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The Godfather



Synopsis

More than 40 years ago, Mario Puzo wrote his iconic portrait of the Mafia underworld, as told through the fictional first family of American crime, the Corleones. The leader, Vito Corleone, is the Godfather. He is a benevolent despot who stops at nothing to gain and hold power. His command post is a fortress on Long Island from which he presides over a vast underground empire that includes the rackets, gambling, bookmaking, and unions. His influence runs through all levels of American society, from the cop on the beat to the nation's mighty. Mario Puzo, a master storyteller, introduces us to unforgettable characters, and the elements of this world explode to life in this violent and impassioned chronicle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just finished reading The Artisan: An Artistic Assassin Thriller which is a great read and an excellent, satirical but non-slapstick view of Mafia Families and it made me think of how much I loved The Godfather (Signet). Even though it's been years, this book pulled me in and read as fresh and enrapturing as it did the first time. 4 reasons why you need to read it again: 1) it reads like the movie, but there are so many things in the book that are not in the movie 2) this is such a big part of American lore and legend, it feels like coming home 3) it will remind you what an amazing storyteller Mario Puzo was and you will go back and read all his books such as Omerta: A Novel 4) we read to be taken away and this book will take you far, far away. So don't say, "I already read this." say., "It's time to read The Godfather (Signet) again!"

Really 4-1/2 stars. I read this book when it first came out and I really wanted to see how it held up after all these years. The first two movies, of course, are great, and they generally follow the book pretty well (until the whole move-to-Vegas part). If you've only ever seen the movies, you'll find that a number of scenes are different in the book; not a lot, but you can see how Puzo and Coppola were able to tweak some of the scenes, including several important ones, to make them better. The main reason for losing a 1/2 star here is that the book was written solely as a money-maker by Puzo (his earlier novels hadn't sold well despite the good reviews), and a lot of the writing shows it. It doesn't read as well as his other books, and the prose isn't as sharp and expansive as it is in the movie or his other novels, and you get the feel that this was written over a long weekend. An otherwise great story, and highly recommended.

This is a great book. I liked it even better than the movie. The movie was great but the book was even more involved and seemed to explain characters and the storyline even better.

Recommended.

having watch the movie many times as it is one of my favourites(Godfather I), this book expands many aspects not seen in the movie. If you liked Johnny Fontane in the movie and wanted more, this book gets deeper in to his personality and life. This book will make you an offer you can't refuse.

One of the best novels ever written and obviously one of the best movies ever made. I had seen the movies a few times before I decided to buy the book and I am so glad I did. I've never seen a movie that was almost as detailed and followed so closely to the novel. All the characters are very well developed and Puzo did a wonderful job describing many of their backgrounds and stories. The book obviously has more information and detail than the movie does and expands on many of the characters that you don't see too much of in the movie. For example there are several chapters written about or from Johnny Fontaine's point of view and explain how he became famous and what happened to him after The Godfather helped him get the roll in Woltz's war-time movie. Some insight is shared on Luca Brasi and the origins of how he became a fearless monster of a man is explained throughout the book as well. And while details like this were omitted from the film, but still allowed the movie to be one of the greatest in cinematic history, they can only help add to the story of the Corleone family. This book also covers some of what was shown in the second movie. How The Don became what he was, befriending Tessio and Clemenza etc etc. So I'm not sure if the second

book is where the second movie got its origins. I couldn't put this book down or get through it fast enough and can't wait to start the second and third books in the series.

I hadn't read this since it was first published. A classic and thoroughly enjoyable. Halfway through re-reading the book I made marinara sauce and meatballs from scratch. A loaf of Italian bread made enough sandwiches to get me through the rest of the book; they were almost as satisfying as Puzo's novel.

Great story absolutely but there were several extra chapters on Johnny Fontane that could easily have been left out, I skimmed them and didn't like what I saw. Unnecessary. Author repeats sentences, descriptions repeated quite often too. Like when Vito Corleone got shot in the street, we are told twice how Freddie is leaning against the car. When describing The Turk Sollozzo it is said he has a Turkish wife, then shortly after he is said to have an American wife, wonder which it is. Sure this is a lushly drawn deep character driven story of a family and how the youngest son changes from All American boy does good to killer in the family tradition. All done incredibly well. Then there are scenes that the SPCA would hate, wow. So much of the dialogue was taken straight from the pages into the screenplay. But I can't give it five stars for the reasons I outline above.

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