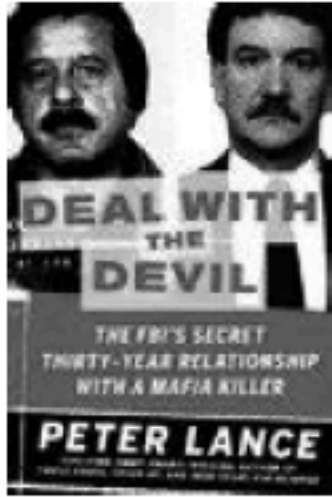


needs a confederate to succeed in framing the ex-con. He contacts the gal, they hit it off, and she eagerly becomes his confederate, doing a bunch of illegal stuff, all of which is necessary for the plot to work. I'm not saying this couldn't happen, but it's kind of unlikely, don't you think?

Grisham has written some wonderful books, as well as a few clunkers. This one doesn't make a lot of sense, and is mostly two stories with an unbelievable level of detail devoted to minutiae completely unnecessary to the story. Do yourself a favor: take a pass on this one.



Review by Darryl Genis

***Deal With The Devil:
The FBI's Secret 30 Year Relationship
with a Mafia Killer***

By Peter Lance. William Morrow (HarperCollins)
Pub Date: July 2nd, 2013
ISBN-10: 0061455342 ISBN-13: 978-0061455346

Darryl Genis graduated Southwestern University School of Law in 1980 and went straight into his solo criminal defense that same year. His practice is based in Santa Barbara California, and his is the only exclusive DUI practice in that county.

As noted in a 2006 review of *Triple Cross*, his most recent HarperCollins book on counterterrorism, "Peter Lance is the last of a dying breed: an investigative reporter who is disciplined enough to devote half a decade in pursuit of the truth. A newsman cut from the same cloth as the legendary journalist I.F. 'Izzy Stone.' A gumshoe reporter who still pounds the pave-

ment and relies heavily on public documents to present the facts."

Having been exposed to Peter's investigation of corruption in the Santa Barbara Police Department I can second that sentiment wholeheartedly. Only in 'Deal with the Devil' he'd been raking the muck on the FBI for nearly 12 years post 9/11 and this, his latest epic is a page-turning indictment of the FBI's shameful organized crime track record dating back to the early 1960's. With meticulous research based on more than 20,000 pages of trial transcripts, interviews and heretofore secret FBI memos, Lance documents the Bureau's decades-long corrupt relationship with one of the most vicious Mafiosi in history: Gregory Scarpa Sr. aka "The Killing Machine," "The Mad Hatter" and "The Grim Reaper", one of America's most prolific serial killers ever.

"Deal with the Devil" is a 210,000 word investigative history that reads at times like a John Grisham thriller and at other times like a legal brief. This book is a 'must-read' for any criminal defense attorney: It reveals the willingness of senior FBI officials and Federal prosecutors to ignore Brady Material and also to utilize second and third hand hearsay testimony from bottom-feeding Mafia soldiers send defendants away for multiple life terms, even after these informants had served in Scarpa's Sr.'s murderous crew at the same time he was acting with the clear advise and consent of Bureau officials in New York and D.C.

Among some of Lance's extraordinary revelations:

Two years before Joseph Valachi (credited as the first Mafia turncoat) testified before a Senate committee in 1963, Scarpa gave Hoover the entire Mafia playbook—including the hierarchy of La Cosa Nostra, the secret induction rites, and the leadership of all five families. During his years as an informant, the FBI facilitated insurance rewards and paid Scarpa fees that equaled more than \$1,000,000 (in 2013 dollars). From 1980 to 1992 Scarpa Sr. committed or ordered twen-

ty-six murders while he was serving as a "T.E." (Top Echelon informant) for his last "control" agent, including the violent rubout of his own brother Sal in 1987 and the drive-by slaying of his nephew Gus Farace, which triggered a 500-agent manhunt.

Scarpa, who ran multi-million dollar drug, gambling, and auto theft operations, also stole millions in bullion, jewelry, stocks and bonds. While three separate Justice Department Organized Crime Strike Forces (in Chicago, Newark, and Brooklyn) were trying to convict him, FBI officials intervened to keep him on the street. Using FBI intelligence, Scarpa personally instigated and waged the third war for control of the Colombo family from 1991-1992—a conflict that left fourteen dead and dozens injured, including several innocent bystanders. In fact, Scarpa was personally responsible for up to six of the homicides.

Perhaps most surprising from an historical standpoint: More than twenty years after J. Edgar Hoover pledged to end the FBI's illegal Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), a covert operation aimed at disrupting domestic targets, the Bureau continued to operate a de facto COINTELPRO against the Mafia using Scarpa Sr., who acted as an agent provocateur to destabilize La Cosa Nostra from within.

This is the James "Whitey" Bulger story on steroids.

Lance, who has a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and previously worked as a Trial Preparation Assistant in the Office of the Manhattan D.A., paints a shocking picture of the best and brightest federal agents in the New York Office embracing their deal with "The Grim Reaper" and the Assistant U.S. Attorneys in The Eastern District (Brooklyn) who were so bent on getting convictions that they side-stepped the constitution and due process in order to protect this 'dirty little secret'. If you start turning the pages of "Deal," which can be sampled at Lance's website www.peterlance.com I promise that you will not be able to put it down.