

# BOOKS

## Mafia nephews divulge mob's secrets

**Double Cross**  
By Sam and Chuck Giancana  
Warner Books: \$22.95

Anyone who hasn't already read this finger-pointing story about the Mafia should — it is a highly recommended read.

Written by nephews of Sam "MoMo" "Mooney" Giancana, the tale is their perception of organized crime's influence in the 20th century.

To read the accusations is to walk through history. They claim the mob killed John and Robert Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe and Jimmy Hoffa. This book is the source of the details surrounding Monroe's alleged murder.

The men also claim that every president, up to and including Bush, has been controlled by organized crime.

This is a very readable story that will suck readers through the tales of bloody death and insidious torture handed to those who dare to cross the mobsters.

The Giancanas lay all the problems at the feet of their uncle but take care to absolve their own father, a minor crook who performed non-violent chores for his brother.

It's a heavy-duty story that will provide more fun than watching all the "Godfather" movies in one sitting.

**The Last Rite of Hugo T**  
By J.N. Catanach  
St. Martin's Press: \$18.95

People used to reading mysteries are confronted with interesting tales that make them wonder who did it and why. Finding this little masterpiece is like locating a nugget of real gold in a pile of slag.

Hugo is a lonely old man who wants to die. He is tired of his existence in a small flat in New York. He makes his plans to jump off of a bridge and end it all.

Before he can, he is intrigued by a Polish plot involving his brother, a man he hasn't seen in a half century. This sets Hugo to remembering their youth, the fight against Nazi invaders and the years of involvement with the Russian occupiers.

Hugo still intends to end it all but is constantly reminded of the past by a gold coin, the only remnant of his early life. At the last moment, he is stopped from fulfilling his plans by a kidnapping. When he awakens, he finds himself in Paris, about to play out a masquerade that will ruin his brother.

### BOOK MARKS



Rima L. Firrone

**Stalk**  
By Louis Charbonneau  
Donald I. Fine: \$18.95

Barney is a former CIA spy and Angela is in the witness protection program. What a combination. The two meet with no knowledge of each other's backgrounds and fall in love.

That's when the bad guys show up and both begin to find out what dangers await those who hide from the past.

Angela's ex-husband wants their son back and will do anything to get the child. That's when Barney swings into action to save his girl's family.

For slam-bang action and unrelenting suspense, this slim but effective tale of spies and drug dealers will have readers cheering.

**Kiet Goes West**  
By Gary Alexander  
St. Martin's Press: \$18.95

This is the latest in a series of very funny mysteries about the mythical kingdom of Luong and its police chief.

Bamsan Kiet. This time, Kiet is in Seattle, looking for a junior officer whose job was to recover some money stolen from the Luong government.

By the time Kiet arrives, his officer has become westernized, the money is further away than ever and drinking the water is dangerous to the health of Easterners unfamiliar with the American northwest.

Treated as sappy tourists, the Luongers end up with terrible cars, cots in model homes and an embezzler who has no intention of returning one penny of the money he took.

These books are riotous — they contain good sto-

ries and adorable characters.

**Harm's Way**  
By Aleister Foxx  
St. Martin's Press: \$19.95

Lee Harms is a private eye who specializes in chanting and astrology when the going gets tough.

He is hired to find a missing woman, Liz Reynolds. The fact that she took off with hundreds of thousands of dollars in cocaine doesn't help her cause.

Harms' girlfriend, Celeste, is an astrologer and she gives him all sorts of dandy clues to make his search easier but no one can assist when the desperate kidnapers make off with his small daughter and put him to the torture table to find out where their drugs and reluctant courier are hiding.

**Vanish With the Rose**  
By Barbara Michaels  
Simon & Schuster: \$17

Barbara Michaels can always be counted on for a darned good mystery with fascinating characters and a chilling tale. This time, she throws in a healthy dose of humor and pure joy for anyone who loves reading great books.

Her character Diana Reed doesn't know anything about plants but she will give a darned good imitation of a master gardener as she tries to get to the bottom of her brother's disappearance.

Diana is hired by a family who won a lottery, purchased a grand but decayed old estate and wants to restore the dwelling to its pre-Civil War glory.

Her detecting problems are compounded by the son's adorably handsome but scatterbrained son; and by an incredibly handsome workman who knows Diana's real reasons for taking the job. The fact that she knows nothing about roses doesn't help since her supposed knowledge of ancient variations on the flower are the reason she was hired.

She is plunged into fear with music that comes in the night and ghosts that don't really exist. Brown-beaten maids and nonsensical plans for luxurious gardens manage to keep readers entranced and entertained for every word in this magnificent book. They will also acquire a great knowledge about flowers in this charming book.

Staff Writer Rima L. Firrone's book column appears every Sunday in the Family Section of the Ocala Star-Banner.



Charbonneau

