



Daughter of the King: Growing Up in Gangland

By Sandra Lansky, William Stadiem

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Sandi Lansky Lombardo grew up the only daughter of mob boss Meyer Lansky. Raised in upper-class Jewish splendor, first at the Majestic Hotel and then at the Beresford, at finishing schools and fancy stables, Sandi was the wild child of the late 40's, the 50's, and the early 60's. She was the Paris Hilton of her day, partying till dawn at El Morocco and the Stork Club, dating the biggest celebrities of the era. Her life was not without heartbreak and tragedy, including the insanity of her mother, and the crippling handicap of her baby brother – not to mention his drug addiction.

Sandi was privy to her father's secrets as well as his unexpected tenderness. She always stuck closely to the strict code of omerta. In *Daughter of the King*, Sandi teams up with Nick Pileggi (author of the seminal *Wise Guy*, perhaps the best-selling mob book ever) and multiple time *New York Times* Bestselling writer Bill Stadiem. Nick has made a career in books and films chronicling the mob, and Bill has emerged as a master of recreating the glamour and romance of the golden era of American culture with bestsellers like *Mr. S* and George Hamilton's *Don't Mind if I Do*.

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Editorial Review

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Meyer Lansky (1902–83) looms large in the history of American organized crime. He built a gambling empire, numbered Lucky Luciano and Bugsy Siegel among his friends and partners, and was instrumental in the creation of Las Vegas. He also helped create Murder Incorporated, the assassination arm of the American Mafia. And to Sandi Lansky, he was Daddy. This autobiography tells the story of a rich socialite, a party girl who lived in a world of wealth and glitz (Dean Martin was among her lovers) but whose life was permeated with darkness: a mother suffering from mental illness, a father who wasn't exactly the warmest dad in the world, friends and pseudo-relatives from the criminal world. (She refers to Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel as Uncle Benny.) Everything in the book—the murder of Siegel, the Kefauver Committee hearings into organized crime, her first marriage (when she was still a teenager)—is filtered through Sandi's perceptions of her father and his world. It's not a crime story, exactly, but it is a fascinating account of a girl and her father, a man who happened to be a criminal. --David Pitt

Review

"Lansky tells of an adoration of her father that rings...touching...Yet she does not hold back spilling details of the colorful gangster characters that made up this perilous, vanished world"—**Publisher's Weekly**

"A fascinating account of a girl and her father, a man who happened to be a criminal." -**Booklist**

About the Author

Sandra Lansky lives in Florida with her husband.

William Stadiem is a multiple *New York Times* bestselling writer and the author of eight books. He is a master of re-creating the glamour of America's golden era with his bestsellers *Marilyn Monroe Confidential*, *Mr. S: My Life with Frank Sinatra*, and George Hamilton's *Don't Mind If I Do*. He abandoned Wall Street for Sunset Boulevard, where he has since worked as a screenwriter, a columnist for Andy Warhol's *Interview*, and the restaurant critic for *Los Angeles*. He lives in Santa Monica, California.

Users Review

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Christine Clute:

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