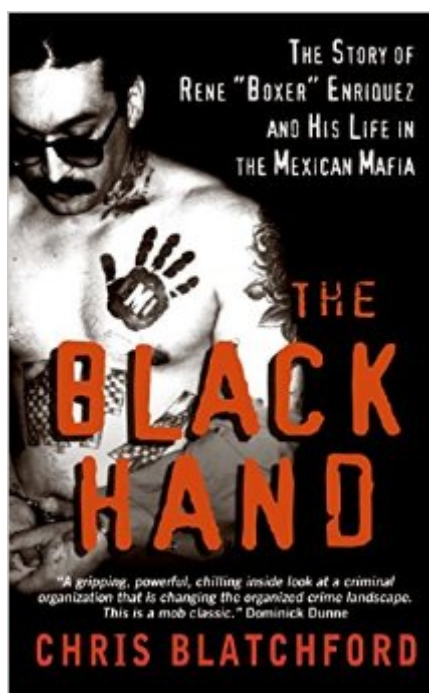


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The Black Hand: The Story Of Rene "Boxer" Enriquez And His Life In The Mexican Mafia



Synopsis

An intense and shocking inside look at the inner workings of La Eme, the Mexican Mafia (La Familia Mexicana), *The Black Hand* is the story of loyal soldier Rene "Boxer" Enriquez, his life of crime, and his ultimate redemption. Award-winning investigative journalist and author Chris Blatchford tells the never-before-told true story of the most powerful gang in America "and one of the most brutal and ruthless criminal organizations in the world" who control the California underworld and wave the flag of The Black Hand.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My first acquaintance with Rene Enriquez came in the early 1990's, during a week-long, Chris Blatchford exclusive on the Mexican Mafia. In that early 90's report, Blatchford revealed 'Boxer' as a cold-hearted Eme leader who (during his double-murder, double-attempted murder trial) turned calmly toward the camera lens of a courtroom news crew and broke into 'shoulder -shaking laughter'. Since then, I have been anxious to know more about this man. Like Blatchford himself, I too was floored when I learned (a few years ago) that Rene Enriquez had chosen to 'debrief' and to turn aside from his Gang. After all, not only had 'Boxer' previously demonstrated the Can't-stop-won't-stop mentality of a loyal Eme soldier (by laughing in the face of a possible death penalty situation) but had also risen through the ranks of Eme leadership to the highest echelons of Mafia power. Blatchford's long-anticipated book on Rene Enriquez does not, by any means, disappoint! To the contrary, it is perhaps the best first-hand account of the Eme's power, influence,

ruthlessness and depraved potential in print today. (While "Mundo" Mendoza's seminal work provides an in-depth understanding and historical background of the first 25 years of the Eme's existence, Blatchford/ Enriquez bring readers up to speed on 'M' into the 21st century) Blatchford covers Rene Enriquez from his childhood in Cerritos (then surrounded by dairy farms) to his initiation (following his older brother's footsteps) into 'Arta/ Artesia X3', to his teenage years gang-banging against the likes of Hawaiian Gardens, Tokers Town & Norwalk, getting high, doing robberies and growing increasingly rebellious against his parents and against authorities.

I liked the book. It took awhile to get into the story line because in the beginning of the book too many names were used without developing the person, like who he was and why he was being mentioned. I felt like I had read multitudes of names without knowing who they were and what significance they had. I was looking to learn how the Mexican mafia developed. I don't think you find out until later in the book when the taxes are explained. Taxes are owed to the top EME mafioso. The book also skips around in time so you have to come back to a time period after being taken forward in time. By about three quarters of the way through the book you are fully understanding how this system works and how easy it is for an EME member to fall out of favor. That is illustrated well as Rene was always worried he could be next to have the green light on him, to be taken out. He had to be alert to his situation at all times and always had a knife concealed within his body ready for use if needed. This shows you how the Mexican mafia member lived in a heightened fight or flight mode. Although with all the heroin use you wonder how alert one could be. Lots of info on the drug use and how drugs and other contraband got into the prisons. Especially interesting was how the system, our government laws, were used to the benefit of the prisoners. How they called down certain prisoners for their benefit to kill or use for testifying. How they used law papers and the passage of them as they were not allowed to be searched by guards, like sneaking in many different kinds of drugs, by using their own personal messenger. It was amazing to see how inept our prison system was or is. How it functions and How the inmates ruled the joint. You wouldn't think so but they did.

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