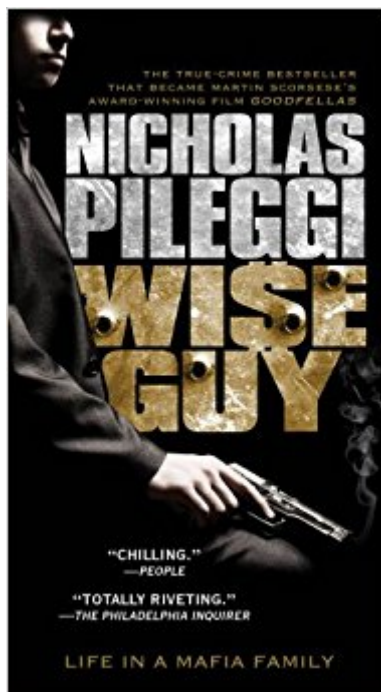


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# Wiseguy



## Synopsis

Nicholas Pileggi's vivid, unvarnished, journalistic chronicle of the life of Henry Hill—the working-class Brooklyn kid who knew from age twelve that “to be a wiseguy was to own the world,” who grew up to live the highs and lows of the mafia gangster's life—has been hailed as “the best book ever written on organized crime” (Cosmopolitan). This is the true-crime bestseller that was the basis for Martin Scorsese's film masterpiece *GoodFellas*, which brought to life the violence, the excess, the families, the wives and girlfriends, the drugs, the payoffs, the paybacks, the jail time, and the Feds—with Henry Hill's crackling narration drawn straight out of *Wiseguy* and overseeing all the unforgettable action. Read it and experience the secret life inside the mob—from one who's lived it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a riveting account of organized crime as a way of life. The "wiseguy" (mob parlance for a street-level hoodlum) is Henry Hill, 30-year veteran of a Brooklyn strong-arm branch of the Luchese crime family, who turned against and helped convict his former associates five years ago and entered the Federal Witness Protection Program. Pileggi, a crime reporter for New York writing here with Hill's cooperation, does a superb job of re-creating the gangster's career, from his early days as an errand boy (at 12) to racketeer Paulie Vario in Brooklyn's Brownsville-East New York section, to his pivotal roles in a Boston College point-shaving scandal and the \$6-million Lufthansa heist at

Kennedy Airport in 1978. Hill's story becomes an extraordinary vantage on a demimonde that lives a high, violent, score-to-score life in which car theft, hijacking-to-order, credit-card scams, cigarette smuggling, and other hustles and schemes are as workaday as 9-to-5 at the office. Literary Guild featured alternate. Foreign rights: Sterling Lord. January 30 Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Growing up in Brooklyn in the 1950s Henry Hill aspired "to be a gangsterto be a wise guy." This book chronicles Hill's criminal successes beginning with his being a gofer for neighborhood mobster to his part in the 1978 \$6-million Lufthansa Airlines robbery. Smuggling, hijacking, union racketeering, credit card fraud, robbery, bribery, drug dealing, prison, marriage, and assorted girlfriends take up most of Hill's time and this story. The author may have faithfully portrayed his subject but neither Hill nor any of his activities provokes much interest. The result is a plodding, episodic account which would have made a better magazine article than book. Hill's career ends with his becoming the ultimate wise guy as an informer under the Federal Witness Program. Jerry Maioli, Western Library Network, Olympia, Wash. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book gives a reasonably detailed view of wiseguy style of life. I feel author pictures henry as almost a good guy cuz there wasnt an occurrence that henry wanted to do bad things intentionally, but either externally enforced or against his will. Except this too-good henry facet everything else is very enjoyable to me.

One of the best writers for mafia themed books. He only wrote 2 books? This one and Casino. This is the real deal, a well researched book, and it shows throughout the book. A powerhouse, if you ask me. 4.5 Stars.

An absolutely fascinating book showing how a guy on the lower rungs of the ladder had connections that reached up to the top of one of the most powerful families often referred to as the mafia. Henry Hill relates his experiences in a warts and all account so potent and well thought out that many of his observations went directly into the screenplay for Goodfellas. Many details and background information shine so attractively in this narrative that if you loved the film then you will adore this book. Nicholas Pileggi also wrote Casino and Donnie Brasco, two books I intend to read as soon as possible. I heard the film will be re-released in theaters. It would be awesome if there are any

additional scenes added (even in a re-release of the DVD). Also, if you loved this movie you should really check out Mean Streets. In many ways Goodfellas is a follow up or maybe like a fully realized bookend to that movie. Both Scorsese and Pileggi have such a great sense of time and place and juicy characters! Additionally there are some related cookbooks by Marty Scorsese and Henry Hill you can find if you're into cooking Italian the right way.

I've seen Goodfellas more times than I can count. If I'm changing channels and find it playing, I'm in no matter where it is. I finally read the inspiration and have to say it's better than the movie. I have a sincere appreciation for what it takes to go from print to screen. I get it and have no criticism for decisions made. Still, it's great to see the real names, real quotes, and added elements that weren't included. Gotta go, I might read it again.

I must admit the only reason I bought this book was because I was stunned by the cinematic genius I believed was 'Goodfellas'. I believe most of the time if a movie is adapted from a book, they're going to have to shorten the movie, therefore leaving out potential plot points and facts that could give us a little more backdrop on the film. I believe the vibe I got from 'Goodfellas' was a much different vibe than I got from 'Wise Guy'. While I enjoy both, I think if I want a ride through fast mob hits, handsome faces by leading actors, and charming scenes of suited gangsters while cultural music hits relevant to the time period play in the background, I'll stick to the television. Smooth operations, well planned heists, and crooked thieves reel me in with this page turner from Nicholas Pileggi. The facts are all there, from Luftsansa, to point shaving schemes. This book lays out the hard, nitty-gritty bones of mobster life. The book describes it all; how to get money was to hustle; how the men surrounding the book's main character, Henry Hill, were all vengeful, coniving and murdering. While I don't feel pity for the man once named Henry Hill, (well, he has changed his name multiple times under Federal Witness Protection guidelines, but if I'm correct he has returned to his former moniker, Henry Hill) I do feel pity for the people who had been swept up in the seemingly glamorous lifestyle; mothers, children, friends. I loved this book, I got a great deal of information that was otherwise lacking in 'Goodfellas', and the author seemed to jump from narration to Henry's point of view with great fluidity. I liked the writing style, I liked the size of the book (fits in a purse or bag beautifully), and the story is just as you'd imagine: unflinching, bloody, interesting, and thrilling. I could not put this book down once I opened it. I'm glad I purchased it.

I would definitely recommend this book if you are interested in organized crime. I personally am

fascinated in it and read books, watch documentaries, movies. All of it. I will say tho if you have seen the movie goodfellas (I have watched it at least a hundred times,not kidding, my all time favorite movie. Well that and casino) you will probably read this book in Ray Liotta' s voice as I did throughout the whole thing. Well actually I had every character's voice in my head from the movie. The movie does follow the book quite well but there were some things different. The book describes more things in detail that I don't think a movie could ever pull off unless you want a 10 hour movie. Now with that being said I give this book five stars and will probably read it again.

I have seen Goodfellas numerous times and fell in love with the charters, locations, and the lifestyle in which they lived. I knew the movie was based off a book but I never got around to reading it until now. I was blown away by it. I can see why it was made into a movie. The book gives you a true insiders look into that life and paints a chilling picture of the characters i felt like I grew up with from the movie. This is a must read for anyone that loves Goodfellas as much as I do and is fascinated with the mob and how it operated.

Being such a big fan of the movie "Goodfellas" I decided to buy the book, and I honestly enjoyed the book more than the movie (even though the movie is still great!) The book offers several stories and other little interesting things about life inside the mob that the movie left out.

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