



The Last Don

By Mario Puzo

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The Last Don By Mario Puzo

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The Last Don is Mario Puzo at his finest, thrilling us with his greatest Mafia novel since *The Godfather*--a masterful saga of the last great American crime family and its powerful reach into Hollywood and Las Vegas.

"THE MOST ENTERTAINING READ SINCE THE GODFATHER."

--The New York Times Book Review

The Last Don is Domenico Clericuzio, a wise and ruthless old man who is determined to see his heirs established in legitimate society but whose vision is threatened when secrets from the family's past spark a vicious war between two blood cousins.

"SKILLFULLY CRAFTED . . . IT GIVES US HOLLYWOOD, LAS VEGAS, AND THE MOB IN ONE SWEET DISH."

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The Last Don is a mesmerizing tale that takes us inside the equally corrupt worlds of the mob, the movie industry, and the casinos--where beautiful actresses and ruthless hitmen are ruled by lust and violence, where sleazy producers and greedy studio heads are drunk on power, where crooked cops and desperate gamblers play dangerous games of betrayal, and where one man controls them all. . .

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Mario Puzo, author of *The Godfather*, knows a thing or two about the Mafia and about the movie business; here he brings them together. In the prologue, a Mafia don oversees the double christening of two infant boys, Dante and Cross, into the Clericuzio family. Later, when Cross is tapped to take over as the "Hammer" of the Clericuzios, their prime hit man, he proves not cold-blooded enough for the role. Dante takes his place, and Cross moves from Las Vegas to Hollywood, which proves to be an even worse den of iniquity. When he falls for a movie star Athena Aquitaine, he exhibits the "fatal flaw" the old don always warned against: loving a beautiful woman. A taut novel of sex and money, of love and power.

From Publishers Weekly

Age withers some writers. Others it ripens toward an Olympian wisdom. So it is with Puzo, who at age 76 returns after a quarter century to the terrain of his greatest success, *The Godfather*, to tell a second masterful tale of Mafia life. Puzo's vision is broader here, and more dispassionate. Times have changed since the day of the Corleones. America has fragmented, and Puzo's new family, the Clericuzios, the shadowy power behind the Mafia, is feeling modernity's centrifugal force. Though still based in New York, the Family has also scattered to Vegas and, as the novel progresses, to Hollywood. Puzo's protagonist is Cross De Lena, nephew of Don Domenico Clericuzio, his Bruglione in Vegas, who by investing in film may fulfill the Don's wish to legitimize the Family. But in Puzo's world, the search for power and wealth demands brutality; dream factories, whether of Vegas or Hollywood, are awash in vengeance, betrayal and blood. Puzo's take on the film world is scathing, yet there are no caricatures here; his men and women can be seduced by virtue as well as by vice and will throw away a lifetime in pursuit of love. Violence slashes through the narrative, but the real cruelty that laces the plot lies in each character's byzantine manipulations of others; the story line would delight a Medici. Nearly above the fray stand two old men, the Don and a film czar. Knowing what the world is, they neither condemn it nor bless it but acknowledge its wickedness and drink of its passion and beauty. As, in this mesmerizing tale, Puzo himself does, surveying the play of humanity in its mad glory. Major ad/promo; BOMC main selection; simultaneous Random House AudioBook; film rights sold to CBS; foreign rights sold in England, France, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Brazil and Japan.

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From Library Journal

Twenty-five years after the publication of *The Godfather*, Puzo returns to the literary landscape that launched his career and led to several wildly successful movies. Don Domenico Clericuzio has managed to outlast competing Mafia families while leading the Clericuzio clan to prominence. Pippi, the Don's nephew, along with son Cross, heads the family's Las Vegas operations, where he seeks to extend the Clericuzio tentacles into such legitimate pursuits as legalized gambling, motion pictures, and the construction industry. When Pippi is murdered, Cross seeks vengeance but finds the trail leading ever closer to home. This long abridgment?four cassettes instead of the usual two?does the novel justice by retaining much of Puzo's original material. Joe Montegna's reading is appropriately low-key. Recommended for most popular collections.?Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal"

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Billy Reynolds:

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