



## Mafia Son: The Scarpa Mob Family, the FBI, and a Story of Betrayal

By Sandra Harmon

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**Mafia Son: The Scarpa Mob Family, the FBI, and a Story of Betrayal** By Sandra Harmon

*Bestselling author Sandra Harmon uses her inside access to the Mob, law enforcement, and jailed Mafioso Gregory Scarpa Jr. to tell an epic true story of crime and betrayal.*

The Scarpas were a Mafia dynasty led by Greg Scarpa Sr., so notorious for his addiction to violence and murder that he was nicknamed “The Grim Reaper.” His son, Gregory Jr., a promising young athlete, worshipped his ruthless and manipulative father, and slowly he was drawn into his father’s dark world. What no one but father and son knew was that for thirty years, starting in the 1960s, Scarpa Sr. was an informant, working intimately with FBI handlers. For decades, his connection to the FBI—including the much-publicized agent Lin DeVecchio—protected him, granting him a virtual license to kill. However, when faced with arrest in the late 1980s, Scarpa asked his son to leave his wife and children, and take the fall for his father.

In 1995, after years in prison, Gregory Jr. was transferred to Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan and re-indicted on superseding charges. There he was imprisoned alongside Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind behind the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and made a deal with the government to get information from Yousef in exchange for leniency. A year later, he furnished the feds with detailed intelligence on what would eventually result in the September 11 attacks. But, incredibly, Gregory’s desperate warnings were unheeded, and he was sentenced to forty-years-to-life in isolation at the notorious ADMAX, the most secure federal prison in the country, in Florence, Colorado. There, he would supply the FBI with intelligence on Oklahoma City bomber and fellow prisoner Terry Nichols. Again, his contribution was ignored, and Gregory remains at ADMAX, where he believes he will one day be murdered.

A story that gained national notoriety in 2007 as a result of former FBI agent Lin DeVecchio's sensational murder trial, at which Sandra Harmon testified, this is an unforgettable tale of violence, wealth, and sex, set in a world where a man's word is both everything and nothing.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Stressing the elements of irony and malice, Harmon (coauthor, *Elvis and Me*) sidesteps the usual Mob yarn to tell the somber, dark story of a coldhearted Mafia chieftain and his obedient son, who takes the fall for his father out of familial love and respect. Wily mob head Gregory Scarpa Sr., with a 50-man crew in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, scammed, stole and killed under FBI protection starting in the 1960s, informing against hundreds of gangsters and crooked lawyers for decades. But when faced with arrest for his crimes, the elder Scarpa betrays his adoring son, Gregory Jr., whom he'd groomed to take his place. Convicted for racketeering, the young Scarpa does a long stretch in a federal maximum security prison, where in 1998 he overhears terrorist schemes to attack America from a prisoner named Ramzi Yousef. But his words are discounted until the September 11 attacks. Harmon, a very capable writer, gets inside the heads of the diabolical father and the submissive son (who is still in prison) in this sinister tale of bullets and betrayal. A disturbing, jagged true-crime thriller worthy of prime Hammett, Chandler or Puzo. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

As the son of a mobster, Scarpa was practically destined to go into the family business, although he never felt the thrill of murder and violence his father experienced. When federal investigators finally homed in on their corner of the Mafia world, 38-year-old Scarpa went to prison instead of his dying father. Just as Scarpa had inherited his Mafia position, he'd also inherited his father's relationship with federal agents. In exchange for information about Mob activity, Scarpa Sr., known as the Grim Reaper, was given a virtual license to kill. But Scarpa Jr. was eventually betrayed by his father and federal agents who could have given him leniency. He had passed along information from terrorist Ramzi Yousef, Scarpa's neighbor in prison, including early warning of al-Qaeda's planning for the 9/11 attack. The information was ignored, and Scarpa Jr. was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison. Harmon draws on five years of research, including extensive interviews with Scarpa Jr. and family members, to offer an enthralling look at ties between the Mafia and the FBI. --Vanessa Bush

### Review

"A disturbing, jagged true-crime thriller worthy of prime Hammett, Chandler or Puzo." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"It's hard enough to write without risking your life. Sandra Harmon did both in her tense, penetrating psychological portrait of the wiseguy who went right and paid the price. A true thriller in the tradition of *Donnie Brasco* and *Goodfellas*." —Robert Graysmith, author of *Zodiac* and *Auto Focus*

"An absorbing and intriguing look at a Mafia family whose violence and treachery knew no limits." —Vincent Bugliosi, author of *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder*

"Harmon writes well and swiftly about one of this century's most feared, duplicitous Mafiosos—Greg Scarpa, a war captain in the Colombo crime family, a man who had his eye shot out in a gun battle, a man who was so fond of shooting people that he regularly said, 'I love the smell of gunpowder,' a man who played both sides of the fence—dedicated Mafioso, and informer for the FBI. Hell of a read." —Phil Carlo, author of *The Ice Man*

"A vivid and accurate account of one of the most notorious and ruthless families in the history of organized

crime. Sandra Harmon has captured...the very essence of the Scarpa family in all its savage, corrupt, and murderous glory. A great read!" —Michael Vecchione, chief of the Rackets Division, Kings County District Attorney's Office

"The implications drawn in this book about the FBI's fitness as a law enforcement agency—as well as its capabilities in protecting our nation from terrorism—are staggering.... A can't-put-it-down read." —Michael Levine, former DEA agent, trial consultant, and author of *Deep Cover*

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Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book titled Mafia Son: The Scarpa Mob Family, the FBI, and a Story of Betrayal? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different opinion?

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#### **Roosevelt Alday:**

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