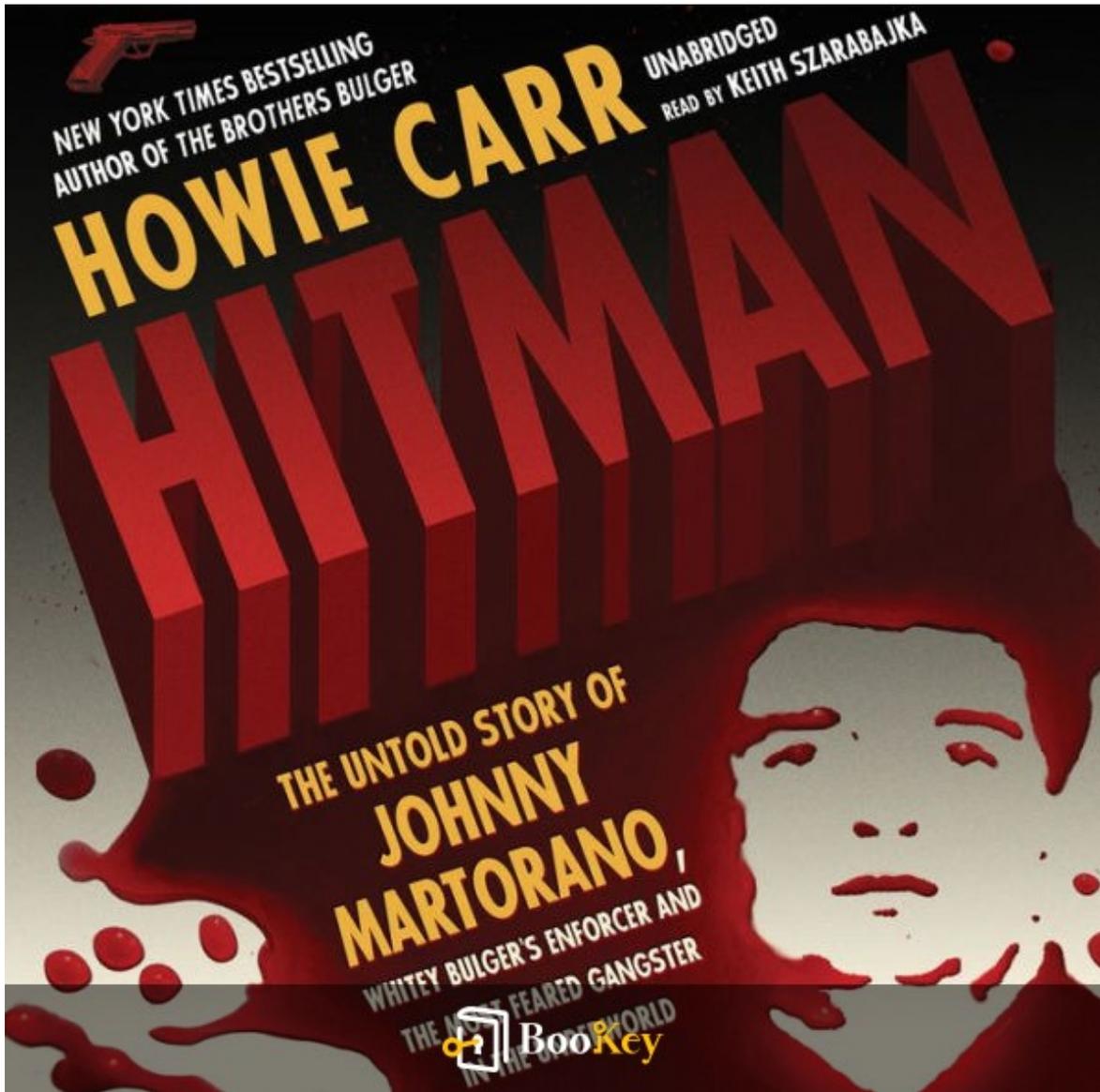


Hitman PDF

Howie Carr, Keith Szarabajka



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About the book

Book Overview: "Johnny Martorano: The Most Feared Man in the Underworld"

From the acclaimed author of the New York Times bestseller **The Brothers Bulger,** dive deep into the riveting life of Johnny Martorano, dubbed by the FBI as “the most feared man in the underworld.”

While Martin Scorsese's film **The Departed** offered a glimpse into his life, this book presents a comprehensive exploration by renowned radio talk show host and Boston Herald columnist, Howie Carr.

For twenty long years, Martorano instilled terror in those tangled in his criminal web. His alliance with notorious mobster Whitey Bulger and the notorious Winter Hill Gang culminated in a chilling tally of twenty murders—yet, astonishingly, Johnny served only twelve years behind bars. Carr also scrutinizes the political figures and FBI agents who turned a blind eye to the duo’s reign of terror, all set against the backdrop of Boston, a city they commanded with an iron fist.

At the core of this narrative is Johnny Martorano, a figure Carr deems the most fascinating he has ever encountered. A walking paradox, he oscillated between being a devoted family man by day and a charismatic socialite by night, mingling with high-profile politicians, sports legends, and

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entertainment stars. Martorano's vibrant personality made him as charming as he was terrifying, proving that behind every hitman lies a complex individual.

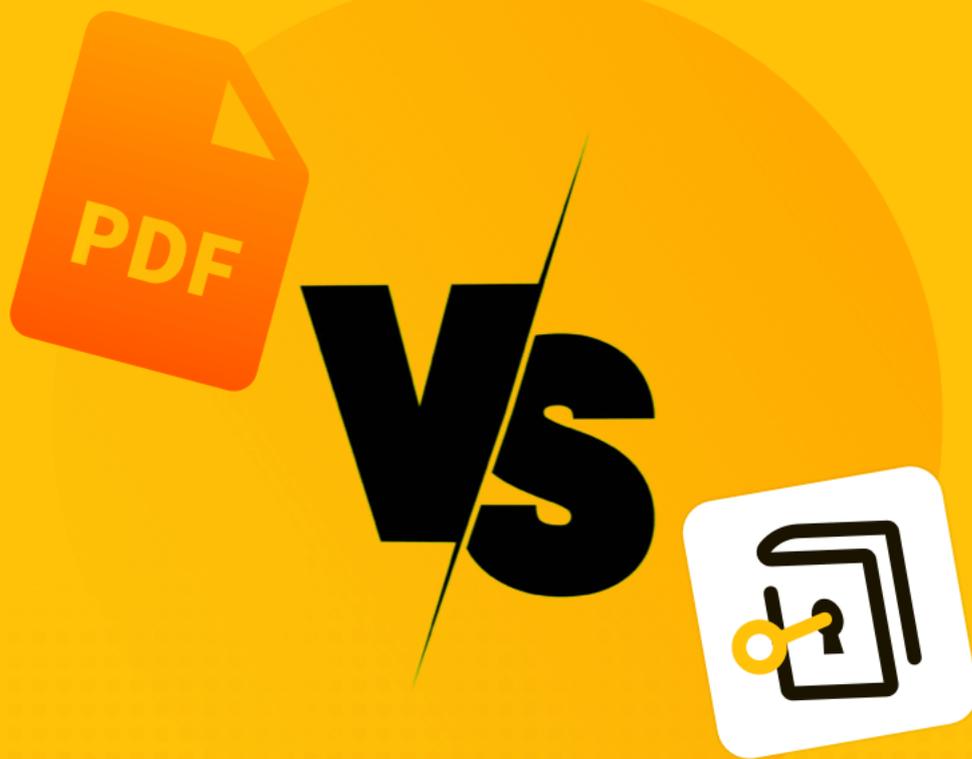
Prepare to uncover the layers of a man who led a life riddled with crime yet was compellingly multifaceted.

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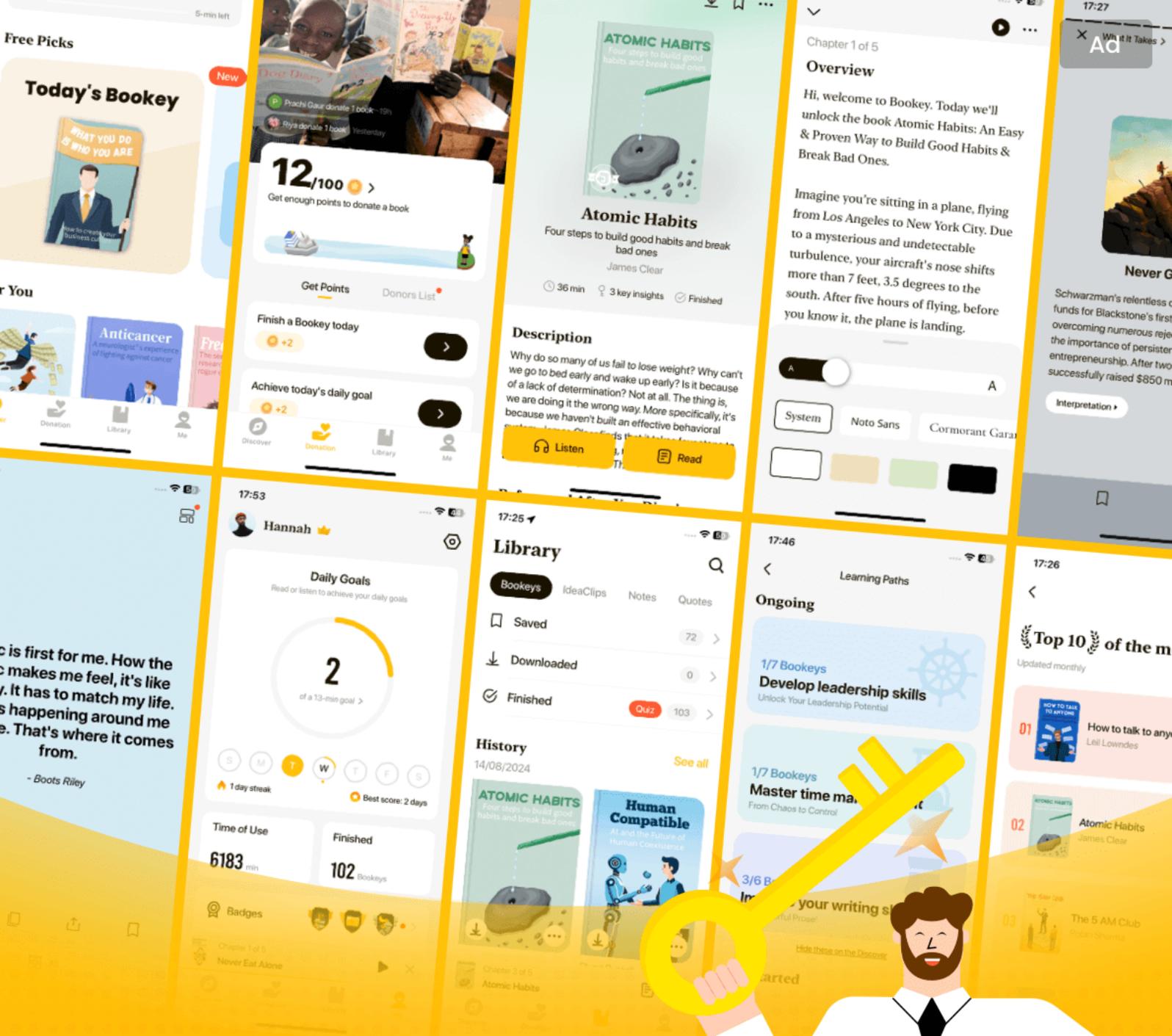


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Hitman Summary

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Who should read this book **Hitman**

"Hitman" by Howie Carr, narrated by Keith Szarabajka, is a gripping read for true crime enthusiasts, especially those interested in the darker aspects of organized crime in Boston during the 1970s and 80s. It appeals to readers who appreciate well-researched, fact-based narratives that delve into the life of notorious figures and their criminal enterprises. Fans of investigative journalism will find Carr's style engaging as he weaves together personal stories, historical context, and journalistic insight. Moreover, those fascinated by the complexities of morality, justice, and the psychological profiles of criminals will find this book compelling and thought-provoking.

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Key insights of Hitman in table format

Title	Hitman: A Documentary History of the Mafia's Most Notorious Contract Killer
Authors	Howie Carr, Keith Szarabajka
Genre	Non-fiction, True Crime
Published	2008
Main Subject	Life and crimes of hitman John
Key Themes	Violence, Crime, Loyalty, Betrayal, Mafia Culture
Summary	The book explores the life of a notorious mob hitman, detailing his experiences, the criminal environments he operated in, and the impact of his actions on the Mafia and society at large.
Notable Characters	John Gotti, Gambino crime family members, law enforcement officers
Style	Narrative non-fiction, investigative journalism
Audience	Fans of true crime; those interested in the Mafia and organized crime stories
Critical Reception	Mixed reviews; praised for its depth and engaging storytelling, but noted for sensationalism.

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Hitman Summary Chapter List

1. Understanding the Complex Character of Hitman: A Deep Dive into the Protagonist
2. The Intricate Underworld: Exploring the Setting of Organized Crime
3. Moral Ambiguities: Examining Themes of Justice and Revenge
4. Hitman's Relationships: Friendships and Betrayals in Crime
5. The Turning Point: Key Events That Changed the Narrative
6. Conclusion: Reflections on the Impact and Legacy of 'Hitman'

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1. Understanding the Complex Character of Hitman: A Deep Dive into the Protagonist

In "Hitman," the protagonist emerges as a figure steeped in a world that oscillates between brutality and a twisted sense of honor. At first glance, he embodies the archetype of a cold-blooded assassin, a man defined by his lethal profession and the violent undercurrents that shape his life. However, as Howie Carr and Keith Szarabajka delve deeper into his psyche, the complexities of his character become evident, challenging the conventional image of the hitman as simply a villain.

The protagonist is portrayed not just as a product of his environment but as a man grappling with his own morality. Throughout the narrative, the reader is privy to his inner conflicts—his actions driven by a convoluted rationale that oscillates between survival instincts and a reluctant acceptance of his role in the underworld. His cold exterior belies a turbulent emotional landscape; moments of vulnerability punctuate his life story, revealing a character who is painfully aware of the consequences of violence yet feels compelled to continue down this dark path.

Further complexity arises from his relationships with others in the criminal milieu. While the hitman operates in a world defined by betrayal, where alliances are ephemeral, he forms connections that reflect his struggle for acceptance and understanding. These relationships are fraught with tension,



as loyalty can quickly transform into treachery. The protagonist's interactions often reveal a desire for camaraderie, even within a context that prizes ruthlessness. His friendships are not merely functional; they serve as a lens through which his character is further elucidated, showcasing his paradoxical yearning for connection amidst chaos.

The depths of his character are further explored through his motivations for killing. Unlike many within the genre who kill for pleasure or greed, this hitman often rationalizes his tasks as necessary evils—or even as acts of justice. This moral ambiguity invites readers to ponder broader questions about right and wrong, forcing them to confront uncomfortable truths about vengeance, redemption, and the human condition. The protagonist is not a one-dimensional villain; he embodies the complexities of human motivations and the gray areas of morality.

As the narrative unfolds, the protagonist's transformative journey becomes evident. His experiences shape his worldview and challenge his belief systems, pushing him to confront the implications of his choices. Each assignment forces him to navigate a delicate balance between the professional and the personal, revealing depths that make him relatable despite his heinous actions.

In essence, the hitman is a tragic antihero, a character resonating with the



struggles of those caught in a web of their making. His internal battles and the life-altering decisions he faces draw readers into a poignant exploration of identity, morality, and the human spirit.

Through thoughtful narrative progression and character development, Carr and Szarabajka present a hitman whose story transcends mere crime; it is a compelling examination of a man forged in the crucible of violence, yet desperately seeking his place in an unforgiving world.

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2. The Intricate Underworld: Exploring the Setting of Organized Crime

The world of organized crime is a labyrinthine realm, filled with intricate relationships, unspoken codes, and a web of illicit activities that stretch far beyond the realm of simple criminal behavior. In "Hitman" by Howie Carr and Keith Szarabajka, the authors paint a vivid picture of this underworld, immersing the reader in the gritty and often perilous environment where the protagonist operates.

At its core, the setting of organized crime is characterized by secrecy and hierarchy. Criminal organizations often resemble businesses, complete with a structured chain of command and clearly defined roles. This environment creates a complex dynamic where loyalty and betrayal frequently intersect. The protagonists and antagonists inhabit a world governed by unwritten rules; violence is not just an occasional occurrence but a business necessity, and moral codes are both respected and frequently violated. The depiction of this underworld in "Hitman" is not merely about the crime itself, but about the culture surrounding it—the rituals, the respect, and the fear that govern everyday interactions among criminals.

Geographically, the setting often shifts between urban hotspots where crime flourishes—dark alleyways, seedy bars, and derelict warehouses create an atmosphere of danger and intrigue. These locations are more than mere

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backdrops; they serve as characters themselves, each telling a story of their own about the lives that intersect within them. For example, the gritty streets of Boston come alive through Carr's descriptions, illustrating how the city serves both as a battleground and a sanctuary for those involved in organized crime.

The socio-economic factors that contribute to the proliferation of organized crime are also explored deeply in the narrative. The lure of power, wealth, and respect draws individuals into the underworld, often as a means of escaping poverty or disenfranchisement. This setting serves as a reflection of broader societal issues, where economic instability and lack of opportunity can make the treacherous path of crime appear enticing. The authors do an admirable job of interweaving these themes, creating a rich tapestry that showcases the socio-political climate in which organized crime flourishes.

Furthermore, the psychological landscape of the characters cannot be overlooked. The pressure to conform to the expectations of their criminal peers leads many into moral quandaries, and the setting accentuates these conflicts. Characters wrestle with their ambitions and desires while navigating an environment rife with temptation and peril. This duality is a significant aspect of the organized crime setting, as it influences character behavior and fosters a culture of distrust and anxiety.

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Ultimately, the setting of organized crime in "Hitman" serves as the foundation for the story's exploration of deeper moral themes. It is a space where the lines between right and wrong blur, and survival often trumps ethics. The portrayal of this underworld is both fascinating and disturbing, providing readers with a stark glimpse into a world that thrives on darkness. Through this intricate backdrop, Carr and Szarabajka invite readers to delve into the complexities of crime, examining not only the actions of the hitman but the very environment that shapes his existence.

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3. Moral Ambiguities: Examining Themes of Justice and Revenge

In "Hitman" by Howie Carr and Keith Szarabajka, the themes of justice and revenge are central to understanding the morally complex world that the protagonist inhabits. The narrative explores the gray areas between right and wrong, revealing how personal motivations often intertwine with broader societal issues.

The protagonist, a hitman, operates in a realm where the law is often subjective, and traditional notions of justice are skewed. For him, killing is not just a job but a response to deeper grievances and a means of achieving a distorted sense of justice. Each contract he takes on is imbued with personal significance, turning the act of murder into an instrument of revenge against those he perceives as having wronged him or others. This raises critical questions about the morality of his actions: Is he merely a cold-blooded killer, or is he enforcing his form of justice in a world where legal justice has failed?

The authors delve deep into the idea that revenge is a powerful motivator that drives individuals to take extreme actions. In the world of organized crime depicted in the novel, revenge is often justified as rightful retribution. This cycle of vengeance creates a hazardous environment where the line between justice and revenge becomes increasingly blurred. Characters are



shown grappling with the consequences of their actions; they wrestle with the question of whether they are enacting justice or simply perpetuating an endless cycle of violence.

The text illustrates how the protagonist's past traumas feed into his present actions, complicating the reader's perception of him. Is he a victim of his circumstances, deserving of sympathy, or is he an embodiment of moral depravity? This complexity is further enriched by the portrayal of his adversaries, who also navigate their agendas for revenge, leading to a multifaceted conflict where no one is without blame.

Moreover, the narrative challenges the reader to reconsider conventional moral frameworks. The hitman's perspective is often captivating—he is driven by a sense of duty to avenge wrongs committed against those he cares about, viewing his violent retributions as noble acts. This moral ambiguity invites readers to question the validity of vengeance as a form of justice within a flawed system, prompting reflection on the ethics surrounding crime and punishment in both the underworld and society at large.

In summary, "Hitman" intricately examines how themes of justice and revenge are not only pivotal to the protagonist's experiences but also resonate universally, inviting readers to engage with profound ethical dilemmas that linger long after the last page is turned.

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4. Hitman's Relationships: Friendships and Betrayals in Crime

In the gritty world of organized crime depicted in "Hitman," relationships are complex, fraught with tension, loyalty, and betrayal. The protagonist navigates an environment where friendships are often transactional, built on mutual benefit rather than genuine emotional connections. This backdrop of criminality shapes his interpersonal dynamics, highlighting how trust is both a weapon and a vulnerability in the high-stakes game of survival.

The protagonist's closest allies often emerge from shared experiences and the harsh realities of the criminal underworld. These friendships are marked by a code of silence and unspoken rules that govern their interactions. However, the very nature of their lifestyle means that these bonds are perpetually under scrutiny. In a world where betrayal can come at any moment, the fragility of trust is a recurring theme. As operatives in organized crime, the hitman's friends can quickly become his enemies, driven by greed, jealousy, or fear.

A particularly notable relationship is with his mentor. This figure embodies both the wisdom of experience and the contrasting shadows of moral ambiguity. Initially, the mentor provides support and guidance, shaping the hitman's early career. However, as the story unfolds, underlying tensions arise, revealing that loyalty in the criminal world is often conditional. The



mentor's eventual betrayal serves as a stark reminder of how deeply ingrained the survival instinct is among those involved in crime.

Moreover, the protagonist faces the harsh reality that friendships forged in blood and danger can swiftly dissolve under the weight of ambition. As he rises in rank, the people around him become increasingly interested in their own gain. Colleagues who once shared camaraderie may become rivals, driven by a desire for power or the fear of being usurped. The theme of betrayal is not just a plot device; it serves to illustrate the moral complexity within the nexus of friendships formed through crime.

The protagonist's relationships are not solely about alliances. They also reflect his internal struggles with isolation and the desire for human connection. Moments of vulnerability expose the hitman's longing for understanding and support, yet each time he reaches out, the potential for betrayal looms large. This internal conflict creates a poignant juxtaposition, highlighting how the very world that provides him with companionship is also the one that perpetuates his loneliness.

In conclusion, "Hitman" intricately portrays friendships and betrayals within the criminal realm, offering insights into how such relationships shape the characters and drive the narrative. The protagonist's journey illustrates that in the underworld, alliances are often ephemeral, and trust is as much a curse



as it is a blessing. Each relationship, whether founded on loyalty or deceit, serves as a reflection of the ongoing battle between connection and survival in a life steeped in danger.

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5. The Turning Point: Key Events That Changed the Narrative

The narrative of "Hitman" changes drastically during several crucial moments that serve as turning points in the story. One such pivotal event occurs when the protagonist is confronted with an unexpected betrayal by someone he deemed a trusted ally. This betrayal forces him to reevaluate not just his relationships, but also his place within the intricate web of organized crime. The emotional weight of this moment highlights the fragility of trust in a world where self-preservation often trumps loyalty.

Another significant turning point arises when the protagonist faces a dire moral dilemma that compels him to choose between his violent lifestyle and the possibility of redemption. This moment invites readers to grapple with the conflicting emotions of justice and vengeance, as the protagonist's past actions come back to haunt him and push him toward a critical choice. It's a stark reminder that the line between hero and villain is often blurred, making the reader question the intricacies of justice in a world rife with moral ambiguity.

Furthermore, an unexpected encounter with law enforcement acts as a catalyst for change. The tension escalates as police pressure mounts, forcing the protagonist to adapt to survive. This added external pressure alters the trajectory of his decisions, leading him to either become more entrenched in



his violent ways or to seek an escape from the life he has created. The stakes are raised as the mounting danger reveals the stark contrast between his desires and the realities of his actions.

Finally, the culmination of these events leads to a climactic showdown that not only tests the protagonist's resolve but also serves as a reflection of his entire journey. In this high-stakes confrontation, the character's complex evolution is laid bare; the culmination of his choices leads to either a tragic downfall or a chance at liberation. This moment encapsulates the themes of justice, revenge, and the human capacity for change, fundamentally reshaping the narrative trajectory of "Hitman."

Through these key events, readers witness a transformation that speaks to the heart of the story's moral ambiguities. Each turning point brings with it a layer of complexity that enriches the narrative, urging the audience to ponder the consequences of a life steeped in crime and the potential for redemption against the backdrop of an unforgiving world.

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6. Conclusion: Reflections on the Impact and Legacy of 'Hitman'

The narrative crafted in "Hitman" by Howie Carr and brought to life by Keith Szarabajka resonates profoundly within the tapestry of crime literature, evoking reflections on its broader impact and lasting legacy. The tale is not merely one of violence and betrayal; it serves as an intricate exploration of the human condition amidst the corrupting influence of organized crime. Through the lens of the protagonist—a character rich in complexity—we witness a poignant study of moral dilemmas and the psychological ramifications of choices made in pursuit of survival.

The stark depiction of the intricate underworld enriches the reader's comprehension of organized crime's mechanisms, illustrating how ambition and desperation intertwine to create a deadly dance of power. This world is not simply a backdrop; it shapes the characters and drives the plot, making it a critical element in understanding the weight of decisions that lead to irreversible consequences.

Moreover, the themes of justice and revenge permeate the narrative, urging readers to confront their own perceptions of morality. The moral ambiguities presented challenge conventional notions of right and wrong, prompting reflections on the lengths to which individuals go to justify their actions in the name of justice, revenge, or survival. This exploration of ethical



complexities ensures that "Hitman" transcends the typical crime genre, positioning it as a significant commentary on the human psyche.

The relationships portrayed within the story reveal the fragile nature of trust—a commodity in the criminal world that can be swiftly broken. Friendships forged are often tainted by betrayal, underscoring the isolation that criminals endure despite their connections. These dynamics add depth to the character arcs and offer insights into the personal costs of life in the shadows.

Key events throughout "Hitman" serve as turning points that not only alter the course of the protagonist's life but also provide crucial commentary on destiny and choice. The ripple effects of these moments underscore the message that every action, however insignificant it may seem, can have profound implications.

In conclusion, "Hitman" leaves an indelible mark on its audience, melding entertainment with introspective inquiry. Its legacy lies in its ability to provoke thoughtful discourse on the nature of crime, the human experience, and the ethical quagmires we navigate in pursuit of our desires. As readers turn the final pages, they are left not only with a gripping story but also with a deeper understanding of the complexities of human morality, making "Hitman" a timeless piece that will endure in the landscape of literature.

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5 Key Quotes of Hitman

1. The mind of a hitman is a complex labyrinth, intertwining morality with the chaos of survival.
2. One cannot simply be born a hitman; it is a title earned through a series of choices that reveal our true nature.
3. In the world of assassination, trust is a commodity that's bought and sold like the finest of contraband.
4. Every target has a story, and understanding that story can either make or break the hitman's resolve.
5. The line between right and wrong blurs in the shadow of a hitman's profession, leaving only echoes of justifications and regrets.





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