



Omerta

Mario Puzo

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To Don Raymonde Aprile's children he was a loyal family member, their father's adopted "nephew." To the FBI he was a man who would rather ride his horses than do Mob business. No one knew why Aprile, the last great American Don, had adopted Astorre Viola many years before in Sicily; no one suspected how he had carefully trained him ... and how, while the Don's children claimed respectable careers in America, Astorre Viola waited for his time to come.

Now his time has arrived. The Don is dead, his murder one bloody act in a drama of ambition and deceit --- from the deadly compromises made by an FBI agent to the greed of two crooked NYPD detectives and the frightening plans of a South American Mob kingpin. In a collision of enemies and lovers, betrayers and loyal soldiers, Astorre Viola will claim his destiny. Because after all these years, this moment is in his blood ...

Omerta Details

Date : Published May 1st 2001 by Ballantine Books (first published 1999)

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Author : Mario Puzo

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From Reader Review Omerta for online ebook

Gary says

At this point, I doubt there will ever be a Mario Puzo book that I don't like. He writes the best Sicilian crime dramas ever written. Omertà may not be his best one, but it's still highly enjoyable.

Constance Kwinn says

All the depth and character development of a Scooby Doo script.

Ed says

I had originally classified this as "contemporary literature" among other things. Well, it's not literature. It is a fast moving story with a childish plot, cardboard characters and lots of bloodshed.

It follows the life story of Astorre Viola, a young man programmed to be a true Sicilian. There are sub-plots galore involving his step-father/uncle Don Raymonde Aprile and his three cousins as well as a gaggle of Sicilian and American Mafia Dons and soldiers, a couple bent cops, a conflicted FBI agent, a high level prostitute with a heart of gold (grin), a South American drug lord, a couple assassins-for-hire and their broker, etc.

This was the last book Puzo wrote before he died and, in my opinion, was not up to his previous efforts. This quote from Wikipedia says it better than I can, "Jules Siegel, who had worked closely with Puzo at Magazine Management Company, speculated that "Omertà" may have been completed by 'some talentless hack.' Siegel also acknowledges the temptation to 'rationalize avoiding what is probably the correct analysis -- that [Puzo:] wrote it and it is terrible.'"

Maybe he was trying to emulate Hemingway with short sentences and a bare bones plot. I'm afraid it didn't work. As Hemingway would have put it in one of his six word stories, "Boy matures. Mentor murdered. Revenge accomplished."

I finished it only to be disappointed at the ending. I'm going to remember Puzo as the author of "The Godfather", not this disappointing effort.

Liliana says

As usual Puzo never lets me down! Incredible. This is how a book should be written. I'm so satisfied.

Green Singh says

Mario Puzo's writing has never failed to excite me...the story was as gripping as his other works..the story revolves around Astorre Viola ,the son of and old Sicilian mafioso don..and obviously he is the most liked character in the book...the story portrays Astorre as an young playful wedding singer,a macroni businessman (!!)..he is all those things but he is also the heir of the great don Raymond Aprile..the rise of Astorre after the Don's killing and his devotion to protect his family and the drastic measures he takes to make all the pieces of the puzzle come together brings together the story ..I did not like that he gets married to Rosie at the end though..but to sum it all up,a great book by the great author..

Kasia (K?cik z ksi??k?) says

Rewelacyjna i wci?gaj?ca opowie?? o zem?cie, intrygach i ludzkich nami?tno?ciach. O ludziach, którzy w imi? wierno?ci wyznawanym zasadom i rodzinie s? gotowi na wszystko. Fani Ojca chrzestnego powinni by? ni? ca?kowicie usatysfakcjonowani.

Ca?a opinia:

<http://www.kacikzksiazka.pl/2018/05/o...>

Horace Derwent says

faith and honor are the pedestal of trust and soul

fame and shame are like the same thing if you try to build your soul with steel of faith and honor

so this is worth to die and kill for

remember, just never ever eat you own ass even if when they are biting off your ass at the time

Mizuki says

Review for The Last Don: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Consider *Omerta* is the last book of Mario Puzo's Mafia trilogy after *The Godfather* and *The Last Don*, I must admit I'm a bit letdown by this book.

The story opens with a dying Don in Sicily giving his soon-to-be-orphan son away to his friend from America for adoption. Some 30 years later, the orphan had grown up to be a young man who ran a small business, his foster siblings also grew up knowing nothing about their father's business. Then (view spoiler) forcing the adopted son and his siblings to band together to face off the unknown enemy who not only wants their fortune, but also their lives.

The first half of the book is great, I really like how the cops, the FBI, the hired killers, the gangsters are

written and I also like the description of how they run their businesses. I also like how female characters (e.g. Nicole, Rosie, etc) are written in this story. Plus there actually is an interesting engaging plot development (view spoiler)to keep this novel afloat for me.

The characters are likable and reliable in my opinion. Therefore when reading this book, I just had to remind myself almost all of these characters I was reading about have blood on their hands (even the MC) and most of them would have killed even more people in order to protect themselves and their money.

However, I don't think I really get how this *omerta* thing in the story (since I have never been a fan of the Mafia genre, so I don't know so much about the gangsters' customs), supposedly omerta is a vow of silence among the Sicilian Mafia, meaning that you don't talk to or associate with the authority (e.g. cops) and you don't reveal any of your Family's secret to the police.

Omerta is understandable when everyone lives in a small, closed-off community (like, back in the 1940s to 1960s): if you wanted acceptance and protection, you should keep secrets...but this book takes place mostly in the 1990s and how can anyone still manage it? Instead I see one of the crime bosses actually working with the police, whilst the police also chooses to play along, letting the small criminal stuff go in order to focus on the bigger crimes and.....these kind of actions are actually more understandable to me (like one of the characters had commented: the government is too strong in this age, so direct confrontation is suicidal).

Secondly, I found the MC, despite his charm and capability, to be very *boring* because throughout the book he never suffered any defeat or drawback. I know, the MC's foster father (a powerful Don) had trained him up even since he was a teenager but.....even when he was a child he still could make no mistake. That really is boring.

This is most likely the weakest of the trilogy, in the end it is more of a 3.8 stars read.

Favorite quotes:

“Do not count on the gratitude of deeds done for people in the past, you must make them grateful for things you will do for them in the future.”

“I was young myself once, and believe me, in love the truth is of no importance.”

“We can't adjust what we believe just because it causes us pain.”

Hasham Rasool says

I am enjoyed reading this book. Alhamdulillah.

My favourite character is Astorre Viola.

Faroukh Naseem says

I read the Godfather 15 years ago, Omertà was a reminder to how beautifully Mario Puzo wrote.? #theguywiththebookreview presents Omertà by Mario Puzo. ?Characters: I couldn't help but picture Al Pacino as the protagonist. There are some similarities between the two but the main difference being that Astorre Viola was trained to become 'Michael Corleone'. Rosie stood out for obvious reasons (people who've read it might still remember her). And ofcourse Washington was almost unreal!? Plenty of great characters are involved, you never get bored. Character development was not really expected but I loved the way Astorre evolved through the book.

Plot: Revenge is a fruit best served with the trigger, but more than that it almost seemed like chess. The Bad guys and the Good guys waiting for each other to make the next move. The Climax is pretty smart and the book finishes before getting too unnecessary detailed.

Pace: It's a medium paced book which becomes a page turner in the second half, the writing doesn't get overwhelming but some of the characters seemed a bit pointless.

The Experience: Every bit Mafiosa! You don't need to be told it's the Italian Mafia doing the rounds in this one. I've mentioned this before, I am so fascinated with what goes in the minds of the 'bad guys' even they have their reasons of doing what they do. How killing just for money is not a big deal, how killing your competitor is a means to an end.

When to pick this up:? It's a great leisurely read, nothing too heavy. Could be a great book for people in reading slumps :)

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Omerta/ Mario Puzo, newyourk: ballantine books, 2000, 369p

Asghar Abbas says

I am pretty sure Puzo didn't write this one. I am always dubious of posthumous breaths found locked away in writers' drawers after their death. Cool cover though.

Abubakar Mehdi says

Far less charming and inferior in terms of plot and characterization , this novel by Mario Puzo is still an attempt to foreshadow the Sicilian code of silence. lets the sky fall , but dare not speak about your family , friends or even foes , in front of anyone. A Fine read but still way inferior as compared to Godfather.

Jevron McCrory says

I'm surprised by some of the low ratings this book has received.

To me, it has all the elements of a classic Puzo tale. Mafia intrigue and flashbacks, treachery, a budding yet damaged love story and ruthless characters on both sides of the law.

I really loved it!

Astorre Viola is up there with Cross Clericuzio as one of my favourite Puzo characters. Quirky, qualified and never quite what he seems.

Yes, some of the prose is 'dumbed down' from some of his earlier work (put down to the fact the someone else finished the manuscript after Puzo's death but I think they did a good job) and some of the more pulpy elements could have been less pulpy, lol, but all in all, this a big rollicking tale that deserves repeated readings.

It doesn't have the 'high class' sheen of The Godfather, admittedly. This is all more street level.

Agustina Balea says

Omertà es un libro maravilloso. Muchos dicen que está muy por debajo de El Padrino y sus demás libros, pero naturalmente como es el primer libro del autor que leo, a mí me gustó mucho. El ritmo es bueno, fluido; las descripciones de Sicilia y del sentido de pertenencia de Don Aprile y Astorre son muy vivas; las escenas de acción están bien desarrolladas; los giros de trama tienen absoluto sentido, al igual que las muertes. Creo que el personaje de Astorre se destaca mucho y no solo por ser el protagonista. Es un treintañero muy cordial, apasionado por el canto italiano, dueño de una fábrica importadora de macarrones italianos que fue entrenado diez años en Sicilia por lugartenientes de su tío. Un hombre que lleva una doble vida antes e incluso después de la muerte de su tío y que lo hace con mucha astucia e inteligencia. Por supuesto, está asesorado por dos grandes amigos de Don Aprile, pero el que toma las decisiones en última instancia es él y siempre toma las decisiones correctas para lograr sus intereses. Un hombre fascinante.

Pero incluso los personajes secundarios tienen también algo para contar. Puzo se encarga de adjudicarle una historia entretenida, interesante y coherente a cada personaje, desde los primos de Astorre, hasta el agente del FBI, el grupo criminal que quiere los bancos hasta el personaje más pequeño que aparece. Ese cuidado y respeto por los demás personajes me gustó mucho, sobre todo porque en muchas novelas el punto de mira siempre está sobre el personaje principal y deja de lado por completo al resto de la gente.

Porque me gustó la trama, los personajes, el ambiente de mafia y la forma en la que todo se desarrolla, no solo quiero leer El Padrino, sino que le doy cinco estrellas de cinco a este libro.

Scott says

Very entertaining mob novel from the late Mario Puzo. It's got a faster pace than "The Godfather" with less attention to psychological detail. Whereas "The Godfather" was a story with deep characters and emotion, "Omerta" is more of a fun thriller. Puzo writes so well here, it's a full mob drama with all of the slow stuff cut out. It's just bang-bang-bang as it goes through, great stuff. The novel continues Puzo's obsession of organized criminals with honor and corrupt greedy law enforcement butting heads. If you can deal with the fact that this book is a bit of Mafia propaganda, you'll be very entertained. I really liked it, looking forward to reading more of his books.

Salman Mehedy Titas says

This book has been sitting on my shelf for a long time, and since I've never read Puzo before (except for watching the Godfather movies), and I've been eyeing the 'crime' genre for quite some time, so I thought about giving it a go.

Aprille Raymonde, a great honourable Don, a mafioso, a true Sicilian. When the FBI started their crackdown on the underworld, they found no dirt Don Raymonde. Soon afterwards, he turned clean and left the underworld completely, except for a few connections. His sole mean of income would be his handful of banks around the world (which is no laughing matter. BANKS!) Of course, happy endings seldom occur in real life. Being out of the crime life, and having no cosca to rule, makes him a vulnerable target. When one day a car stops in front of the church and two shooters end his life, there is none to seek vengeance. He raised him children to be honest-to-God people with no connection to his actual occupation. His old friends do not seem to be eager to avenge the old don. No one seeks vengeance, save perhaps, Astorre Viola.

Now Astorre Viola is his adoptive nephew. He was adopted after his parents, who were poor farmers had been killed. At least, that is the story told to him his entire life. Astorre was mafioso by blood, being the son of the great Don Zeno of Sicily. In his deathbed, Don Zeno had chosen one of three men who owed him last favours to raise Astorre as a man, and keep him safe. For his own safety, he and most do not know of his real identity. Regardless, Don Raymonde had ensured that he had grown up with the skills of the mafia. Before his death, Don Raymonde had passed his banks to Astorre, rather than his three children, and entrusted him with the protection of his family. Now Astorre Viola has to combine all his wits and charms to investigate the murder that no one else seems to be interested in, and to avenge if possible.

The story was pretty good. The characters were well written, but what really ticked me off is that there were absolutely no surprises. There are no twists worth gaping at the pages for a few minutes, and the story is predictable.

Sabbir Islam says

A true masterpiece that lives up to its reputation. Words fall short to explain the magnificence of Omerta, sure the ending might seem a tad bit too far fetched (An overtly happy ending for a book about Mafiosos), but the character developments were more than adequate to lay a reasonable ground for it.

Joey Woolfardis says

This was Puzo's last novel before he died, and I must say it read very much like an old man clinging to an excellent reputation. *The Godfather* is one of the greatest books I've ever read and the only book to make me cry, and whilst I think the "romance" of the Mafia has faded from my concious slightly, I still find it a trifle exciting. *Omerta*, however, felt boring and lack-lustre. There felt, even from the first few chapters, to be far too much going on and too many people involved: whilst mafia's certainly do contain more people than first appears on the surface, to work a novel of the mafia, one would have to forget this notion slightly if a reader is to make sense of what is happening. Once the rest of Puzo's works have been read, maybe I shall return to this one...

Adam says

This is the second book that I have read by Mario Puzo, and it was thoroughly enjoyable. Like "The Sicilian", it uses fiction to give the reader insight into the workings of the Mafia. It begins slowly and gradually builds up to a giddy pace. The 'hero' of the book is Astorre Viola, who has much to do to save the honour of Don Raymonde Aprile, his uncle who adopted him as a small child in Sicily. Raymonde is murdered in cold blood, and Astorre decides that his death must be avenged. As the tale unfurls, unforeseen complexities become revealed, and the plot thickens. I confined my reading of this book to short journeys on public transport. It made the journeys seem even shorter. Had I read it at home, I would not have been able to stop reading it until I reached its exciting end.
