Joseph Bonnano, lived by. Born in Castellammare del Golfo, Sicily, Bonnano found his future amid the whiskey-running, riotous streets of Prohibition America in 1924, when he illegally entered the United States to pursue his dreams. By the age of only twenty-six, Bonnano became a Don. He would eventually take over the New York underworld, igniting the "Castellammarese War," one of the bloodiest Family battles ever to hit New York City... Now, in this candid and stunning memoir, Joe Bonanno-likely a model for Don Corleone in the blockbuster movie *The Godfather*-takes readers inside the world of the real Mafia. He reveals the inner workings of New York's Five Families-Bonanno, Gambino, Profaci, Lucchese, and Genovese-and uncovers how the Mafia not only dominated local businesses, but also influenced national politics. A fascinating glimpse into the world of crime, *A Man of Honor* is an unforgettable account of one of the most powerful crime figures in America's history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was never much to care about a autobiography, but I was recommended to pick this book up and give it a try. In all honestly, I loved this book. I am not being bias, or being selective. In fairness, some readers would not like this book or would find this book boring. The reason why I say this, is because if you are looking for 'Mob' stories, gun fights, bloodshed and its details, you really will not find that in this novel. What you will find is history, tradition, a way of life. What I mean by 'a way of life' is what Mr. Bohannon would describe his way of life, even though its long gone due too the American way of life and markets of consumers. He brings to light to truth behind the Mafia and its beginnings. Just like any 'Gang', and I use this term lightly, it was a society created to protect their own from outsiders. It allowed to give their own the opportunities to achieve when our set American market would not give them the chance to make something of themselves. But, you see this through his eyes. A true design of a leader. One can learn many things from this book, especially on how to be a true leader. Tradition is key and imperative. Growing up in a culture very similar to the Sicilian way of life in the past, I can relate to Mr. Bohannon and his way of life. I do feel that our companies and our current society has slowly fallen off track, and no longer sees the truth. Reading this book will allow you to see and understand what those distractions are and how yourself can remove oneself from the train headed for destruction. I don't want to give away what he talks about, as I would rather prefer you to read and interpret his writing into your own words. Think of a man providing his life lessons to you through a story of truth, to allow you to establish the building blocks of your persona and character. Remember, that a 'Man of Tradition' will always be remembered.

This was a good read. Although the title should be: "Who me? I ain't no gangsta" (declared in my best Bushwick accent), or "How I paid a professional writer to make me sound smart and not like a criminal".

Good solid read. Only problem? Joe spent the entire book trying to define himself as a "man of honor", ignoring his fundamental role as one of the leading organizers of a massive criminal dynasty. To hear him tell it, his "family" was a loose-knit collection of friends and associates engaged in social and economic pursuits. Aside from that, it's a good tale of an Italian-American immigrant who made his mark over several decades.

I'm not going to get into a big long thing here. Two things you should know: Joe Bonanno is a liar and a coward. Read the book, it doesn't take long to figure this out. And two, this might be the

closest and therefore most disturbing look into the psyche of a mafioso in publication right now. When I say disturbing, I don't mean gory or violent. For a "mafia" book, there is very little of that to be found which is obviously intentional. What I find most disturbing is that, even without violence or gore, it doesn't take long for you to hate Joe Bonanno as you see just how little honor this man possesses. The way he is able to rationalize his cowardice, the way Bonanno is able to make his lack of a spine or integrity seem like a principled set of values is nothing short of abhorrent. That's what makes this such a fascinating read. We know what happened. The truth of the historical and legal record bears all of this out and yet you get a complete retelling of these events with an innocent Joe Bonanno leading the charge as the man on the white horse out to save eroding values from the lack of moral direction found in the new world. It was hard to read to be honest at times because you just feel gross taking in this man's, this murderer's lies and distortions of truth. It's worth the read if for nothing else that it gives some pretty clear insight into the deluded and self-centered mind of a killer who believes himself to be the model of honor. For anyone who may have grown up fantasizing about being a made man, this is the book that will leave you feeling peevish for the desire. And while there are a number of good things about this book, the same cannot be said for the man that is its subject.

I watched a 'docuseries' on La Costa Nostra and this book was mentioned. Although some family members were recorded by the FBI saying that Joseph Bonanno lied about some things in the book... I'm sure. It would seem that the foundation of 'families' is true though. It was interesting read about early Italian American life, and the main players to which the five families of New York were named after. If you are interested in the 'mafia' then I would recommend.

Always interesting to read about these families.

The story is interesting, but as soon as I got to the pictures section, they all fell out of the book! The binding of the book is rather poor.

Good book. Little slow at the end.

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