



Mr. Capone: The Real - and Complete - Story of Al Capone

By Robert J. Schoenberg

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All I ever did was to sell beer and whiskey to our best people. All I ever did was to supply a demand that was pretty popular.

Why, the very guys that make my trade good are the ones that yell the loudest about me. Some of the leading judges use the stuff.

When I sell liquor, it's called bootlegging. When my patrons serve it on silver trays on Lake Shore Drive, it's called hospitality.

-- Al Capone

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"I guess it's all over," Al Capone told his lawyer after being sentenced to prison for tax evasion in October 1931. But, as Schoenberg (Geneen) diligently shows, the public has never gotten over its obsession with the legendary mobster. Schoenberg traces Capone's life from his Brooklyn boyhood (he was a notable delinquent) through his famous Chicago years to his release from prison in 1939 and his death from neurosyphilis. This fast-paced, fact-filled, behind-the-scenes account of a skilled and brutal gangster lays bare the realities behind the myths about a man still known throughout the world 45 years after his death. Schoenberg's lively biography resonates with details of Capone's dealings with other gangsters, the press, government agents and agencies. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Although his reign as Chicago mob boss only lasted from 1926 to 1931, Al Capone endures as America's most infamous gangster. Schoenberg, author of the biography Geneen (LJ 1/85), presents a serious, well-researched portrait of Capone and his times. Capone was a product of the Prohibition era, and while one segment of society was horrified by the corruption and killings associated with him, another identified with his flouting of the blue laws. His celebrity was his downfall: "It was my own fault. Publicity--that's what got me." After a seven-year prison term for tax evasion, he died of syphilis in 1947. Readable and balanced, this is the most detailed biography of Capone to date. Recommended. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 4/15/92.

- Gregor A. Preston, Univ. of California Lib., Davis

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From Kirkus Reviews

Scholarly yet lively account of the legendary Prohibition- era gangster. Schoenberg (Geneen, 1984) chronicles Alphonse Capone's Brooklyn origins; provides a microscopically detailed record of the gangsters, turf, and politicians of the decade of Capone's ascendancy in Chicago; and describes Capone's post-penitentiary retirement to Florida, where the dreaded gangster--infected with tertiary syphilis--spent his last years playing cards and fishing in the enforced calm thought necessary for syphilis victims. Schoenberg's closely focused annals provide an interesting view of the lesser-known young Capone, born in 1899 to an immigrant family. As a teenager, he was a member of the infamous Five Points gang and, by age 16, was working for Brooklyn boss Frankie Yale, serving an apprenticeship in extortion along the banks of the Gowanus Canal. Fleeing to Chicago after nearly beating to death an Irish member of the rival White Hand gang, the 21-year old Capone signed on with business-minded bootlegger and pimp John Torrio, who, besides dividing the Chicago turf with other mobsters such as the flower-loving Deany O'Banion, was expanding his operation into the middle-class suburbs. Capone mastered his volcanic temper, and, under the tutelage of the bland and friendly Torrio--whose signature remark was, ``We don't want any trouble"--took elocution lessons and became perhaps the first gangster to manipulate public relations, cooperating fully with photographers and making himself always available to reporters. At age 26, Capone bought the entire business from Torrio, who decided to return to Italy after being shot in the war that erupted after O'Banion's murder. Avoids the mythologizing of much Capone material, and likely to endure as a standard reference. (Eight pages of b&w photographs, maps--not seen.) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jamie Arellano:

What do you about book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what yours problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They must answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific Mr. Capone: The Real - and Complete - Story of Al Capone to read.

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Irma Cook:

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