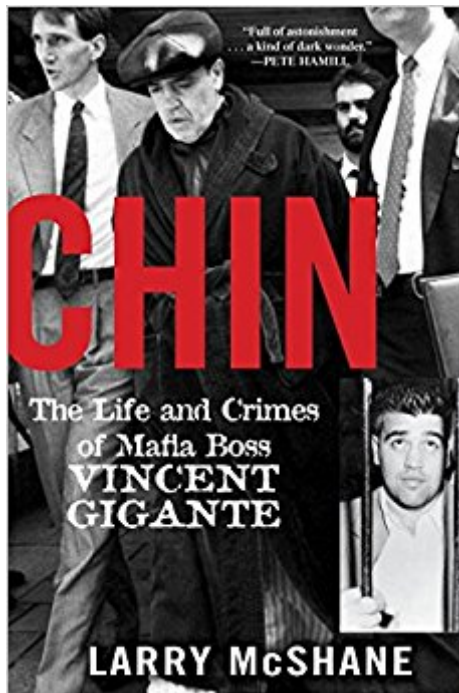


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Chin: The Life And Crimes Of Mafia Boss Vincent Gigante



Synopsis

"Full of astonishment . . . a kind of dark wonder." --Pete Hamill

This is the story of Vincent Louis Gigante, the Genovese Family crime overlord who ruled a sprawling criminal empire for a quarter century with an iron--and deadly--fist. Vinnie "Chin" Gigante displayed signs of insanity that stunned the public, stymied the police and the FBI, and secured his power for decades. Was he really crazy? Or crazy like a fox?

Vincent "Chin" Gigante

He started out as a professional boxer--until he found his true calling as a ruthless contract killer. His doting mother's pet name for the boy evolved into his famous alias, "Chin," a nickname that struck fear throughout organized crime as he routinely ordered the murders of mobsters who violated the Mafia code--including a contract put out on Gambino family boss John Gotti. Vincent Gigante was hand-picked by Vito Genovese to run the Genovese Family when Vito was sent to prison. Chin raked in more than \$100 million for the Genovese family, all while evading federal investigators. At the height of his power, he controlled an underworld empire of close to three hundred made men, extending from New York's Little Italy to the docks of Miami to the streets of Philadelphia--making the Genovese Family the most powerful in the U.S. And yet Vincent "Chin" Gigante was, to all outside appearances, certifiably crazy. A serial psychiatric hospital outpatient, he wandered the streets of Greenwich Village in a ratty bathrobe and slippers, sometimes adding a floppy cap to complete the ensemble. He urinated in public, played pinochle in storefronts, and hid a second family from his wife. On twenty-two occasions, he admitted himself to a mental hospital--evading criminal prosecution while insuring his continued reign as "The Oddfather." It took nearly thirty years of endless psychiatric evaluations by a parade of puzzled doctors for federal authorities to finally bring him down. This is an American Mafia story unlike any other--a strange and shocking account of one man's rise to power that's as every bit as colorful and bizarre as the man himself. "A great book about a great subject by a great writer . . . a tale for the ages . . . McShane recreates a world that has largely vanished, bringing it vibrantly alive . . . grabs you with the immediacy of a breaking news story and carries you along as if you were living it."

--Michael Daly, New York Daily News

"A story that's long overdue. While John Gotti may have been the face of the American Mafia, Vincent Gigante was its heart and soul. McShane pull no punches. A vivid picture of the last American gangster."

--George Anastasia, bestselling author of Gotti's Rules

The Untold Story Of America's Last Mafioso

For three decades, Vincent "The Chin" Gigante ruled the notorious Genovese crime family, raked in millions of dollars, and made headlines for his alleged bouts of insanity. Now--after thousands of pages of FBI and prison medical records have been declassified--his story can finally be told. . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a fervent reader of true Mafia tales over the last quarter of a centuryâ | thereâ™s been quite a dearth of good solid fresh books in this genre for quite a few years. The reason is pretty obviousâ | between the government cleaning the Mafia up to almost utter obscurityâ | along withâ | all the formerâ | tough guyâ | made menâ | literally tripping over each other to see who can rat out who firstâ | thereâ™s almost no new stories to tell. Omerta is a word from another lifetimeâ | and the rat-squealer lineâ | wraps around the block at the local FBI office. Thatâ™s why this book by Larry McShane on Vincent âœTHE CHINâ • Gigante is so refreshing at this point in timeâ | if this is subject matter you enjoy. The author utilizes thousands of pages of declassified FBI and prison medical records to go along with prior information to paint a complete and sordid picture of this Mafia Chieftain.âœThe Chinâ • who midway through his life of crime put on a long-playing act of mental instability as he would walk up and down his neighborhood blocks in a ratty bathrobeâ | old slippersâ | unshaven and unkemptâ | mumblingâ | and tripping over curbsâ | periodically urinating in publicâ | and yet behind the scenesâ | he rose to the highest level of bosses. What makes this book so enjoyable to someone like myself that has read and studied many earlier booksâ | is the way the author ties in old data as well as new... and since I already knew the older revelationsâ | it gives solid credenceâ | to the behind the scenes dealingsâ | that are tied to newer revelationsâ | thereby effectively closing the circle of âœthenâ •â | and now.

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