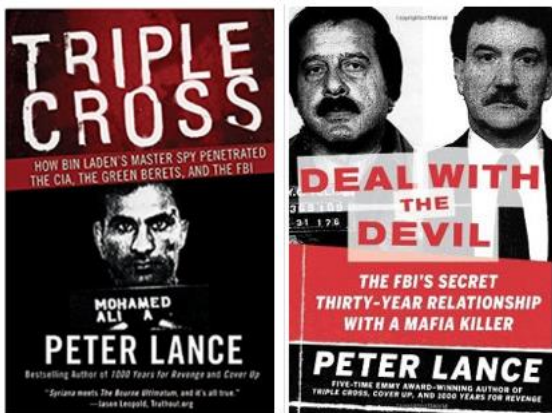


Media Release for DEAL WITH THE DEVIL: THE SERIES August 10th, 2024

Former ABC News correspondent [Peter Lance](#), a five-time Emmy winning writer-show-runner, (*Crime Story*, *Wiseguy*, *JAG*) has created a ten-hour limited dramatic series based on his decade-long reporting in four books for [HarperCollins](#) on the FBI's war against terrorism and the Mafia.

Lance has adapted his most recent best-sellers, *Triple Cross* (2009) and *Deal With The Devil* (2013) into A PILOT script, nine hours of TELEPLAYS and a 100 page GRAPHIC BIBLE that rip the covers off one of the greatest untold mob stories of all-time: **How, for more than 30 years, the FBI used a vicious Mafia killer as a secret "mole" to bring down Cosa Nostra.**

The focus of the series is **Greg Scarpa Sr.** a Colombo family capo known as "The Killing Machine" "The Grim Reaper" and "Hannibal Lecter." With a "get-out-of-jail-free" card from the FBI, Scarpa stopped counting after 50 murders, making him the most prolific killer in the history of org. crime.



While amassing a fortune in a three decade career of drug dealing, racketeering, extortion, bank robberies, hijacking, high-end security and credit card fraud, Scarpa only served 30 days in jail due to his status as a Top Echelon Criminal Informant for the Bureau. In fact, his debriefing memos went directly to every FBI director from **J. Edgar Hoover to Louis Freeh.**

In the **1962 FBI AIRTEL** at right, sent to Hoover months before Mafia turncoat **Joseph Valachi** "sang" to the McClellan Committee, Scarpa gave the Bureau the entire Cosa Nostra hierarchy – even details of the clandestine *induction ceremony* – secrets the public didn't get to know until **Mario Puzo's** iconic novel *The Godfather* was published 7 years later.

Informant stated that each family throughout the world is made up generally in the same way and carries the same titles and positions. He stated that the order which is followed from top to bottom is as follows:

- 1- The Boss or Representanda (PH), who is the head of the family and is automatically as the head of the family a member of the overall governing body of the organization which is known as "The Commission".
- 2- The Underboss who is the person who will act for the Boss in his absence and who is the number 2 man in power in the family.
- 3- The Consuleri or Counselor who acts as a neutral counsel for anyone in the family who needs his advice or services in settling disputes and is available to represent members of the families who have been accused of violations of rules. He pointed out that the Counselor is normally the person who mediates disputes between families and is supposed to remain neutral at all times.
- 4- Caporegima or Captain is a person who has a group of members of the organization under him who follow his directions and orders. The Captain relays orders from the Boss to the individual

For the next 30 years, under the protection of his two FBI "control" agents, Scarpa was kept on the street by The Bureau while other federal agencies like The DEA, Secret Service and Organized Crime Strike Forces in Chicago, Newark & Brooklyn were trying to lock him up.

["This is the Whitey Bulger story on steroids,"](#) says Lance, a veteran of ABC News *20/20*, *Nightline* and *World News Tonight*, who testified before The 9/11 Commission. "While the FBI kept Scarpa free to wreak havoc, they also paid him the 2013 equivalent of a million dollars. But that wasn't the worst part of their 'deal with the devil.'"

“During this period, the Bureau’s obsession with ‘Getting Gotti’ caused them to take their eye off the metastasizing al Qaeda cell in New York City that was responsible for both attacks on the World Trade Center: the 1993 bombing and the “planes as missiles” plot executed on 9/11.

“In fact, contrary to the 9/11 Commission’s findings about ‘stove-piping’ between agencies, my investigation proved that The Bureau’s own New York Office had *dozens* of opportunities to connect the dots; including [a chance to interdict the plot](#) in July of 2001 months before The Towers went down. But they failed time and time again.”

[The 32 page illustrated TIMELINE](#) in Lance’s third book *Triple Cross* tracks the organized crime and terrorism stories, beginning with the murder of **Anwar Sadat** in 1981. The Scarpa scandal begins to intersect the narrative on page 12 in 1994. But soon, the FBI’s obsession with breaking the Five New York Families in the Mafia Commission case would blind them to a much greater threat to the U.S. homeland, which Lance took a decade to expose.



Ramzi Yousef

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

Ali Mohamed

One of the most important revelations in this series is that the ‘93 WTC bombing, executed by **Ramzi Yousef**, was directly connected to the 9/11 “planes operation” Yousef designed in The Philippines in 1994.

Ultimately, the plot was carried out by his uncle Khalid Shaikh Mohamed on Sept 11th 2001. Meanwhile, as Lance proves in “Triple

Cross,” al Qaeda’s master spy **Ali Mohamed** trained the members of Yousef’s ‘93 cell and those terrorists had been under surveillance by the FBI’s as early as 1989, 12 years before the Twin Towers went down. But the U.S. public was unaware of any connection between the two attacks.

At its heart, *Deal With The Devil* is a “journo-procedural” in the tradition of *Spotlight* and *All The Presidents Men*. The epic story of one reporter’s ten year journey to uncover the truth behind the greatest mass murder in U.S. history.

Nicholas Pileggi, veteran journalist and author of *Goodfellas* and *Casino*, called Lance’s first book on counter-terrorism: *1000 Years for Revenge* “a brilliant investigative read. Using once-secret documents from the FBI and Philippine National Police, Peter Lance connects the dots and proves not only that the Twin Towers plot was in motion as early as 1994, but that our Justice Department knew enough to stop it – and didn’t.”



Deal With The Devil – the series -- takes that story to epic new levels as Lance exposes the real truth behind Hoover’s decades long war with what the Bureau called “the Mafia enemy.” In one episode Lance upends the conventional history behind the notorious 1964 MISSBURN case famously portrayed in the film “Mississippi Burning.”

After civil rights workers, Goodman, Schwerner & Chaney were murdered by the KKK and 100's of FBI agents were unable to find their bodies, Hoover sent Greg Scarpa Sr. to Mississippi and "The Killing Machine" learned the location after torturing a Klan sympathizer.

The series also details Scarpa's notorious personal life as he roamed the streets of Brooklyn like a Mafia feudal lord. He was married to 3 women at the same time: **Connie Forrest**, the mother of his 4 children, including **Greg Jr.** who joined his father's crew at the age of 16, **Linda Diana Shiro**, a gorgeous 17-year-old who became Scarpa's gummar (mistress) when he was 35 (later his common-law wife) and **Lili Dajani**, a former Miss Israel, Scarpa wed in Las Vegas and kept in a multi-million dollar apartment on Manhattan's exclusive Sutton Place.



Greg Scarpa Sr. and Linda Shiro

This is [The Introduction to the book](#), excerpted on salon.com.

Nicholas Gage, former dean of organized crime reporters for *The New York Times* called [Deal With The Devil](#) "A blistering account of a cunning and brutal Mafia capo who carried out numerous rackets, killed countless rivals and triggered some of New York's most violent gang wars, all while serving as a confidential informant for the FBI. Packed with revelations, it offers the most penetrating look into the inner works of the Mafia since 'The Valachi Papers.'"



Shalabi after the murder



The Blind Sheikh

Also central to the series is the solution of the infamous 1991 murder of **Mustafa Shalabi**, the imam of the al Farooq mosque in Brooklyn. Shalabi had run afoul of blind Sheikh **Omar Abdel Rahman**, the spiritual head of al Qaeda's New York Cell and Rahman ordered three other cell members

to kill the holy man as he was about to flee back to Egypt. The murder, one of the bloodiest in New York history, remained unsolved for 18 years until Lance teamed with an ex-FBI Egyptian undercover operative and a veteran Brooklyn South Homicide detective to clear the case.

In one of the beautiful ironies of this story, Shalabi's son **Mustafa** grew up in New York and became a Special Agent in the FBI's New York office where he works today to combat terrorism; giving the series the kind of upbeat ending rare in fact-based non-fiction drama. Further, the series is incredibly timely. On August 2nd, 2024 SECDEF Lloyd Austin [revoked a plea deal](#) that would have [spared KSM the death penalty](#), after a pushback from the 9/11 victims' families.

Relying on more than 1,150 pages of once secret FBI files, the story plays out like an espionage thriller, revealing how officials at the top levels of the FBI and DOJ made a fatal decision in the 1990's to concentrate their fight on wiseguys vs. the violent al Qaeda cell in their midst. As laid out in the Graphic Bible and 10 hours of scripts, it's a ticking-clock drama that celebrates the power of investigative reporting at a time when it's more important than ever.

Lance will Exec Produce with Richard Arlook. For more information contact:

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