



## Wiseguy

By Nicholas Pileggi

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Nicholas Pileggi's vivid, unvarnished, journalistic chronicle of the life of Henry Hill—the working-class Brooklyn kid who knew from age twelve that “to be a wiseguy was to own the world,” who grew up to live the highs and lows of the mafia gangster’s life—has been hailed as “the best book ever written on organized crime” (*Cosmopolitan*).

This is the true-crime bestseller that was the basis for Martin Scorsese’s film masterpiece *GoodFellas*, which brought to life the violence, the excess, the families, the wives and girlfriends, the drugs, the payoffs, the paybacks, the jail time, and the Feds...with Henry Hill’s crackling narration drawn straight out of *Wiseguy* and overseeing all the unforgettable action.

Read it and experience the secret life inside the mob—from one who’s lived it.

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## Wiseguy By Nicholas Pileggi Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #24411 in Books
- Published on: 2010-05-25
- Released on: 2010-05-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.50" h x 1.10" w x 4.13" l, .52 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 400 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

This is a riveting account of organized crime as a way of life. The "wiseguy" (mob parlance for a street-level hoodlum) is Henry Hill, 30-year veteran of a Brooklyn strong-arm branch of the Luchese crime family, who turned against and helped convict his former associates five years ago and entered the Federal Witness Protection Program. Pileggi, a crime reporter for New York writing here with Hill's cooperation, does a superb job of re-creating the gangster's career, from his early days as an errand boy (at 12) to racketeer Paulie Vario in Brooklyn's Brownsville/East New York section, to his pivotal roles in a Boston College point-shaving scandal and the \$6-million Lufthansa heist at Kennedy Airport in 1978. Hill's story becomes an extraordinary vantage on a demimonde that lives a high, violent, score-to-score life in which car theft, hijacking-to-order, credit-card scams, cigarette smuggling, and other hustles and schemes are as workaday as 9-to-5 at the office. Literary Guild featured alternate. Foreign rights: Sterling Lord. January 30

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#### **From Library Journal**

Growing up in Brooklyn in the 1950s Henry Hill aspired "to be a gangster to be a wise guy." This book chronicles Hill's criminal successes beginning with his being a gofer for neighborhood mobster to his part in the 1978 \$6-million Lufthansa Airlines robbery. Smuggling, hijacking, union racketeering, credit card fraud, robbery, bribery, drug dealing, prison, marriage, and assorted girlfriends take up most of Hill's time and this story. The author may have faithfully portrayed his subject but neither Hill nor any of his activities provokes much interest. The result is a plodding, episodic account which would have made a better magazine article than book. Hill's career ends with his becoming the ultimate wise guy as an informer under the Federal Witness Program. Jerry Maioli, Western Library Network, Olympia, Wash.

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#### **Review**

"Wiseguy goes nonstop...absolutely engrossing." -- "The New York Times Book Review"

"The best book ever written on organized crime." -- "Cosmopolitan"

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Nathan Wilson:**

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**Pat Thomas:**

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