

# Bookshelf browser

Reviews of recent books

**DOUBLE CROSS** By Sam Giancana and Chuck Giancana  
(Warner, \$22.95)

"Double Cross" is as shocking as the life of the book's subject, crime boss Sam Giancana.

Known to friends and enemies as "Mooney," he was a Chicago hood who shot and killed his way to power and then used it to expand the mob's influence into the arts, unions and the federal government.

In this biography, Mooney's brother, Chuck, and grandson, Sam, reveal many more family secrets.

As they tell it, Mooney took part in the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre and gunned down dozens of men before he was 20.

He showed no mercy to his victims. "Sometimes, you want it to last, so you just play with a guy, toy with him a little bit. They always act the same. ... they beg you not to do it to 'em. When you finally do hit the (bastard), he drops like a sack of potatoes right there at your feet."

The book also dwells at length on Mooney's alleged ties with the CIA, including an attempt to eliminate Castro, and his relationship with the Kennedy family.

The co-authors credit Mooney with twice saving Joseph Kennedy's life from hit men, but it was done for a reason: Mooney figured he would have easy access to the White House after John F. Kennedy took office.

"It's all ins and outs for me when Jack's elected," Mooney explained to Chuck. "I'll be on easy street ... no more coppers, no more FBI. ... As far as my business will be concerned — Vegas, Teamsters, drugs, you name it — they'll all just turn their heads and they'll have executive orders to do it. Or else."

There are controversial chapters in which Mooney is linked to the death of Marilyn Monroe and to the assassinations of John and Bobby Kennedy.

Mooney died like he had lived. On June 19, 1975, he was cooking sausages in his suburban home in Illinois when a killer fired one shot into the base of his skull, one into the mouth and five more under his chin.

Chuck Giancana implies that his brother's murder was not gangland retribution but was ordered to keep him from testifying about his government connections.

*By George Hackett, AP*

**SILENT PREY** By John Sandford (Putnam, \$21.95)

A criminally insane man breaking out of jail is nothing to celebrate, unless the prisoner is Dr. Michael Bekker — that means thriller-lovers are in for a deliciously chilling time.

Bekker, a drug-addicted pathologist, was the archvillain of John Sandford's 1991 best seller "Eyes of Prey." The "good doctor" murders people in his experiments on death. And after he does, he makes sure to mutilate their eyes because he doesn't want their ghosts to come back and stare at him!

"Eyes" ended with Bekker being arrested by Detective Lucas Davenport of the Minneapolis police.

"Silent Prey," its sequel, begins with Bekker escaping from jail and going to New York. The worried New York Police Department asks Davenport to come to the Big Apple to help find Bekker. The New York police also want him to find an internal group of vigilante police who are killing people.