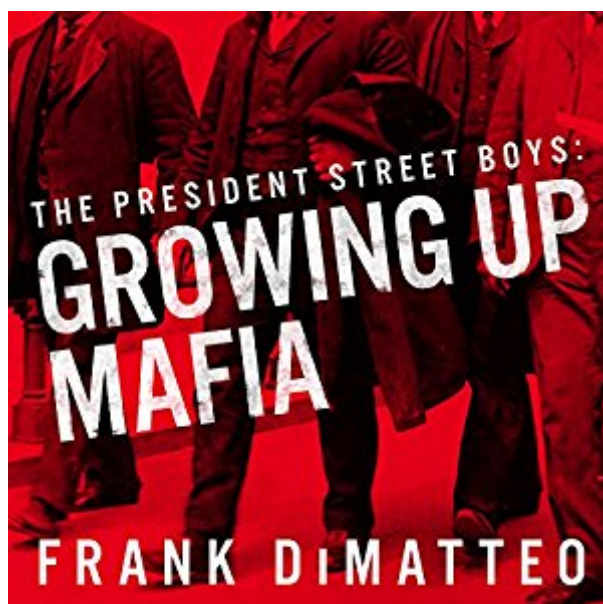


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# The President Street Boys: Growing Up Mafia



## Synopsis

Frank DiMatteo was born into a family of mob hit men. His father and godfather were shooters and bodyguards for infamous Mafia legends, the Gallo brothers. His uncle was a capo in the Genovese crime family and bodyguard to Frank Costello. Needless to say, DiMatteo saw and heard things that a boy shouldn't see or hear. He knew everybody in the neighborhood. And they knew him...and his family. And does he have some wild stories to tell.... From the old-school Mafia dons and infamous "five families" who called all the shots to the new-breed "independents" of the ballsy Gallo gang who didn't answer to nobody, DiMatteo pulls no punches in describing what it's really like growing up in the mob. Getting his cheeks pinched by Crazy Joe Gallo until tears came down his face. Dropping out of school and hanging gangster-style with the boys on President Street. Watching the Gallos wage an all-out war against wise guys with more power, more money, more guns. And finally revealing the shocking deathbed confessions that will blow the lid off the sordid deeds, stunning betrayals, and all-too-secret history of the American Mafia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Brutal World Laid Bare There are only two reasons why I'm giving this book, recommended to me by a friend, 5 stars. One is, despite the author's inability to write a paragraph without depending on the f-word, it's a hard book to put down, like watching a train wreck or looking at a cobra. Frankie grew up in an area where almost everyone, men, wives, mothers, were involved with the Brooklyn mafia. He describes the people and their life of crime in detail, never glossing over it or

romanticizing it in any way. He admits in a world where loyalty was seen as the highest virtue, that more often than not, it fell by the wayside to the gods of money and greed. The only admirable people in the book are his grandparents, who managed to stay straight in a crooked world and loved their grandson unreservedly, despite his wayward ways. I kept thinking as I read that their influence would surface, and the author would apologize for the unimaginable amount of misery and suffering his participation in organized crime caused, that he would say he was sorry for eroding the foundation of society instead of trying to build it up. When it became apparent that wasn't going to happen, I began to wonder why he wrote the book in the first place. The answer lies in the last pages, where he makes a list of "rats" who had "flipped," screaming at the reader, "I was loyal, but these jerks weren't!" Despite all this, it is the author's ruthless honesty that makes this book worthwhile, and the other reason I'm giving it five stars. He may or may not be sorry for anything he's done, and that's his business, not mine. But he never glamorizes the evil he witnesses, that and his breezy style of writing make this a good, if somewhat disturbing, read.

I've read and reviewed *Lion in the Basement* by Frank Dimatteo and this book entitled *Growing Up Mafia* by the same author I found to be much the same. I realize mobsters have a very limited vocabulary when it comes to expressing themselves and that is true in this book as well. Someone may well say, "What do you expect from reading a book like this?" However, at least to me, the profanity was overdone and got tiresome after a while. Also, I would have liked the book to contain more photographs of several of the so-called notables mentioned in the book. I did appreciate knowing who the four individuals were that were involved in the assassination of Albert Anastasia in the barbershop of the Park Sheraton Hotel on October 25, 1957, namely Joey and Larry Gallo, Carmine "The Snake" Persico, and Joe "Jelly" Gioelli. The book was an okay read but members of the mafia turn on one another through paranoia and loyalty is a myth and the oath of omerta a joke. If you're looking for a man's man you won't find any in this book.

I grew up in this neighborhood and I was anxious to read this book, but to be quite honest, it wasn't anything that I have not seen in the movies or read in other books. For me it was a trip down memory lane or in this case the block. These were guys who were part of the fabric of the neighborhood we all knew who they were & what they were capable of doing. I grew up with one of the guys whose father is mentioned in the book, I always wonder why he never went to work like the other Dads, now the secret is revealed. Nice quick read, better read if you're from the area.

Okay read but not very interesting subject matter more like a trip down memory lane for writer and he uses far too many F words trying to capture the moment. Bottom line have read many many books like this so save your money not worth it.

I've read A LOT of mob books. This is my favorite. DiMatteo is raw, honest and surprisingly really funny. Read the story about Ricky lighting himself on fire at the bbq and you'll know what I'm talking about, laughed pretty hard at work at that story. Also, unlike a lot of other mob books, the author of this particular book was there, he lived through it in Red Hook. Its not some second or third hand romanticized account of "cosa nostra" written by a guy who wasn't there, a real insider look at what its actually like to grow up in "the life". I highly recommend this book.

I enjoyed this book quite a bit. Lots of detail and description and there was no blame game on the authors part ( he just told it how it happened ). Good book, not 15.00 good which is my only complaint :-)

The President Street Boys: Growing Up Mafia by Frank DiMatteo is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in late June. Rereleased after being privately published, DiMatteo details the key players before delving nonchronologically into keenly interesting, shocking, risque, and subtly dangerous stories.

Essentially a rehash of his book "A Lion in the Basement". He uses all the same pictures. Evidently he used a ghost writer as it is much improved over the first. I've never heard his name mentioned in any of the Gallo books I've read so its doubtful as to how close he or his father were to them. An interesting read nonetheless.

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