



## The Godfather's Revenge

By Mark Winegardner

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### The Godfather's Revenge By Mark Winegardner

The third, and final, installment in Mario Puzo's epic chronicle of the Corleone crime family—one of the most enduring lineages in American literature and cinema—achieves a stunning crescendo with a story that imagines the role of the Mafia in the assassination of a young, charismatic president.

It's impossible to overstate the influence of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*, which has become an essential part of our cultural lexicon. Puzo's novel about the secret world of organized crime became a megabestseller and an instant classic. The book inspired the Francis Ford Coppola films—unprecedented successes in their own right—and launched a national obsession with the Mafia that continues unabated today.

In *The Godfather's Revenge*—again authorized by the Puzo Estate—Mark Winegardner moves the Corleone family onto the biggest stage of all: the intersection of organized crime and national politics. A subordinate to Michael Corleone, New Orleans underboss Carlo Tramonti is publicly humiliated when the U.S. Attorney General—President Danny Shea's brother—has him arrested and deported to Colombia. Tramonti eventually returns, hell-bent on settling scores, and triggers a series of events destined to change the course of American history. Corleone, though haunted by the death of his brother Fredo, knows that this is no time for weakness—and so, with fearless consigliere Tom Hagen leading the way, a new path for the future is forged.

As the dramatic twists of *The Godfather's Revenge* take the reader from Las Vegas to Miami to New Orleans, from the power alleys of Washington, D.C., to the remote jungles of Colombia, the puppet master behind the curtain remains Michael Corleone, the tortured prodigal son who is determined to redefine his family's legacy and make his father—the original Godfather—proud.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In Winegardner's mediocre second sequel to Mario Puzo's classic (after 2004's bestselling *The Godfather Returns*), La Cosa Nostra gets involved in a plot in the early 1960s to assassinate a JFK-like U.S. president, Jimmy Shea. Instead of building on the fascinating characters Puzo created, such as Michael Corleone, the reluctant successor to his father's Mafia empire, Winegardner dwells on the machinations of Michael's main rival, Nick Geraci. When Geraci mysteriously disappears and eludes capture by the authorities, the reader learns in a jarring nod to Osama bin Laden that "the most powerful nation on earth had deployed skilled intelligence and law enforcement personnel to conduct a gigantic manhunt for a powerful and resourceful leader of a secret criminal society—a tall, imposing, bearded man with a chronic, withering disease—and somehow failed to find the cave where he was hiding." *Godfather* fans might prefer getting reacquainted with the original novel and the two better of the three films it inspired. (Nov.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Winegardner continues to breathe new life into Mario Puzo's infamous Corleone family. Following the success of *The Godfather Returns* (2004), he reunites Puzo's immortal cast of characters in an all-new Cosa Nostra adventure. As world-weary Michael endeavors to remain in control of his tight-knit clan, he wrestles with a complexity of local and international issues and interests. Nick Gerasi, an old nemesis, resurfaces; a fellow don is kidnapped by government agents; the Kennedy-esque president of the U.S and his attorney-general brother are attempting to exert their independence from the behind-the-scenes operators who orchestrated their rise to power; and Michael's dead brother, Fredo, keeps reappearing in the guise of a belated conscience. Chock-full of wise guys, babes, bitter rivalries, and dangerous liaisons of all sorts, this irresistible continuation will appeal to fans of the *Godfather* books and movies as well as contemporary devotees of *The Sopranos*. *Margaret Flanagan*

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Review

Everything it should be: nuanced, chilling, and threaded with intrigue...you probably won't be able to put this one down. -- *Entertainment Weekly*

Faux Kennedy brothers, elaborate detailings of byzantine Cosa Nostra politics, steamy pulpfiction prose, a hot murder mystery and a cartoonishly epic cast make this *Godfather* installment a worthy addition to the chronicle of la famiglia Corleone.

They're baaaaack-dour Machiavellian Michael and long-suffering Connie, tight-lipped, anxiety-prone Irish consigliere Tom Hagen, even poor Michael-murdered Fredo, appearing now as a tuxedo-wearing ghost bearing a fishing rod and squeezing a naked dame. Winegardner (*That's True of Everybody*, 2002, etc.) breathlessly re-animates these archetypes even more effectively than he did in 2004's *The Godfather Returns*. *Revenge* pits Nick Gerasi, turncoat former Corleone caporegime emerging from exile in a bomb shelter beneath Lake Erie, against Michael in a mano-a-mano bloodfeud. Gerasi's an old-school gangster, miffed at the Godfather's efforts to go legit. And Michael has other hellhounds on his trail. There's Attorney General Danny Shea, kid brother of philandering Jimmy, the U.S. president Michael finagled into office by means of Hagen's chicanery and a charm offensive by Sinatra-like Corleone flunky Johnny Fontane. Danny's dream is to enter history as the Mob-slayer, and while Michael merely wants to neutralize the threat, rival crime boss Carlo Tramonti, Don of the Big Easy, aims at actually offing Jimmy. At a pasta-mad powwow for the head

honchos of all the underworld's Five Families, Carlo advances the assassination plot, only to be interrupted as police crash in to nab Tom Hagen. Turns out his mistress, hard-case blonde bombshell Judy Buchanan, has been shot in the head and Hagen's soon held for questioning. Winegardner's deft plot-spinning is rivaled only by his sure grasp of Goodfella mise-en-scène, the profanity-laced witticisms, the fashion fetishizing, the cool, long, dark '60s Chevy Biscaynes. Minor characters, from upstart Eddie Paradise to the musically monickered Otilio Cuneo and Osvaldo Atobello, add varnish to inch-thick operatic mobster atmosphere.

Bloody and bombastic-a top-notch addition to the saga. -- *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review, October 1, 2006

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