

# Gangster's relatives write explosive biography

By CHUCK DARROW  
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It's all true, says Sam Giancana, nephew of the legendary mobster of the same name.

It's true the Mafia was part of the conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy.

It's true the mob killed Marilyn Monroe.

It's true organized crime had almost every president since Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as FBI icon J. Edgar Hoover, in its back pocket, and has enjoyed a long and mutually-rewarding relationship with the CIA.

It's true a number of superstar entertainers, including Frank Sinatra, owe their fame and fortune to Mafia patronage.

And Giancana says he's in the position to know.

Giancana, 38, is co-author, with his father, Chuck, of *Double Cross* (Warner Books, \$22.95), the explosive new biography of the late Chicago gangster, Sam "Mooney" Giancana.

The authors are, respectively, the legendary mobster's nephew and half-brother.

Entertainingly written by the pair (and Giancana's wife, Bettina) in the third per-

## Sam Giancana's story contains controversial revelations on famous

**D**ouble Cross by Sam and Chuck Giancana contains some controversial revelations about the life of late gangster Sam "Mooney" Giancana.

Among them are:

- Giancana actively participated in two of the most sensational crimes in the annals of Chicago gangster history. He was one of the triggermen at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929 and was one of the hoods who slit the throat of entertainer Joe E. Lewis, ruining what was Lewis's promising singing career.

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SAM GIANCANA

... co-authored book about his uncle

son, the book can best be described as *GreatFellas*, for it is the ultimate gangster chronicle.

In its pages are tales of treachery and corruption that even the most lurid pulp writer couldn't conjure.

Nothing is left out or watered down.

from Giancana's early days as a victim of brutal child abuse to his blood-stained ascendancy through Chicago's organized hierarchy of the 1920s and '30s to his reign during the '50s and '60s as a figure so powerful he could influence international politics, including America's escalation of

the Vietnam War.

"We decided, after all these years, to set the record straight, because of his national and international involvement," said Giancana of his late uncle during a recent promotional visit to Philadelphia.

"If any other American had the same information, they'd do the same thing."

The book's startling tales were provided by Chuck Giancana.

"Mooney" went to great lengths to keep his younger brother from ever becoming involved in anything more nefarious than bootlegging and illegal gambling.

But he passed on to Chuck details of even the most serious mob projects, including the assassination of JFK, before it happened in November 1963.

Chuck Giancana kept the secrets to himself for decades, partly out of loyalty and, no doubt, partly out of fear.

But he changed his mind in 1983, eight years after his brother was murdered in his suburban Chicago home by someone whose identity remains a mystery.

"My father had heart bypass surgery and started to contemplate his own mortality," recalled Giancana, who today works as a marketing consultant in Florida. He and his father had their names legally changed from Giancana in 1969; he

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