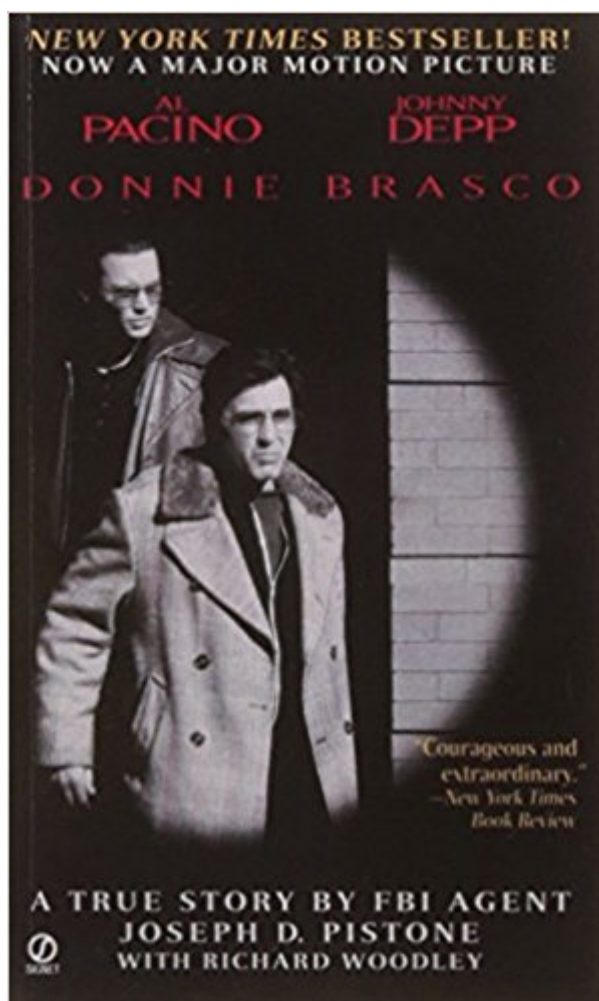


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# Donnie Brasco: My Undercover Life In The Mafia - A True Story By FBI Agent Joseph D. Pistone



## Synopsis

Posing as jewel thief "Donnie Brasco," FBI agent Joseph D. Pistone carried out the most audacious sting operation ever, working undercover for six years to infiltrate the flamboyant community of mafia soldiers, "connected guys," captains, and godfathers. Now his unforgettable eyewitness account brings to pulsating life the entire world of wiseguys; their code of honor and their treachery, their wives, girlfriends and whores, their lavish spending and dirty dealings. With the drama and suspense of a high-tension thriller, Joseph Pistone reveals every incredible aspect of the jealously guarded world he penetrated...and draws a chilling picture of what the mafia is, does, and means in America today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In Donnie Brasco, FBI agent Joseph D. Pistone tells the story of working so deep undercover in the Mafia that the truth of his identity became blurry even for him. For six years, Pistone posed as jewel thief Donnie Brasco in order to pull off one of the most audacious sting operations ever. Because any small detail could blow his cover, Pistone adjusted his personality and habits to earn the trust of Mafia soldiers, connected guys, captains, and godfathers. He was so successful that many FBI surveillance teams assumed that he was yet another Mafia guy. This memoir paints a vivid portrait of the underworld of wise guys by revealing their code of honor, their treacherous dealings, their relationships with their wives and mistresses, and their lavish money habits. The suspense in Pistone's story builds as he unfurls his experience of life on the edge of good and evil and on the

verge of death.

Courageous and extraordinary New York Times Book Review So entertaining you have to remind yourself it's deadly serious Boston Globe Compelling and gripping ... Raw, hard-hitting non-fiction at its best ... A revealing investigative work Toronto Star A penetrating look into the inner circle of the Mafia ... There's no shortage of real-life drama Detroit News --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wow! What a fascinating book! Although the writing leaves a LOT to be desired, it actually lends to the "flavor" of the subject matter and the character of Donnie Brasco. Brasco (or, actually, Pistone) was an FBI agent who infiltrated the mob under cover, and he gives us a fantastic trip into his life with them. And, believe me, it's a scary, crazy, WILD RIDE, one that us "normal folks" would never experience. Thankfully, there isn't as much violence as I anticipated. I'm enjoying the book a LOT more than I expected, and I recommend it highly.

This was a fascinating book and I found it incredibly riveting. I had to keep reminding myself throughout the book that the Mafia crews are all vicious animals and deserve no sympathy whatsoever. Agent Pistone did an amazing job in infiltrating this culture, and you went along on this unbelievably wild roller coaster ride with heart stopping, nail biting scenes that kept you turning the pages. It was somewhat comforting to hear Pistone put it into perspective by saying he was only doing his job, as they're doing theirs. I have to admit, I did find myself feeling a little sad with the inevitable results, but the realization is that this is life as they live it and they would have it no other way. I have read countless mafioso books, but I have never absorbed the true sense of what it was like in this underworld as Pistone portrayed it. I only hope he's able to enjoy life with his family somehow without the daily fear of looking over his shoulder. A true Hero and a 10 star read!

Joe Pistone wasn't your average FBI agent. An ethnic Sicilian and genuine street guy from Paterson, NJ, he was perfect for the very dangerous task of working undercover and slowly infiltrating the New York Mafia in Little Italy and Brooklyn for six years on behalf of the Bureau while at the same time being isolated from his wife, kids, and anything else he holds dear. Under the alias 'Donnie Brasco', Pistone starts off with a small Colombo crew before brazenly making his way to heavyweights in the Bonanno Family which leads to friendships and alliances with the likes of Anthony Mirra, Lefty "Guns" Ruggiero and Sonny "Black" Napolitano. Superb tale told in a simple,

matter-of-fact tone yet pulls no punches on the difficulties of going undercover and living a mobster's lifestyle. The book is filled with verbatim transcripts of conversations ranging from sit-downs, inner feuds, scams, hits, and everything in between. I found the ending to be mildly sad, with the inevitable happening to certain characters when their overlords discover they unwittingly brought a government agent into their underworld. This is a must for anybody who saw the (great) movie and loves a good gangster read.

Good read. I enjoyed the book and the history behind it. If you like "mob" books, you will like this one.

I could not put this book down and when finished immediately re-read it again. This is a very well written true story of Special Agent Joe Pistone, who I have the utmost respect for. He sacrificed so much of his life just to do the right thing. This true story is way more informative and entertaining than The Sopranos, and the like. This book takes you right there, you live, eat and breath the way of the bad guys along with "Donnie". Special Agent Joe Pastone is a true Hero in every sense of the word. The book tells how he was able to gain the trust of some of the most evil villains, patiently day by day working undercover, to get the thieves, drug smugglers, murderers, all who have never earned an honest cent in their lives, off of our streets for good.

I literally could not put this book down as soon as I bought it; it is absolutely fascinating. It gives a "fly on the wall" view of the American Mafia before it's downfall in the 1980's. Agent Pistone gives an amazing inside account of the mafia, their illegal activities, motives and the personalities of the mobsters that he deals with. Make no mistake about it, the men in the mafia are evil. Hollywood likes to glamorize the mob at times, but this book shows the mobsters as they truly are; vicious, ignorant, selfish, greedy animals that are only interested in two things; making money and murdering anyone that comes in their way. Pistone infiltrates their world and lets the reader in for the ride. If I could use one word to describe Agent Pistone, it would be "badass." What more can I say? Just buy the book. You will probably be like me and end up reading it more than twice :)

So cliched but it's absolutely true in this case. The work agent Pistone chronicles in this book is nothing short of amazing. To be that deep undercover, to be so entwined in a life that was fundamentally the opposite of everything he believed in, is breath taking. Throughout this book, I couldn't help but have this feeling of impending dread like each paragraph held the time which

Agent Pistone's cover would be blown and he would be subject to the most ruthless of mob justice. One definitely gets the sense that the author is clearly aware of the importance of the work he did which can be a tad off putting at times. Often the author is guilty of the same kind of bravado he claims to disdain in the mafiosi he works so closely beside but overall, despite it's off putting nature, does reinforce the notion that Agent Pistone is a man. Regardless of the super human things he was able to accomplish, he's not super human, he's just a brave man complete with all of the failings of mere mortals. That said, the action in the book is terrific and goes a long way to spelling out the back stories of the beef between Sonny Black and Sonny Red's crews. Great stuff. Highly recommended!

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