

blood covenant michael franzese

****Blood Covenant Michael Franzese: Unveiling the Power and Meaning Behind the Term****

blood covenant michael franzese is a phrase that has intrigued many, especially those interested in the fascinating intersection of crime history, personal transformation, and deeper symbolic meanings. Michael Franzese, a former mobster turned motivational speaker and author, has often referenced the concept of a “blood covenant” in his talks and writings. But what exactly does this term mean in the context of Franzese’s life and lessons? And why does it resonate so strongly with audiences today? Let’s dive into the story behind the phrase, explore its significance, and uncover why it continues to captivate so many.

Who Is Michael Franzese?

Before we delve into the blood covenant itself, it’s important to understand the man behind the name. Michael Franzese is a former caporegime of the Colombo crime family, one of New York’s Five Families that dominated organized crime during the 20th century. Born into a Mafia family, Franzese climbed the ranks quickly, becoming a prominent figure in the mob’s operations during the 1980s.

However, after years involved in criminal activities such as racketeering and gasoline bootlegging, Franzese made a remarkable choice to leave the life of crime behind. Today, he is a motivational speaker and author, sharing his story of redemption and transformation with a wide audience. His talks often touch on themes of loyalty, trust, and the deep bonds formed within groups—topics closely tied to the idea of a blood covenant.

Understanding the Concept of a Blood Covenant

The idea of a blood covenant is ancient and carries profound symbolic weight. Historically, a blood covenant is a solemn agreement sealed by the shedding of blood between two parties. This pact represents an unbreakable bond, often signifying loyalty, trust, and mutual protection. Unlike a regular contract, a blood covenant implies a spiritual and emotional commitment that transcends legal obligations.

Blood Covenants in Historical and Cultural Context

Blood covenants have been documented across many cultures and time periods—from ancient Hebrew traditions to tribal societies around the world. They were often used to formalize alliances or peace treaties, symbolizing that the parties involved were bound together as family, no matter the cost. This kind of pact was considered sacred and inviolable.

In the context of organized crime, such as the Mafia world from which Michael Franzese emerged, the concept of a blood covenant takes on a specific meaning. Loyalty and trust are paramount. The

“blood oath” or “blood bond” can be seen as an unspoken contract among mobsters, ensuring silence, allegiance, and support within the family.

Michael Franzese and the Blood Covenant

When Michael Franzese talks about the blood covenant, he is often pointing to the deep loyalty and the high stakes involved in the mob lifestyle. For Franzese and others in the Mafia, this bond was not just metaphorical—it was a real, lived experience. The blood covenant represented a commitment that went beyond words, involving personal sacrifice and unwavering allegiance.

The Role of Loyalty and Trust

In Franzese’s narratives, the blood covenant highlights the importance of loyalty in the mob. Betrayal wasn’t just frowned upon; it was punishable by death. This extreme code of conduct was maintained through these unbreakable covenants. For Franzese, reflecting on these bonds today offers lessons about the power of trust and commitment—not necessarily in crime, but in business, relationships, and personal integrity.

Transformation and Breaking the Covenant

One of the most powerful aspects of Michael Franzese’s story is how he broke away from the blood covenant that had defined his earlier life. Leaving the Mafia was not a simple matter of walking away; it meant breaking a sacred bond and risking everything. This act of breaking the blood covenant highlights the complexity of such commitments and the courage required to redefine one’s identity.

Franzese’s journey from a mobster bound by blood to a motivational speaker promoting positive change shows how even the deepest covenants can evolve. His story encourages people to reflect on what binds them—whether it’s family, friendships, or business deals—and to consider when it might be necessary to break free for the sake of personal growth.

Lessons from Blood Covenant Michael Franzese

Michael Franzese’s insights on the blood covenant offer valuable lessons that extend beyond the world of organized crime. Here are some key takeaways that anyone can apply to their own life:

The Power of Commitment

Whether in personal relationships or professional endeavors, the idea of a blood covenant reminds us of the importance of true commitment. It’s about more than just promises; it’s about actions that back up those promises consistently, even in difficult times.

Trust as a Foundation

Trust is the cornerstone of any meaningful relationship. Franzese's experience shows how trust can be both a source of strength and vulnerability. Building trust requires honesty and integrity, while breaking it can have severe consequences.

Courage to Change

Perhaps one of the most inspiring aspects of Franzese's story is his courage to break the blood covenant when it no longer served him. Change is never easy, especially when it means leaving behind deeply ingrained bonds. Yet, transformation is possible and often necessary for personal freedom and happiness.

Blood Covenant in Popular Culture and Media

The concept of a blood covenant has found its way into numerous books, movies, and television shows, often dramatizing the idea of unbreakable bonds and loyalty. Michael Franzese's own story has been featured in documentaries, interviews, and podcasts, shedding light on the real-life implications of such pacts.

The fascination with blood covenants in popular culture reflects a universal human desire to belong, to be trusted, and to find meaning in our connections with others. Franzese's honest and open recounting of his experiences allows audiences to peek behind the curtain of secrecy that often surrounds these covenants.

How Michael Franzese Uses His Story Today

Now, Michael Franzese uses the lessons from his past—including the concept of the blood covenant—to inspire others. His talks often focus on leadership, loyalty, and integrity but also on the importance of knowing when to redefine your path. By sharing his journey, he encourages people to examine their own "covenants" and make conscious choices about where they invest their loyalty.

The Symbolism and Spirituality Behind Blood Covenants

Beyond the criminal underworld, blood covenants carry significant spiritual symbolism. In many religious traditions, covenants sealed with blood represent a sacred bond between humans and the divine. This spiritual aspect adds a layer of depth to the understanding of such covenants.

Michael Franzese occasionally touches on this spiritual dimension, especially when discussing redemption and transformation. The blood covenant can symbolize a commitment not only to others

but to oneself and one's values—a powerful idea for anyone seeking to live authentically.

Applying the Concept to Everyday Life

While most people will never be involved in a literal blood covenant, the metaphor is widely applicable. Whether it's forming deep friendships, creating strong teams at work, or committing to personal goals, the essence of a blood covenant—trust, loyalty, and commitment—can be a guiding principle.

By reflecting on the meaning behind the blood covenant in Michael Franzese's story, individuals can gain insight into how to build stronger, more meaningful relationships and how to navigate the challenges that come with loyalty and change.

The story of blood covenant Michael Franzese is much more than a glimpse into Mafia life; it's a narrative about human connection, the power of loyalty, and the courage to change. Franzese's journey from a mobster bound by blood to a man who breaks free and inspires others offers a profound lesson in the complexities of trust and commitment. Whether you are fascinated by Mafia history, interested in personal transformation, or simply curious about the symbolism of covenants, there's much to learn from this compelling story.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Michael Franzese and what is his connection to the blood covenant?

Michael Franzese is a former caporegime of the Colombo crime family who later became a motivational speaker and author. He often discusses the concept of the 'blood covenant' in the context of loyalty and trust within organized crime and personal relationships.

What does Michael Franzese say about the blood covenant in his teachings?

Michael Franzese explains that a blood covenant is a sacred and unbreakable bond that goes beyond legal agreements, symbolizing ultimate loyalty and commitment, especially within the Mafia culture.

How does Michael Franzese relate the blood covenant to modern life?

Michael Franzese uses the blood covenant metaphor to emphasize the importance of trust, loyalty, and integrity in business and personal relationships, encouraging people to honor their commitments fully.

Are there any notable speeches or interviews where Michael Franzese discusses the blood covenant?

Yes, Michael Franzese has addressed the concept of the blood covenant in several interviews, podcasts, and his YouTube videos, where he shares insights from his Mafia background and personal transformation.

What lessons can be learned from Michael Franzese about the blood covenant?

From Michael Franzese's perspective, the blood covenant teaches the value of trustworthiness, standing by one's word, and the deep consequences of breaking sacred promises, applicable both inside and outside the criminal world.

Has Michael Franzese written any books that mention the blood covenant?

While Michael Franzese has authored several books about his life and lessons from the Mafia, such as 'Blood Covenant,' these works explore the themes of loyalty, trust, and transformation related to the concept.

Additional Resources

Blood Covenant Michael Franzese: An Investigative Review of Loyalty and Legacy

blood covenant michael franzese is a phrase that evokes curiosity and intrigue within circles interested in organized crime history, loyalty oaths, and the complex dynamics of mafia culture. Michael Franzese, a former caporegime of the Colombo crime family, has become a prominent voice in recounting the inner workings of the Mafia, shedding light on concepts such as the "blood covenant" that underpin the loyalty and operations of criminal organizations. This article delves into the significance of the blood covenant in Michael Franzese's life and narrative, exploring its implications, historical context, and how it resonates in broader discussions about criminal allegiances and personal redemption.

Understanding the Blood Covenant in Mafia Culture

The term "blood covenant" refers historically to a solemn pact sealed by the shedding or mixing of blood between individuals, symbolizing unbreakable loyalty and eternal bond. Within Mafia culture, such covenants are not merely symbolic but foundational. They represent a code of silence (omertà), loyalty, and mutual protection that governs relationships within the family. Michael Franzese's recounting of these covenants provides invaluable insight into how deeply these rituals impact decision-making and personal identity among members.

Franzese, whose upbringing was steeped in Mafia tradition, has described the blood covenant as a sacred contract that transcends ordinary agreements. Unlike typical business contracts, breaking a

blood covenant often carries severe consequences, including ostracism or worse. This form of commitment ensured the Mafia's internal cohesion and was a powerful tool for maintaining discipline and secrecy.

Michael Franzese's Personal Experience with the Blood Covenant

Franzese's narrative reveals that his initiation and ascent within the Colombo family were heavily influenced by the blood covenant's enduring presence. As a son of a mob boss, his early exposure to Mafia rituals included an understanding of the gravity of such oaths. His personal testimony indicates that the blood covenant was not only a ritualistic gesture but a psychological anchor that shaped his worldview and conduct.

Throughout his career, Franzese maintained that the blood covenant was instrumental in fostering trust among members, especially in high-stakes environments involving illicit activities like racketeering, extortion, and loan sharking. However, his eventual decision to leave the Mafia and become a motivational speaker and author underscores a complex relationship with this concept. Franzese's reflections suggest a tension between loyalty to the covenant and personal moral evolution.

The Role of Blood Covenants in Organized Crime: Historical and Sociological Perspectives

The concept of blood covenants extends beyond the Italian-American Mafia. Historically, various cultures have used blood oaths to symbolize unbreakable alliances. In the context of organized crime, these covenants serve as binding contracts that reinforce group identity and collective security. Sociologists argue that such rituals are crucial in groups where legal enforcement is absent or deliberately circumvented.

In the Mafia, the blood covenant acts as both a symbolic and practical mechanism. It creates a closed system where trust is paramount, and betrayal can be fatal. Michael Franzese's insights highlight how these covenants contribute to the Mafia's resilience despite law enforcement efforts. Members understand that their word, sealed in blood, is more binding than any external authority.

Comparative Analysis: Blood Covenants vs. Modern Legal Contracts

While modern legal contracts rely on codified laws and judicial systems, blood covenants operate in an extralegal realm, governed by tradition and fear. Franzese's accounts reveal that the Mafia's reliance on personal loyalty and silence often supersedes any written agreement. This difference explains why such organizations can maintain secrecy and operational integrity despite external pressures.

- **Binding Nature:** Blood covenants are perceived as irrevocable, whereas legal contracts can be contested or renegotiated.
- **Enforcement:** Mafia covenants rely on social and violent enforcement, unlike courts and police in legal contracts.
- **Emotional Component:** Blood covenants involve deep personal commitment, contrasting with the transactional nature of legal contracts.

This comparison underscores the unique social dynamics that Franzese and his peers navigated, highlighting the challenges law enforcement faces when dealing with organizations bound by such powerful rituals.

Blood Covenant Michael Franzese: Impact on Modern Perceptions of the Mafia

Michael Franzese's openness about the blood covenant and his Mafia experience has influenced contemporary understanding of organized crime. Through books, interviews, and public speaking, Franzese has demystified many aspects of Mafia life, including the often romanticized notion of loyalty.

His discussions about the blood covenant reveal a duality: it is both a source of strength and a potential prison. For many members, adherence to such covenants meant sacrificing personal freedom and ethical considerations. Franzese's eventual break from the Mafia lifestyle signals a broader narrative of transformation and redemption that challenges traditional Mafia myths.

The Blood Covenant's Role in Loyalty and Betrayal

Loyalty is the cornerstone of the blood covenant, yet history and Franzese's experiences show that betrayal is an ever-present risk. The consequences of breaking a blood oath have been vividly documented in Mafia lore—ranging from social exile to violent retribution.

Franzese's insights reveal that while the blood covenant was designed to eliminate betrayal, internal conflicts and shifting alliances often tested its limits. His own life story, involving a departure from the family business, exemplifies the personal costs associated with such decisions.

Pros and Cons of the Blood Covenant as Portrayed by Michael Franzese

Analyzing Franzese's perspective allows for a balanced view of the blood covenant's role within the Mafia:

1. **Pros:**

- Fosters unity and trust among members.
- Ensures operational secrecy and discipline.
- Creates a strong sense of identity and belonging.

2. **Cons:**

- Can lead to moral and legal compromises.
- Limits personal freedom and encourages silence over justice.
- Increases risk of violent enforcement and retribution.

These points encapsulate the complex legacy of the blood covenant in Franzese's narrative—a potent force within the Mafia that also contributed to its eventual unraveling.

Legacy and Influence: Michael Franzese's Modern Interpretation of the Blood Covenant

Today, Michael Franzese uses his platform to educate audiences about the realities of Mafia culture, including the implications of the blood covenant. His transformation from mobster to motivational speaker provides a unique vantage point for understanding how such ancient rituals continue to shape, and sometimes distort, notions of loyalty and honor.

Franzese warns against idealizing the blood covenant, emphasizing the need for individuals to critically assess the organizations and commitments they join. His story serves as both a cautionary tale and an example of how breaking free from destructive cycles is possible.

Through interviews, documentaries, and written works, Franzese's examination of the blood covenant invites a broader reflection on trust, loyalty, and the human cost of rigid allegiance. His insights contribute to a nuanced discourse on organized crime, shedding light on the social contracts that sustain it and the personal consequences of such bonds.

In exploring the blood covenant Michael Franzese, one uncovers a layered narrative of loyalty, power, and personal transformation. Franzese's candid revelations offer a rare glimpse into the heart of Mafia traditions, exposing both their enduring strength and inherent vulnerabilities. This exploration not only enhances understanding of organized crime's inner workings but also

challenges readers to reconsider the true meaning of commitment and freedom in any context.

Blood Covenant Michael Franzese

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blood covenant michael franzese: Blood Covenant Michael Franzese, 2018-04-10 The story of the 'Mafia Prince' who publicly quit the mob and lived--Cover.

blood covenant michael franzese: Blood Covenant Michael Franzese, 2009-10-28 Mob boss Michael Franzese had it all—money, power, prestige. From the time he took a blood oath that bound him body and soul to New York's Colombo crime family, Franzese became a force to be reckoned with in organized crime. Named by Vanity Fair as one of the biggest moneymakers in the mob since Al Capone, he quickly crept into the upper echelon of Mafia authority in this country. By the age of thirty-five, he was the youngest mobster listed on Fortune magazine's survey of the fifty most wealthy and powerful Mafia bosses in America. Then, he did the unthinkable: he quit the mob. Today, Michael is a Christian, finding his own Damascus Road that began with his wife Camille. The story of his conversion is a testament of God's willingness to reach into the heart of any man regardless of their past or the present condition of their lives. In one of the most fascinating books ever written about today's Mafia, Michael reveals the answers to the many mysteries surrounding his incredible life. Find out how and why he did what no one else managed to do—and live. Journey with Michael through a life defined by two blood covenants. The first bound him to the mob. The second set him free.

blood covenant michael franzese: House of Trump, House of Putin Craig Unger, 2019-09-03 THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "The story Unger weaves with those earlier accounts and his original reporting is fresh, illuminating and more alarming than the intelligence channel described in the Steele dossier."—The Washington Post House of Trump, House of Putin offers the first comprehensive investigation into the decades-long relationship among Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, and the Russian Mafia that ultimately helped win Trump the White House. It is a chilling story that begins in the 1970s, when Trump made his first splash in the booming, money-drenched world of New York real estate, and ends with Trump's inauguration as president of the United States. That moment was the culmination of Vladimir Putin's long mission to undermine Western democracy, a mission that he and his hand-selected group of oligarchs and Mafia kingpins had ensnared Trump in, starting more than twenty years ago with the massive bailout of a string of sensational Trump hotel and casino failures in Atlantic City. This book confirms the most incredible American paranoias about Russian malevolence. To most, it will be a hair-raising revelation that the Cold War did not end in 1991—that it merely evolved, with Trump's apartments offering the perfect vehicle for billions of dollars to leave the collapsing Soviet Union. In House of Trump, House of Putin, Craig Unger methodically traces the deep-rooted alliance between the highest echelons of American political operatives and the biggest players in the frightening underworld of the Russian Mafia. He traces Donald Trump's sordid ascent from foundering real estate tycoon to leader of the free world. He traces Russia's phoenix like rise from the ashes of the post-Cold War Soviet Union as well as its ceaseless covert efforts to retaliate against the West and reclaim its status as a global superpower. Without Trump, Russia would have lacked a key component in its attempts to return to imperial greatness. Without Russia, Trump would not be president. This essential book is crucial to understanding the real powers at play in the shadows of today's world. The appearance of key

figures in this book—Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen, and Felix Sater to name a few—ring with haunting significance in the wake of Robert Mueller’s report and as others continue to close in on the truth.

blood covenant michael franzese: *Godfather of the Music Business* Richard Carlin, 2016-03-10 Association of Recorded Sound Collections Awards for Excellence Best Historical Research in Record Labels – Best History (2017) This biography tells the story of one of the most notorious figures in the history of popular music, Morris Levy (1927-1990). At age nineteen, he cofounded the nightclub Birdland in Hell's Kitchen, which became the home for a new musical style, bebop. Levy operated one of the first integrated clubs on Broadway and helped build the careers of Dizzy Gillespie and Bud Powell and most notably aided the reemergence of Count Basie. In 1957, he founded a record label, Roulette Records. Roulette featured many of the significant jazz artists who played Birdland but also scored top pop hits with acts like Buddy Knox, Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers, Joey Dee and the Starlites, and, in the mid-1960s, Tommy James. Stories abound of Levy threatening artists, songwriters, and producers, sometimes just for the sport, other times so he could continue to build his empire. Along the way, Levy attracted investors with ties to the Mafia, including Dominic Ciarra (a.k.a. Swats Mulligan), Tommy Eboli, and the most notorious of them all, Vincent Gigante. Gigante allegedly owned large pieces of Levy's recording and retail businesses. Starting in the late 1950s, the FBI and IRS investigated Levy but could not make anything stick until the early 1980s, when Levy foolishly got involved in a deal to sell remaindered records to a small-time reseller, John LaMonte. With partners in the mob, Levy tried to force LaMonte to pay for four million remaindered records. When the FBI secretly wiretapped LaMonte in an unrelated investigation and agents learned about the deal, investigators successfully prosecuted Levy in the extortion scheme. Convicted in 1988, Levy did not live to serve prison time. Stricken with cancer, he died just as his last appeals were exhausted. However, even if he had lived, Levy's brand of storied high life was effectively bust. Corporate ownership of record labels doomed most independents in the business, ending the days when a savvy if ruthless hustler could blaze a path to the top.

blood covenant michael franzese: Real Leadership George Barna & Bill Dallas, 2010-01-01 LEARN FROM 30 WORLD-CLASS LEADERS Real Leadership is the ultimate leadership conference in a single fascinating volume, with brand-new insights from an elite group of leaders as they dialogue, debate, and even disagree about the most important things every successful leader needs to know. George Barna and coauthor Bill Dallas invite you to imagine yourself backstage at a conference featuring 30 world-class leaders. As you join them in the greenroom, you'll be privy to their provocative conversations on subjects including: — defining what makes someone a leader — knowing how to identify, communicate, and get commitment to vision — touchstones for leading effectively: what to look for and how to measure performance — earning and maintaining people's trust — developing character traits that honor God, serve people, and empower self — establishing and retaining the moral authority to lead — knowing how power is derived and how to use it appropriately Listen in. Learn from the best. The way you view leadership will never be the same.

blood covenant michael franzese: Master Leaders George Barna, 2014-10-24 Imagine the chance to sit down with 30 of the world's best-known and most-respected leaders as they share their secrets to success. That's Master Leaders—the most valuable leadership book of the decade, now available in softcover. Based on personal interviews and conversations with “the greats” (including Ken Blanchard, Colleen Barrett, Ben Carson, Tony Dungy, Newt Gingrich, Seth Godin, Patrick Lencioni, and many others), Master Leaders offers 16 key distinctives that you need to know in order to be a successful leader. Coauthored by George Barna (Revolution) and Bill Dallas (Lessons from San Quentin), Master Leaders contains top-of-the-line insider information on leading wisely and well . . . from the people who know.

blood covenant michael franzese: I'll Make You an Offer You Can't Refuse Michael Franzese, 2009-03-30 Free your book! Buying a product tagged NelsonFree means you get more than just the hardback book. You also get a free ebook and a free audiobook. Three formats for the price of one! And the freedom to experience your book in more ways than ever before. What secrets can a former

mob boss share about how to do legit business? Let's have a sit-down and find out. By age 24, charming mob boss Michael Franzese was one of the wealthiest people on Fortune magazine's survey. As one of the rare people who quit the mob and lived to tell about it, Franzese has a unique perspective on how business is done. And one thing he noticed was that the way he made millions per week in business inside the mob can be applied to doing business outside the mob (minus the illegal part): · Mob Rule # 4: Be an Early Riser & Avoid Getting Killed in Your Pajamas · Mob Rule # 5: Ya Gotta Have a Crew · Mob Rule # 7: Cook the Pasta, Not the Books "Anyone who sells the mob short when it comes to its ingenuity, its ability to connect with people from all walks of life, and its substantial profit margins is simply kidding themselves." This book promises a mob's eye view of business that will change the way you see business forever.

blood covenant michael franzese: Off the Back of a Truck Nick Braccia, 2020-12-01 Unleash your inner Soprano and relive all your favorite moments with this companion guide to the award-winning television series The Sopranos. We all know and love The Sopranos, one of the most important television dramas to ever hit the small screen, having run for six seasons on HBO. The story of the Italian-American mobster Tony Soprano balancing his family life with his role as the leader of a criminal organization pioneered decades of genre-bending "peak TV." Now, Off the Back of a Truck takes you one step further into the world of Tony Soprano and his families, offering an Italian potluck of fresh and fun takes that any true fan can get lost in for hours. Off the Back of a Truck includes: -New looks at everyone's favorite episodes, scenes, and characters -All 92 deaths analyzed, evaluated, and ranked -An investigation of true crimes behind the families' schemes -An exploration of movies and shows that inspired The Sopranos -Reflections on the use of music, food, and fashion from writers who are also huge fans -A provocative conversation about what happens in the controversial ending This book takes you on a journey through the six seasons you have watched time and time again—but it's organized so you can dip in at any time, at any place. Roam around as though you're in Tony's backyard for a BBQ...

blood covenant michael franzese: Larceny Games Brian Tuohy, 2013-08-16 Major League Baseball claims it hasn't had a game fixed by gamblers since 1919. No points have been shaved in the NBA since 1954. And the NFL states no game of theirs has come under outside influence - ever. These, however, are lies. The proof resides in FBI files only recently uncovered and discussed in Larceny Games.

blood covenant michael franzese: Person of Interest J. Warner Wallace, 2021-09-21 Join a cold-case detective as he uncovers the truth about Jesus using the same approach he employs to solve real murder cases. Detective J. Warner Wallace was skeptical of the Bible's claims about Jesus. But he'd investigated several no-body homicide cases in which there was no crime scene, no physical evidence, and no victim's body. He wondered if the truth about the historical Jesus could be investigated in the same way. In Person of Interest, cold-case detective and bestselling author J. Warner Wallace describes his own personal investigative journey from atheism to Christianity as he carefully sifts through the evidence from history alone, without relying on the New Testament. In this book, you'll: Understand like never before how Jesus—the most significant person in history—changed the world and why he still matters today. Learn how to think like a cold-case detective by using an innovative and unique fuse and fallout investigative strategy, which you can also use to examine other claims of history. Explore and learn how to respond to common objections to Christianity. Creative, compelling, and fully illustrated, Person of Interest will strengthen the faith of believers while engaging those who are skeptical and distrusting of the New Testament gospel accounts.

blood covenant michael franzese: Informer: The History of American Crime and Law Enforcement - October 2020 Thomas Hunt, David Critchley, Steve Turner, Lennert van't Riet, Richard N. Warner, Justin Cascio, Sam Carlino, Michael O'Haire, Jon Black, Margaret Janco, 2020-10-19 Issue focuses on Nicola Nick Gentile, Mafia leader in U.S. and Sicily, author of 1963 tell-all autobiography. Informer provides Gentile's entire life story, building on original research by Mafia history experts, balancing Gentile's self-serving and self-aggrandizing autobiographical work

with verifiable history, correcting misinformation and filling in wide gaps left in his personal account. In addition to studying Gentile's life and career, Informer provides biographical information for dozens of individuals who contributed in interesting ways to his life story. Also in this issue: - 1900s Mafia feuds in Los Angeles, - Book excerpts, - Book announcements, - COVID-19's impact on Mafia, - Obituary. Contributors: Thomas Hunt, David Critchley, Steve Turner, Lennert van't Riet, Richard N. Warner, Justin Cascio, Sam Carlino, Michael O'Haire, Jon Black, Margaret Janco, Bill Feather, Christian Cipollini.

blood covenant michael franzese: Dressed in Black Lisa MacKinney, 2025-03-18 The first full-length history of the Shangri-Las, one of the most significant—and most misunderstood—pop groups of the 1960s. Sisters Mary and Betty Weiss, together with twins Mary Ann and Marguerite Ganser, were schoolgirls when they formed the Shangri-Las in 1963, and had a meteoric rise to fame with songs like “Leader of the Pack” and “Remember (Walking in the Sand).” Their career was cut short for reasons largely beyond their control, derailed by the machinations of Mafia-linked record executives, and heartbreak and tragedy followed. Historian Lisa MacKinney marshals an impressive array of new evidence to tell the Shangri-Las’ story, dispelling many myths and long-standing mysteries along the way. Equally importantly, *Dressed in Black* radically rewrites the accepted narrative of the Shangri-Las’ place in rock history. As young women, they were permitted little agency within a male-dominated industry that viewed teenagers as fodder to be manipulated and exploited by producers, songwriters, and label owners. For decades, this has served as an excuse for critics to deny the musical input of the group members, to trivialize the Shangri-Las as a girl group, and to assign their work a lesser rank in the canon of authentic rock and roll. MacKinney’s great achievement here is to foreground the Shangri-Las’ considerable abilities and musicality, and establish the centrality of their performance of their songs to the group’s underappreciated artistic achievement. This is not to deny the critical role in the group’s success of professional songwriters (including Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry) and writer/producer George ‘Shadow’ Morton, a pioneering and eccentric figure whose self-mythologizing has generated a level of obfuscation that rivals that of the Shangri-Las themselves. MacKinney’s clear-sighted account reveals Morton in a completely new light—and as part of a complex ecosystem of musical relationships. Morton wrote and produced highly emotional material specifically for the Shangri-Las because he knew they had the skills to make his mini-operas not only believable, but enthralling. The group members, particularly Mary Weiss, channeled personal anguish into their extraordinary performances, which are central to the songs’ impact—no less so than for such classic singers as Ella Fitzgerald and Elvis Presley, who also relied on producers and songwriters for their body of work. The Shangri-Las’ impassioned delivery elicited a massive response from their audience of fellow teenagers at the time and has continued to connect profoundly with audiences ever since. MacKinney backs up these arguments with in-depth analysis of key Shangri-Las’ recordings, and makes a powerful case that their achievements warrant a far more prominent place for the Shangri-Las in the history of popular music.

blood covenant michael franzese: Casa di Trump, casa di Putin Craig Unger, 2018-09-13T00:00:00+02:00 Casa di Trump, casa di Putin è la prima indagine completa sulla relazione decennale tra Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin e la mafia russa, un legame che ha aiutato Trump ad arrivare alla Casa Bianca. Una storia avvincente che inizia negli anni settanta - quando Trump fa la sua comparsa nel settore immobiliare di New York, un mondo pieno di soldi e in espansione - e che culmina con la sua elezione a presidente degli Stati Uniti. Quel giorno segna il punto di arrivo del lungo progetto russo di indebolire la democrazia occidentale. Un progetto che è cominciato trent'anni prima, quando la mafia russa puntò le proprietà di Trump per ripulire il proprio denaro, e che ha portato gli oligarchi di Putin e i boss mafiosi a salvare il tycoon da una serie di clamorosi fallimenti dei suoi hotel e casinò ad Atlantic City. Questa inchiesta conferma i peggiori sospetti americani sulle ingerenze russe ed è la rivelazione sconcertante che la guerra fredda non è finita nel 1991, ma si è semplicemente evoluta: gli affari immobiliari di Trump sono diventati il veicolo perfetto per investire miliardi di dollari dall'Unione Sovietica al collasso. In Casa di Trump,

casa di Putin, Craig Unger segue le tracce dell'alleanza tra le alte sfere della politica americana e i protagonisti del mondo sommerso della mafia russa. Documenta l'ascesa di Trump da magnate immobiliare alla più alta carica del paese. Descrive la rinascita russa dalle ceneri dell'Unione Sovietica così come il suo incessante desiderio di rivalsa contro l'occidente, per reclamare il suo ruolo di superpotenza globale. Senza Trump, alla Russia sarebbe mancato un elemento chiave per tornare alla sua grandezza imperiale. Senza la Russia, Trump non sarebbe presidente. Questo libro, appassionante come un thriller, è una lettura essenziale per comprendere i veri poteri che manovrano nell'ombra il mondo in cui viviamo.

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blood covenant michael franzese: *Het huis Trump, het Huis Poetin* Craig Unger, 2018-08-17 Hoe de Russen het Witte Huis in hun macht kregen Dit boek vertelt het verhaal van de grootste inlichtingenoperatie aller tijden. Een operatie die jarenlang door Russische geheimagenten werd voorbereid en leidde tot een schokkend naïeve of doelbewust participerende Russische pion in het Witte Huis, als de machtigste man ter wereld. Journalist Craig Unger confronteert de lezer met het grootste politieke schandaal van onze moderne tijd. Op weergaloze wijze laat hij ons kennismaken met de daadwerkelijke feiten rondom president Trump: de langdurige band tussen Donald Trump, Vladimir Poetin en de Russische maffia en hoe zij Trump hielpen de verkiezingen te winnen. Het is allemaal terug te voeren op een veel oudere Russische missie om de westerse democratie te ondermijnen en de Amerikaanse geopolitieke hegemonie aan het wankelen te krijgen. Een missie die meer dan dertig jaar geleden in gang werd gezet met Trump als instrument voor de Russische plannen. Via Trumps vastgoed werd Russisch maffia-geld witgewassen en als wederdienst redde dezelfde maffia Trump van de ondergang bij een reeks faillissementen in Atlantic City. Het leidt tot de huiveringwekkende onthulling dat de Koude Oorlog niet in 1991 ophield, maar slechts evolueerde met Trumps appartementen als perfect middel voor het laten wegvloeien van miljarden dollars uit de ineens stortende Sovjet-Unie. Unger baseert zich op uitvoerig onderzoek, exclusieve bronnen, anonieme tips, gelekte informatie en nooit eerder getoonde documenten. Hij is de eerste journalist die Trumps lang verstrengelde geschiedenis met Poetin en de Russische maffia tot op het bot ontleed. Inclusief fotomateriaal Craig Unger is een Amerikaanse journalist en bestsellerauteur. Hij werkte o.a. voor The New York Observer, was hoofdredacteur van Boston Magazine en schreef voor Esquire en Vanity Fair over George H.W. Bush en George W. Bush. Zijn boek De familie Bush en het huis Saud werd een wereldwijde bestseller. Unger is een veelgevraagde gast bij CNN en ABC Radio Network. Met Het Huis Trump, het Huis Poetin brengt hij het eerste volledige en uitvoerig onderzochte verhaal van de band tussen Donald Trump en Vladimir Poetin en de Russische inmenging in de Amerikaanse presidentsverkiezingen van 2016.

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than a decade of anguish endured in the shadows of her husband's crimes. The fear of arrest, the prison sentences, the house raids from federal agents—Camille lived through it all, not knowing whether her family would survive the turmoil and uncertainty that accompanied her husband's life of crime. But Camille's devotion to her marriage and her faith in God's plan led her to deliverance from devastation. In *This Thing of Ours*, she recounts a remarkable story of choices, consequences, and the prayers that hold us up when everything around us is falling down.

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