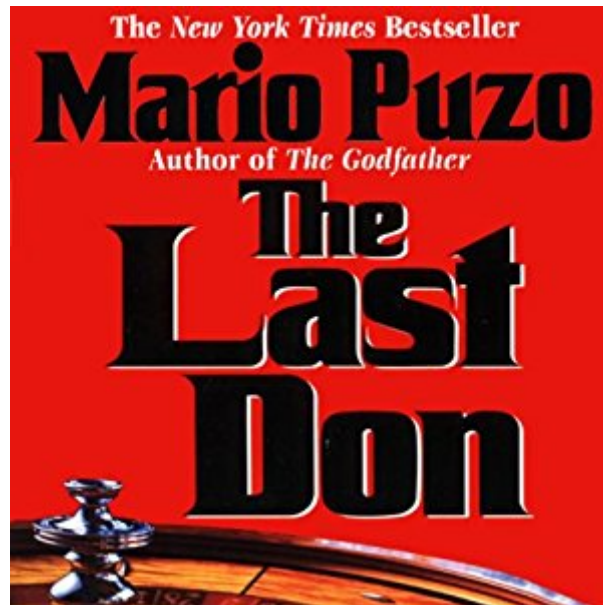


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# The Last Don



## Synopsis

The last don is Domenico Clericuzio, a wise and ruthless man who is determined to see his heirs established in legitimate society but whose vision is threatened when secrets from the family's past spark a vicious war between two blood cousins. This is a mesmerizing tale that takes us inside the equally corrupt worlds of the mob, the movie industry, and the casinos - where beautiful actresses and ruthless hit men are ruled by lust and violence, where sleazy producers and greedy studio heads are drunk with power, where crooked cops and desperate gamblers play dangerous games of betrayal, and where one man controls them all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Every time I read a book by Mario Puzo, I become more and more impressed with this man's writing style. His books always have a great combination of real world brutality, goodness, sex, and all the other mixes of human experience. His sentences are simplistic and without airs, as are the ideas of the story, and it is this simplicity that gives Puzo's books an elegance that many modern writers lack. Mario is writing about something that is interesting and tells the reader what they need to know when they need to know it. He knows his subject material and creates a world that is interesting as well as believable. *Fools Die* was excellent, and then I read *Godfather*, and I was very impressed with that book also. I wasn't sure about this book, but I picked it up, and saw that even though it was about the same subject material (I thought it would just be a recounting of the *godfather*), the storyline is fresh, with new characters that become well developed by the end of the book. Puzo

also creates fantastic characters in this book, there is a mold to run by, the old sicilian mafia mold, but the characters in this book are removed by a generation or 2 from this mentality, and it is very interesting to see how Puzo shows their lives as caught in the middle of the mafia life of their parents and grandparents, and the americanized life they lead apart from Quogue LI and the "family". This book was great, and a great read. Any book written by Puzo is worth reading because of his fantastic writing style, this book is no exception.

The Last Don is the finest Mafia novel that I have read and is comparable to great novels such as The Godfather. The Last Don is Domenico Clericuzio, a wise and ruthless old man who is determined to see his heirs become established in society. The prologue to the story is at the christening of his nephews, Cross De Lena and Dante Clericuzio. Now, thirty years later, the Clericuzio's have become the dominant mafia family in America after costly wars with other families. They have gained a hand in politics, gambling, drugs, and even Hollywood. The setting of The Last Don is Las Vegas in 1995. The author did a very skillful job of describing Las Vegas. He pays very close attention to details. In the book, Las Vegas symbolizes the chaos and corruption in the world. The plot of The Last Don is that two cousins, Cross De Lena and Dante Clericuzio, hate each other because of a past war and must decide what to do about one another. There are also several sub-plots, such as the love between Cross and Athena and the relationship between Pippi De Lena and his daughter Claudia. Even minor characters play major roles in the story. I enjoyed The Last Don tremendously. It was the best mafia-themed book that I have ever read. It was full of non-stop action and a twist around every corner. It also entwines love and romance into the bloody plot. I would recommend The Last Don to people who are interested in books about Mafia in America. It should, however, be read by mature audiences. The book has numerous bloody battles as well as various sexual scenes. The only bad part about the story is that the plot is not revealed until around 150 pages from the end. Definitely a great book to read on a rainy day.

I really liked this book. The reason I first got it was because I knew that Mario Puzo wrote the Godfather and I loved that movie. I decided to get the book, and I was not disappointed. This book is about the workings of Cross DE Lena and the Clercuzio family. Cross and Dante are grandsons of the Don and they make a name for themselves. Cross owns a huge casino/hotel in Las Vegas, and Dante is the The number one hitman for the family. But when a family secret that the Don wants know one to know gets out, there becomes a huge war with in the Family. This is a great book for anyone who likes action our who liked the Godfather. This book shows that after all these years

Puzo can still write a great mafia story.

Unfortunately, Mario Puzo's literary talents did not age like wine. While *The Godfather*, his magnum opus, was action-packed, riveting and filled with colourful characters that filled every chapter and every margin, *The Last Don* fails in everything *The Godfather* succeeded in doing. While Puzo once again spends a majority of the novel detailing the lives and backgrounds of his protagonists, the villains get shafted, with a mere handful of paragraphs to flesh them out. This spills over in the character development of his "heroes", and while complex and well-rounded, it heinously detracts from the action. The Hollywood segments are perhaps the duller portion of the book (although a brilliant mob plot at one point almost saves the story). The producers, directors and studio heads are flat, greedy, manipulative scoundrels. Why Puzo didn't try to make them more composite is beyond me. This novel could have been two hundred pages shorter. The anti-climactic revelation concerning the Santadios is boring and doesn't even qualify as a mob war. Stick with *The Godfather*. This isn't worth the paper it's printed on.

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