



On the Run: A Mafia Childhood

Gregg Hill, Gina Hill

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Written by the son and daughter of Henry Hill (the Mafia informant who became the focus of the book 'Wiseguy' and the movie 'Goodfellas'), this is an account of a childhood spent inside the Witness Protection Programme.

On the Run: A Mafia Childhood Details

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From Reader Review On the Run: A Mafia Childhood for online ebook

Ehsan Salahuddin says

One of the saddest books I have read. And it's personal on many levels.

Mollie says

This is the story of Henry Hill's children pretty much starting where the movie Goodfellas leaves off. Henry Hill is in the witness protection program along with his wife and children. This book relays what the 11 & 13 year old kids faced when their father turns rat on the Mafia family he was connected with his whole life.

Now I love GoodFellas. It has to be one of my all time favourite movies. But Henry Hill is an awful, awful person. you don't see it in the movie so much...the charisma of Ray Liotta kind of blinds you, but the person behind the romantasized mobster was a narcissistic, alcoholic, drug-addled monster who always put himself before his wife and children. Continuously flouting the rules of the Witness Protection and putting everyone in real danger.

We are compelling convinced of henry's wrong doings by the alternating voices of his 13 year old son and his 11 year old daughter. Gregg Hill is bitter and angry and scared. Gina thinks her father hung the moon and everything will be okay.

I couldn't put the book down. It is difficult subject matter as you read about the physical and emotional terror and abuse Henry subjects his family too. But I was compelled to finish it.

Curious Reader says

Give me a memoir or autobiography. I love them anytime. And if it's about a true crime then more intriguing. A Great read. Good and engrossing story.

Note: I received a free e-copy of the book via Net Galley in exchange for an honest review. Special thanks to the author for giving me a chance to read it.

Shelley says

This is an interesting read, and I read it in one weekend, and although I enjoyed it, it wasn't totally immersed.

This is the story of Henry Hill's children, Gina and Gregg. Henry wasn't a big time mafia gangster, but after his a big heist the people involved start to 'disappear'. Henry is convinced to rat on his connections, in exchange to have his record wiped clean and go into witness protection.

Gregg and Gina do not go into a lot of detail of the trauma they experienced; and in some respect for me it's lacking in emotion. You do get the feeling that they had an awful time with their father, who constantly put their lives in danger by not following the witness protection rules.

I liked the style and how it changed between the viewpoints of each child and their different perspectives. If you liked Goodfella's you'll like this book.

Matt Ceccato says

I purchased this book for a penny off Amazon and started reading it Thursday. To say I had a hard time putting this book down would be an understatement. I saw "GoodFellas" and read "WiseGuy" in 1991. Now, 26 years later, all the details of both come back to life from the family members of Henry Hill.

Gina and Gregg are excellent storytellers, especially considering the story is their own. While not a vilification of Henry Hill (nor a defense), the book serves as a clear reminder that, once a crook, always a crook. And, while no speculation has been made about life in Witness Protection changing since the 1980s, it did make me think about what that life is actually like: not fun at all.

Definitely a great read if you are interested in life in and out of the mafia. And, if you've seen the movie or read Nicholas Pileggi's book, you'll breeze through this one as well.

Medlibrarian says

Many people are familiar with the story of Henry Hill, even if they just saw Goodfellas. Perhaps they've read the book on which that was based: Wiseguy by Nicholas Pileggi. But I don't think a lot of people know what happened to Hill after he entered into Witness Protection and I really doubt they are familiar with the story of his children.

Gregg and Gina Hill have a very different take on their father and on what it was like growing up in a connected household and indeed, in Witness Protection. It's not an amazingly written account, but it's gripping and worth your time.

Valerity (Val) says

Originally published in September 2004. Now published again with Random House UK 13 years later. The story of Henry Hill's wife and kids after Goodfellas. They went into Witness Protection but needed someone to protect them from the craziness of Henry and his shenanigans and his chronic drinking, which only got worse. The tensions became extremely amped up while Henry sat around waiting to rat out his former friends, leading to security breaches. A crazy story, told by turns from each of the children in the family. A must read for mob book readers. This is the rest of the story, in all its volatile detail told by those who were affected most. I was given an ARC by NetGalley for an honest review. Thanks for reading.

Chelsie says

I couldn't put this book down, I felt so bad for the children and the life they were made to live. With each chapter came more selfishness from their father while their mother looked on as though that was a normal life style. This seems to be just the tip of the iceberg into the mafia world and the lives their poor families got dragged through. However I give huge props to the children for wanting to strive for a normal life and becoming better people and not following the footsteps of their father like so many unfortunately do because they don't know how else to live. Recommend for anyone intrigued by the mafia or witness protection.

Traci says

I can't get over the dysfunction in this family. A mother who's so committed to her husband that she can't even see the affects on her children! A daughter who lived in the clouds until she was 18, and the only one who totally got it!

Grace says

This is an interesting read. Gregg and Gina Hill tell their story of growing up as the children of Henry Hill, a Mafia associate, specifically after they are relocated as a part of the witness protection program.

Gregg and Gina do not dig too deep into the trauma and dysfunction, but they do dig up just enough that you can get the feeling that their lives were really really awful, especially when their father was home and wacked out on drugs. Their writing also has a childlike feel to it, like they are writing as they would have written at the ages of 13 or 15.

Overall, this is an interesting and quick read. Kudos to Gregg and Gina for having the courage to write this.

Coyney says

A very good read

Tracy Macdonald says

This is the follow up to goodfellas from the side of henry hills kids after they went into witness protection. Was a great read

Steve Dustcircle says

Excellent swquel to Wiseguy (Goodfellas), but comes off a little salty. The bitter narration overshadows some of the historical details.

Mark R. says

****1/2

I'd seen "GoodFellas" and read "Wiseguy", so I already knew Henry Hill, the famed mob informant, was a pretty lousy individual. But I didn't realize just what a piece of human excrement he was until I read this book by his children, Gregg and Gina Hill, who, at least when the book was published nine years ago, live in parts unknown, under assumed names.

At one time, the Hills were in the federal witness protection program, as shown towards the ends of the above mentioned film and book. But Henry fouled that up for them, seemingly unable to stay away from selling drugs and committing other crimes in order to keep away from finding legitimate work.

You can feel the vitriol these kids have towards their father, as you read through this fascinating look back on a very dysfunctional family life. The narrative is split up in sections written by Gregg and Gina, each of them offering their own viewpoints to incidents which occurred to them in the 70s and 80s. Gregg's nearly constant anger and disappointment in his father contrasts with his sister's more sympathetic hopeful (at least, at first; this changes about halfway through the book) point of view.

Read "Wiseguy" for an in-depth look at the criminal dealings of Henry Hill and his underworld friends. Then read "On the Run" for a descriptive view of the man as a person, as a human being ... or as something entirely different.

Diane says

After seeing Goodfellas for the nth time, and reading the Wiseguy Cookbook, I picked this up. It was so incredibly sad. The childhood Gregg and Gina had was horrific, however their version made a good balance to their father's 'rose-colored-glasses' and self-centered accounts. It is also a very good book for those working or involved with children of incarcerated parents. Let's face it, there are those within the penal system who are not looking for restorative justice or personal development. They are just fine with how they are, who they are, and their life style. Here, you get a story from the other point of view - from the child, and children, trying to hold it all together, to be good people, do good things, and make their way in the world, all the time being sabotaged by one of the two people who is supposed to make things right for them, their Dad. Very very sad. But by the sounds of it, they are both now ok. Thank you, God! And all the folks who looked out for them along the way.
