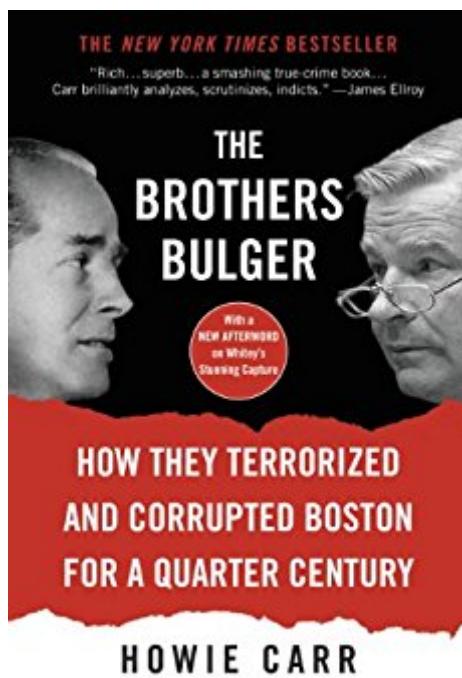


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The Brothers Bulger: How They Terrorized And Corrupted Boston For A Quarter Century



Synopsis

The riveting New York Times bestseller by award-winning columnist Howie Carr--now with a stunning new afterword detailing Whitey Bulger's capture. For years their familiar story was of two siblings who took different paths out of South Boston: William "Billy" Bulger, former president of the Massachusetts State Senate; and his brother James "Whitey" Bulger, a vicious criminal who became the FBI's second most-wanted man after Osama Bin Laden. While Billy cavorted with the state's blue bloods to become a powerful political force, Whitey blazed a murderous trail to the top rung of organized crime. Now, in this compelling narrative, Carr uncovers a sinister world of FBI turncoats, alliances between various branches of organized crime, St. Patrick's Day shenanigans, political infighting, and the complex relationship between two brothers who were at one time kings. As the film *Black Mass*, starring Johnny Depp as Whitey Bulger, hits theaters, take a deeper dive into the story of the Bulgers, and their fifty-year reign over Boston with Howie Carr's **THE BROTHERS BULGER**.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book during the Whitey Bulger trial to learn more about what Whitey did. The book was

informative. However, the writing wasn't as good as I would have hoped. For example, the author often changed the name of the subject of the sentence from the formal name to a nickname mid sentence. That made it hard to follow. However, it did tell the story of Whitey and Billy Bulger in a lot of detail, but I didn't enjoy reading it as much as I would have liked.

I read this book after enjoying the movie, "The Departed." Howie Carr has certainly mastered the art of delivering a fast paced story, one that wraps inuendo around facts, dates, and personalities. He knows his subject matter, the Bulger Brothers, like a butcher knows a steer, and, he carves it up to a fare-the-well. The narrative opens with Billy, the politician brother, testifying before a congressional committee where he doesn't come off well taking the 5th. His brother Whitey, meanwhile, tops the FBI list of America's most wanted criminals spawning a cottage industry of global Whitey spottings over the last decade. Howie Carr clearly doesn't think much of Billy's lifetime of political fixings and seeks to tie him to his psycho criminal brother in the Bostonian version of a politico-fandango, true or otherwise. It's in a way too bad as Billy has risen from the shanty Irish mean streets of "southie" to be president of the state senate followed by a stint as president of UMass. Alas, his life of political corruption, shades of J.M. Curley's era, catches up to him, but not before he receives a handsome pension to ease his retiring years. Whitey, on the other hand, comes across for what he apparently is which is a pretty scary guy. He murders well over 50 people after getting out of Alcatraz in his early 20's. Carr leads the reader thru the various killings and maimings with the added feature of FBI corruption thrown in. Whitey was an FBI informant which made for a bad ending if you were his competitor in crime, and this is where Carr ties Billy to Whitey with the corrupted FBI agent fitting neatly into the mix, all a part of an all-star criminal class out of the southie end of Boston. And what a story it is as it reads like an endlessly repeating drive-by killing spree all juxtaposed with Billy's political operations shades of the Kennedy machine - ipso the Irish mob of Nicholson in the Departed marries the life of Daniel Drew, he of Days of Erie fame. Nothing has changed, just the names. I'd recommend a book entitled, "the Bosses" to frame out the Billy side and perhaps Vinnie Teresa's, "My life in the mob" for the Whitey side. In any event it's a page turner which I looked forward to reading again after each time I had to put it down. All the Mass-politico names are there including Barney, Ted and J.F. Kerry. What a bunch!

Howie Carr has captured the essence the evil of Whitey Bulger and the complicity of his brother, Billy. As someone who lived in Southie during that period he gives vivid testimony that South Boston is not a place, it's a state of mind!! Brilliant descriptive narrative. He joins Elmore Leonard and Tom

Wolfe in the pantheon of American novelists that understand the difference between the real and the apparent in the human spirit. His "Hard Knocks" is a must read sequel.

Carr can't be considered an objective observer as his hatred for both Bulgers is evident. But the story he tells is full of details that shock, disgust, and amaze you. Whitey was a confirmed sleaze while Billy wasn't much better, although he worked in a more respectable venue. I have even been told by some that he did a good job as UMASS president. This was an interesting but terrible time in Boston's history. I am not a fan of capital punishment, but in Whitney's case I might make an exception. Fortunately he is behind bars for the rest of his life. He serves that and more.

I realize that there is corruption in all of politics. But this books as much about the shameless corruption in Massachusetts as it is about the two brothers. I'm not sure which one is worse. One robbed and killed illegally and one did it "legally". But both did it without remorse. And to think that the various law enforcement agencies were right there with them, aiding them, is another shame. I am not as surprised about the media's involvement as it fits what they are doing today. I couldn't help but notice the names of people in national politics today that surfaced in this book. I am sure their laundry could use some washing. Fascinating read.

If it wasn't for Howie Carr these two would have kept their undeserved reputations.....to a point. HOWIE IS the only one in the public eye that wasn't afraid to tell the real story. He also deserves respect as a lone voice in Boston against all the other corruption that continues to this day. This is the definitive book about the Brothers and their path of destruction whether it was mafia style murder or legalized laundering (Billy Bulger). I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that Whitey's trial will be a fiasco similar to O.J. Simpson or something similar. As always Howie will be on the case and on the radio...great book Howie!

While I may not be a big fan of this book's author, I was able to look past what at times were his own opinions on matters and focused on the facts. If you can do the same, you won't be able to put this book down. Growing up in Massachusetts, I had always known so many of the names in this book, mostly the politicians, but had no idea how much Billy was linked in with them. Aside from the Whitey/gangster half of the story, this book could almost be used as a history guide to Massachusetts politics. In terms of Whitey, if you are unaware of the true depth of this man's crimes, this is a must read, especially since it was written before Whitey was found in California.

Now that he's awaiting trial, the story is even more compelling.

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