



The Black Hand: The Story of Rene "Boxer" Enriquez and His Life in the Mexican Mafia

By Chris Blatchford

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THE BLACK HAND is the true story of Rene Enriquez, aka "Boxer," and his rise in a secret criminal organization, a new Mafia, that already has a grip on all organized crime in California and soon all of the United States. This Mafia is using a base army of an estimated 60,000 heavily armed, loyal Latino gang members, called Sureños, driven by fear and illicit profits. They are the most dangerous gang in American history and they wave the flag of the Black Hand.

Mafioso Enriquez gives an insider's view of how he devoted his life to the cause--the Mexican Mafia, La Familia Mexicana, also known as La Eme--only to find betrayal and disillusionment at the end of a bloody trail of violence that he followed for two decades.

And now, award-winning investigative journalist Chris Blatchford, with the unprecedented cooperation of Rene Enriquez, reveals the inner workings, secret meetings, and elaborate murder plots that make up the daily routine of the Mafia brothers. It is an intense, never-before-told story of a man who devoted his life to a bloody cause only to find betrayal and disillusionment.

Based on years of research and investigation, Chris Blatchford has delivered a historic narrative of a nefarious organization that will go down as a classic in mob literature.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. There is much to praise in this authorized biography of Rene Boxer Enriquez, penned by Peabody Award–winning journalist Blatchford (*Three Dog Nightmare*). While this is a superb cautionary tale about the dangers of youth falling into senseless gang violence, it also rates as a probing, redemptive story of Enriquez, a vicious, heroin-addicted killer for Los Angeles's largest criminal street gang, with 20,000 members involved in extortion, drug-dealing, vice and murder. Blatchford explores with grim accuracy Enriquez's criminal past, prison killings, turf wars and contract eliminations around the West Coast. But the book also reveals Enriquez and his crew's total commitment to hoodlum honor, the cost in lives and status, and the betrayals and intrigues both behind bars and out in society. This is a savvy account of Enriquez's arduous self-education and personal transformation from cold killer to a man who, in his own words, educates law enforcement and the public about a prison and criminal subculture that should scare the hell out of them. (*Sept.*)

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Review

“Blatchford is well-suited to tell this story . . . he captures the nuances and nihilism of the prison world . . . The narrative is interspersed with fascinating prison arcana.” (Los Angeles Times)

“A gripping, powerful, chilling inside look at a criminal organization that is changing the organized crime landscape. This is a mob classic.” (Dominick Dunne)

“A fascinating, vivid and unforgettable insider’s look at the bloody, secret and deadly Mexican Mafia. Chris Blatchford’s compulsively readable wake-up call spares no one and names everyone, including the politicians who aid and abet this dangerous criminal organization, through corruption, maddening naiveté, or political correctness.” (Joseph Wambaugh)

“A courageous and well-written exposé on one of the most ruthless and powerful gangs of all, the Mexican Mafia. Chris Blatchford reaffirms his position as being among Americans greatest investigative reporters.” (Vincent Bugliosi, author of *Helter Skelter*)

“Chris Blatchford has hit a grand slam. *The Black Hand* is an important page turning book that will take you into a frightening dark world that shouldn’t exist... but it does. It’s riveting, and when you finish the book, you’ll get up and lock your doors. Highly recommended.” (William "Billy" Queen, retired special agent ATF and bestselling author of *Under and Alone*)

“A fascinating look at the world of the Mexican Mafia, more ruthless than the LCN. A must read for law enforcement and a tribute to the courage of ‘dropout’ Rene ‘Boxer’ Enriquez.” (Joe Pistone, aka Donnie Brasco)

From the Back Cover

An astonishing and groundbreaking look at the Mexican Mafia, *The Black Hand* is an unprecedented story of depravity, violence, and redemption

Rene "Boxer" Enriquez grew up on the violent streets of East L.A., where gang fights, robberies, and drive-by shootings were fueled by rage, drugs, and alcohol. When he finally landed in prison—at the age of nineteen—Enriquez found an organization that brought him the respect he always wanted: the near-mythic and widely feared Mexican Mafia, La Eme.

What it saw in Enriquez was a young man who knew no fear and would kill anyone—justifiably or not—in the blink of an eye. That loyalty and iron will drove him up the ranks as a mob enforcer and ultimately to the upper echelons, where he would help rule for nearly two decades.

He helped La Eme become the powerful and violent organization that it is now, with a base army of approximately sixty thousand heavily armed gang members who control the prison system and a large part of California crime. Arguably the most dangerous gang in American history, its reach is growing.

And now award-winning investigative journalist Chris Blatchford, with the unprecedented cooperation of Rene Enriquez, reveals the inner workings, secret meetings, and elaborate murder plots that make up the daily routine of the Mafia brothers. It is an intense, never-before-told story of a man who devoted his life to a bloody cause only to find betrayal and disillusionment.

After years of research and investigation, Blatchford has delivered a historic narrative of a nefarious organization that will go down as a classic in mob literature.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia Jones:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This *The Black Hand: The Story of Rene "Boxer" Enriquez and His Life in the Mexican Mafia* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Amy Sims:

Can you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't assess book by its deal with may doesn't work at this point is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside look likes. Maybe you answer could be *The Black Hand: The Story of Rene "Boxer" Enriquez and His Life in the Mexican Mafia* why because the excellent cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly guide you to pick up this book.

Raymond Smith:

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