



The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia

By Mike Dash

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Before the notorious Five Families dominated U.S. organized crime, there was the one-fingered criminal genius Giuseppe Morello and his lethal coterie. Combining first-rate scholarship and pulse-quickening action, Mike Dash brings to life this little-known story, following the rise of the Mafia in America from the 1890s to the 1920s, from the villages of Sicily to the streets of Little Italy. Using an array of primary sources—hitherto untapped Secret Service archives, prison records, and interviews with surviving family members—Dash has written a groundbreaking account of the crucial period when the criminal underworld exploded with fury across the nation.

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Download and Read Free Online **The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia** By Mike Dash

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Decades before the Five Families emerged and more than half a century before Mario Puzo wrote *The Godfather*, Giuseppe Morello and his family controlled all manner of crime in New York City. Bestselling historian Dash (*Satan's Circus*; *Tulipomania*) presents an enthralling account of this little-known boss of bosses, • dubbed the Clutch Hand • because of his deformed arm. Arriving with his family from Corleone, Sicily, in 1892, Morello soon set up a successful operation counterfeiting American and Canadian bills. His empire expanded to include extorting local businesses, insurance scams and kidnappings. The Mafia—a term that Dash underscores was used by outsiders, not members—was in its infancy when Morello came to America, but by the time he was gunned down in 1930, families had cropped up in all five boroughs and in cities across the country. Dash depicts the balance between loyalty and betrayal as an ever-changing dance and nimbly catalogues the endless gruesome murders committed in the name of revenge and honor. Readers may think they know the mob, but Morello's ruthless rule makes even the fictional Tony Soprano look tame. Maps. (Aug.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

While most Americans can name two or three famous Mafiosi, few have ever heard of Giuseppe Morella. Dash's vivid, fascinating account of his life and times may change that. Dash combed through century-old newspaper articles, police files, and court transcripts, and his extensive research shows on every page and sets the record straight on pre-Prohibition mob operations. The narrative brims with anecdotes and little-known facts, and Dash's animated, eloquent prose results in a convincing and powerful story. However, Dash doesn't soften the edges of this gritty, violent era: a few critics complained that the book was, at times, too gory. *The First Family* is nevertheless a valuable contribution to our understanding of this uniquely American institution.

Review

“I love Mike Dash’s books, and this is his best so far. Who’d have thought that the origins of the American Mafia, lost for decades in the mists of the early 1900s, could be excavated so clearly and so enjoyably? Working from newly uncovered documents, Dash has given us the first close-up view of how, when, and where the Mafia began. It’s a tale of great intrigue, told with real flair, drama and, thankfully, precision.”—Bryan Burrough, author of *Public Enemies: America’s Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933—34*

“Vividly imagined and prodigiously researched, **The First Family** tells the story of the American Mafia—‘the most secret and terrible organization in the world’—as never before, a gripping, timeless saga of murder, mayhem, and the darkest corners of the American dream. Mike Dash has a journalist’s nose for a good story and a novelist’s gift for telling it, and **The First Family** reads like the most compelling, sleep-defying fiction.”—Karen Abbott, author of **Sin in the Second City**

“An enthralling account . . . Decades before the Five Families emerged and more than half a century before Mario Puzo wrote **The Godfather**, Giuseppe Morello and his family controlled all manner of crime in New York City. . . . Readers may think they know the mob, but Morello’s ruthless rule makes even the fictional Tony Soprano look tame.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Mike Dash is a brilliant researcher and writer who has done full justice to one of the most astonishing true stories. Dash exhumes long forgotten evidence to tell us exactly how the Mafia arrived and—more importantly - how it thrived in this country.”—Nicholas Pileggi, the author of *Wiseguy* and *Casino*

" Dash has dug into tons of material and emerged with a work of popular history—written in lively, lucid prose, with a strong narrative line and a wealth of anecdote, much of it gory—that seems likely to be the definitive work on its subject for years to come."—*Washington Post*

“[Mike Dash] is at his best conjuring the birth of the Little Italys in Lower Manhattan and East Harlem at the end of the 19th century.”—*New York Times*

“Dash is a terrific historical researcher and storyteller...**The First Family**, another commendable combination of careful documentation and stirring narrative.”—*Chicago Sun Times*

“An excellent, vividly written introduction to the birth of the Mafia...a must-read book for any student of American organized crime.”—Huntingtonnews.net

“**The First Family** provides well-researched history for readers fascinated, and even repulsed, by organized crime.”—*Dallas Morning News*

“Highly researched and smoothly written.”—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Impressive.”—*Financial Times*

“The Mob comes to America, and rivers of blood flow. An altogether excellent account...Dash writes with flair and care alike, taking pains to keep a complicated story and a vast cast of characters on track while studding the text with nicely hard-boiled observations. Essential.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“Morello's life story has it all—a harsh childhood, a physical infirmity, the tough life of an immigrant—plus the ultimate rise to power. British historian Dash does a terrific job...Recommended for all readers interested in true crime or New York City—or in a good history book.”—*Library Journal*

“Energetic...astute...With original research its forte, Dash’s history will impress aficionados of Mob history.”—*Booklist*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Venegas:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a new book, we give you this *The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia* book as basic and daily reading reserve. Why,

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Ella Oxley:

Reading a book for being new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to study a book. When you read a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and soon. The The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia will give you new experience in examining a book.

Oren Nelson:

This The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia is new way for you who has curiosity to look for some information given it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this book is easy to get through anyone. These books produce itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this book is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a reserve especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book kind for your better life and also knowledge.

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As we know that book is very important thing to add our information for everything. By a reserve we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This book The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and The Birth of the American Mafia was filled in relation to science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has various feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book which you wanted.

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