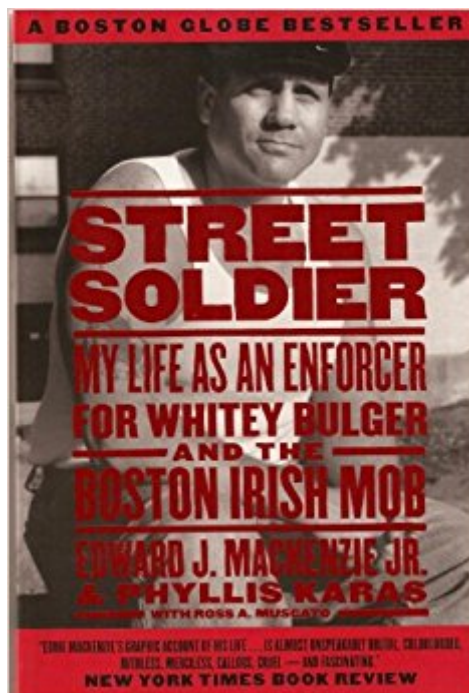




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Street Soldier: My Life As An Enforcer For Whitey Bulger And The Boston Irish Mob



Synopsis

For decades the FBI let James “Whitey” Bulger get away with murder, an almost unbelievable story that entered a new chapter when Bulger was arrested in California and put on trial. During the 1980s, Edward J. MacKenzie, Jr., “Eddie Mac,” was a drug dealer and enforcer who would do just about anything for Bulger. In this compelling eyewitness account, the first from a Bulger insider, Eddie Mac delivers the goods on his one-time boss and on such former associates as Stephen “The Rifleman” Flemmi and turncoat FBI agent John Connolly. Eddie Mac provides a window onto a world rarely glimpsed by those on the outside. Street Soldier is also a story of the search for family, for acceptance, for respect, loyalty, and love. Abandoned by his parents at the age of four, MacKenzie became a ward of the state of Massachusetts, suffered physical and sexual abuse in the foster care system, and eventually drifted into a life of crime and Bulger’s orbit. The Eddie Mac who emerges in these pages is complex: An enforcer who was also a kick-boxing and Golden Gloves champion; a womanizer who fought for custody of his daughters; a tenth-grade dropout living on the streets who went on, as an adult, to earn a college degree in three years; a man, who lived by the strict code of loyalty to the mob, but set up a sting operation that would net one of the largest hauls of cocaine ever seized. Eddie’s is a harsh story, but it tells us something important about the darker corners of our world. Street Soldier is as disturbing and fascinating as a crime scene, as heart-stopping as a bar fight, and at times as darkly comic as Quentin Tarantino’s Pulp Fiction or Martin Scorsese’s Good Fellas.

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Customer Reviews

All due respect to the Gambinos and the Genoveses, but the Italian mob families aren't the only gangsters to make for compelling memoirs. In terms of relentless ruthlessness and its obsession with the almighty dollar, the Irish mob of Boston's James "Whitey" Bulger could match its New York counterparts hit for bloody hit. For decades, Edward J. MacKenzie, Jr. (a.k.a. Eddie Mac) was a drug dealer, enforcer, and key associate of Bulger (on the lam as this book was published). Mac's first-person account of those years is rife with more gory details per page than the entire last season of *The Sopranos*. By the brutal code of honor and loyalty in the streets, the candid dishing of such dirt marks MacKenzie as a world-class rat, second only to Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano, the man who put John Gotti away. But Eddie Mac has some justification in spilling the beans; in exchange for his tips, the Feds turned a blind eye toward his crimes. (It's also worth noting that Bulger himself was an informant for the FBI.) The author certainly doesn't portray himself as any sort of hero or "gangster with a heart of gold." Witness his charming account of one of many attempts to "enlighten" a wayward associate: "Probation notwithstanding, I had to open Steve's eyes a little. I headed over to Dunkin' Donuts and bought a cup of coffee for \$1.24. Medium, black, scalding hot. . . . Steve was still in his car, sleeping like a baby. The window was down and he had his head against the door, hands under his cheeks. I poured the hot coffee down the side of his face, making sure to get some on his eyeballs. . . . I swear if I had enough money to buy the gasoline that day that's what I would have done. . . . but I only had \$1.30, so the coffee had to do." Although MacKenzie has not one but two ghost writers (Karas is a contributor to *People* magazine and the author of *The Onassis Women*, while Muscato is a self-described "strategic communications consultant"), the prose never rises above the level of the sleaziest pulp fiction. But that of course is exactly its appeal, and fans of the true-crime genre will find *Street Soldier* a supreme pleasure, guilty or not. --Jim DeRogatis --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Former mobsters turning around and spilling their guts is nothing new, but this memoir is more than just true crime sensationalism or conscience-cleaning confessional. Instead, it's a window into an inconsistent world created by inner-city masculinity and the innate need to belong. While one-time drug dealer MacKenzie dispels the myth of James Whitey Bulger being a cross between Don Corleone and Robin Hood by portraying him as a murdering, child molesting, drug pusher who

ratted on his own gang before disappearing, he admits to looking up to Bulger (who went into hiding in 1995 and is on the FBI's most-wanted list) and feeling proud doing his boss's dirty work. But Bulger's story, the essence of evil, takes a back seat, playing the foil to MacKenzie's tale of an internal struggle of good versus evil that speaks to America's obsession with the duality of mobster life. MacKenzie's brutally honest account of a childhood branded by absentee parents, foster homes, physical and sexual abuse and poverty is moving. He deftly walks the fine line of sentimentality, rarely blaming others for his transgressions while giving a chillingly detailed account of the role his past played in constructing his personality of contradictions: athlete-hood, husband-philanderer, role model drug dealer, parent-child, gangster-rat. Presenting these contradictions, MacKenzie's straightforward writing (with People magazine contributor Karas and communication consultant Muscato), shifts momentum like a street fight, weaving between the fantastic world of crime, violence and sex and the reality of their counterparts: prison, death and pregnancy. Permeated with the feeling that the now clean author still relishes the charge of criminal life, the memoir contains the edginess of a great thriller. Photos. Map not seen by PW. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was a page turner because of the auto biographical nature with which it was told.... Again the family dynamics are so relevant the loyalties and fellowships described, were easy for me to identify with, having lived in most of these neighborhoods and known so many of the characters, from a distance. Although no matter where the reader is from this is an outstanding account of the trials and tribulations of a Foster Child's life and all they endure at the hands of evil people. They're were also heartwarming tales of the his final Foster Parents who showed genuine compassion for those children in their care. The real horror unfolds on the streets of Boston upon his move to South Boston. Its hard to imagine in the city I so love and wonder, why does it have to be like this? Is there any way we can arrogate these types of behavior? All I can do is keep on praying and have compassion and patience with my fellow man...

This book shows what a creep Whitey Bulger really is. Eddie Mack was an enforcer for Bulger for many years. When Bulger wanted someone corrected, Eddie Mack, a champion kick boxer and boxer, was Bulger's man for the job. But after Bulger ratted out his pals to keep his own sorry ass off out jail, Eddie Mack saw the light. He did his time in prison like a man, and is now living the life of a hard-working, productive citizen. The most shocking details of this book are Eddie Mack contentions

that not only was Bulger a pedophile, but a child molester of both sexes. It's a damn shame Bulger enjoyed 16 years on the lam. If the FBI had been more diligent in tracking Bulger, he may have been caught years before.[...]

Yet another Southie gangster memoir, *Street Soldier* is told from the POV of a legbreaking, hard drinking hustler who served as an enforcer for Jimmy Bulger's syndicate in the 1980s heyday. Mackenzie's tell all is nothing new and doesn't break any new ground, but compelling enough for any fan of the genre. From what I know, Eddie has been using this very book to intimate people lately and was arrested last year for various racketeering charges involving his role in a massive money laundering involving a wealthy church in Beacon Hill, MA. I guess old habits do die hard.

Whether you believe some or all, the author(s) have cashed-in on the "Black Mass" windfall just as many former 'Southie' sociopaths have done. Written for money, targeted at the prurient-voyeur audience. Without actually witnessing the acts, his co-writers-editors coaxed from the author, it is near impossible to know whether the central character now a somehow reformed sexual predator and convicted felon DAD is at all credible. There are many egocentric tough guy testosterone ooziings about sex and self gratification and 'Southie' the current 'Whitey' worship-pulp rage. The authors omit the others separate from Eddie Mac's closed macho 'Southie' culture and miss all the good ethnic tribal stuff that came from that little spit of America. Was it the devil, poverty and drugs that made them do it?, likely money just now. We'll never really know.

Street Soldier was a fun book to read. Having lived and worked on the South Shore of Massachusetts as a Police Detective, I found this book to be well written. Some author / reporters for Boston's liberal press would disagree and say it was untruthful are completely wrong. More truth comes out of questionable people rather than some who think they are always right. I highly recommend this book.

Eddie Mac is the most, 'approachable' of the writing Whitey associates. This is a down and gritty write from an inside perspective of 'Whitey' Bulger's Irish Mob. An excellent read for anyone interested in the inside workings of Boston's Irish underground. This book does focus much attention on Eddie Mac's personal life and what led him to his life of crime. Eddie Mac doesn't hold back, and tells it all, from the embarrassing to the, so called, 'glorious.' Must read for those interested in the topic. Eddie does not glorify himself as some others do. In fact you are almost convinced

Eddie is sorry for what he did. You almost want to console him, but watch out, he is dangerous!!!!

Great book. Very easy reading and the chapters were short but full of detail.

Interesting. Connects names with other books. You cannot justify actions but some of the experiences of this man were terrible!

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