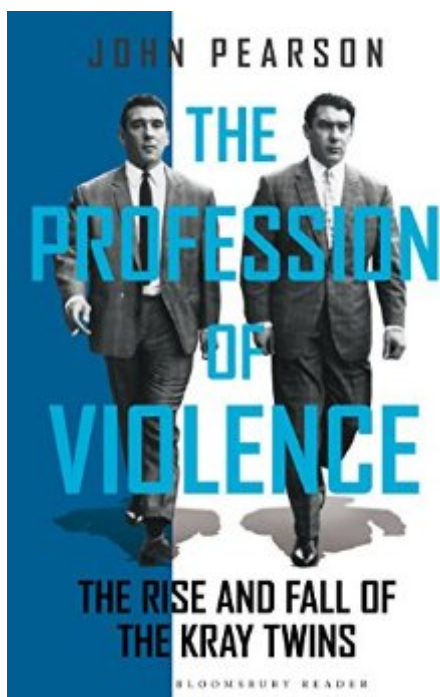


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The Profession Of Violence: The Rise And Fall Of The Kray Twins



Synopsis

The classic, bestselling account of the infamous Kray twins, now a major film, LEGEND, starring Tom Hardy. Reggie and Ronald Kray ruled London's gangland during the 1960s with a ruthlessness and viciousness that shocks even now. Building an empire of organised crime such as nobody has done before or since, the brothers swindled, intimidated, terrorised, extorted and brutally murdered. John Pearson explores the strange relationship that bound the twins together, and charts their gruesome career to their downfall and imprisonment for life in 1969. Now expanded to include further extraordinary revelations, including the unusual alliance between the Kray twins and Lord Boothby ? the Tory peer who won £40,000 in a libel settlement when he denied allegation of his association with the Krays ? The Profession of Violence is a truly classic work.

Book Information

File Size: 1107 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Reader; 1 edition (March 25, 2013)

Publication Date: March 25, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CDQ5G08

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #45,308 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #22 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Organized Crime #57 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Organized Crime #75 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Criminals

Customer Reviews

Brilliant but devastating history of Kray twins. Separated Ron would have been London's answer to Capone for his ruthless ambition to be the best gangster. Reg would have turned out to be a very savvy businessman. Sadly, together, they simply destroyed each other and anyone attached to them. That includes Pearson, the author, whose life was demolished for merely stating the facts

about their involvement with celebrities, politicians and law. Actor Tom Hardy, who plays both twins in "Legends" based on the book should get a nomination for a seamless performance.

What a messed up pair of twins, they really didn't have a chance at being much more than what they became because of their mind set. I think Reggie could have been a good man if he had been left alone to do so. Ronnie's illness prevented him from being good. The only thing that bothered me about this purchase was that it started out costing \$6.95 and when I first bought it I paid \$7.00. I was then notified it was no longer in stock and when I went back the next day it was in stock but the cost was now \$30.00. When I got it it was a much used library book from Kansas. The only reason the price went up was because Tom Hardy is making a movie about the twins in London as I write based on this very book. Greed is a very sad thing.

Rereading this book many years later I can't help but feel that Reggie Kray might have been quite a successful business man without the need to resort to crime in order to achieve what he felt was important in life, wealth and power. However he was the second half of a demented twin, and Ronnie's life was always going to end in sadness and violence. Reggie choose to support his brother and together they built an empire of crime which was doomed to disaster as the antics of the Krays became more violent and bizarre. Added to this mix we have the highly intelligent Inspector "Nipper" Read determined to see the bad guys brought to justice and peace restored to the streets of London.

The Kray twins were kings of the crime underworld in 1960's London. This bio explores their poor East End childhoods, as with their violent prone personalities it seems they were destined to be gangsters. As young men they were boxers and frequently AWOL army recruits, and their moody rages made them feared by all. One brother, Ron, was a schizophrenic pedophile, the other Reggie drove his beautiful young first wife to suicide. Several B&W photos. Well researched bio & the inspiration for a movie starring Tom Hardy in a dual role.

I love it. A fascinating read detailing their early lives and how they helped shape the reputation they later carefully cultivated. After seeing the movie "Legend", I was curious about these polarizing men that wanted to play gangsters like what they saw in movies. Some people hate them, I can see why, but their lives were interesting. I can see that even back in the 60's knowing how to work your public persona could help you get away with horrendous crimes.

Well written account of the Kray brothers' story. The movie, "Legend" is great. Tom Hardy is wonderful. Hard Cockney accents make it tough to follow but if you can concentrate and zero in on the "speak", its worth it. Give it a try, I loved it.

The package deal of watching the movie and reading the book in either order work well together. Of course the book has more detail from start to finish of the Krays' affairs and a worth while read of 'the underground' outside of the States.

Hard to get into. The author takes tangent after tangent, slowing the story to a crawl. I'm not sure if the story is uninteresting or its just lost in the poor writing. Don't bother with this one.

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