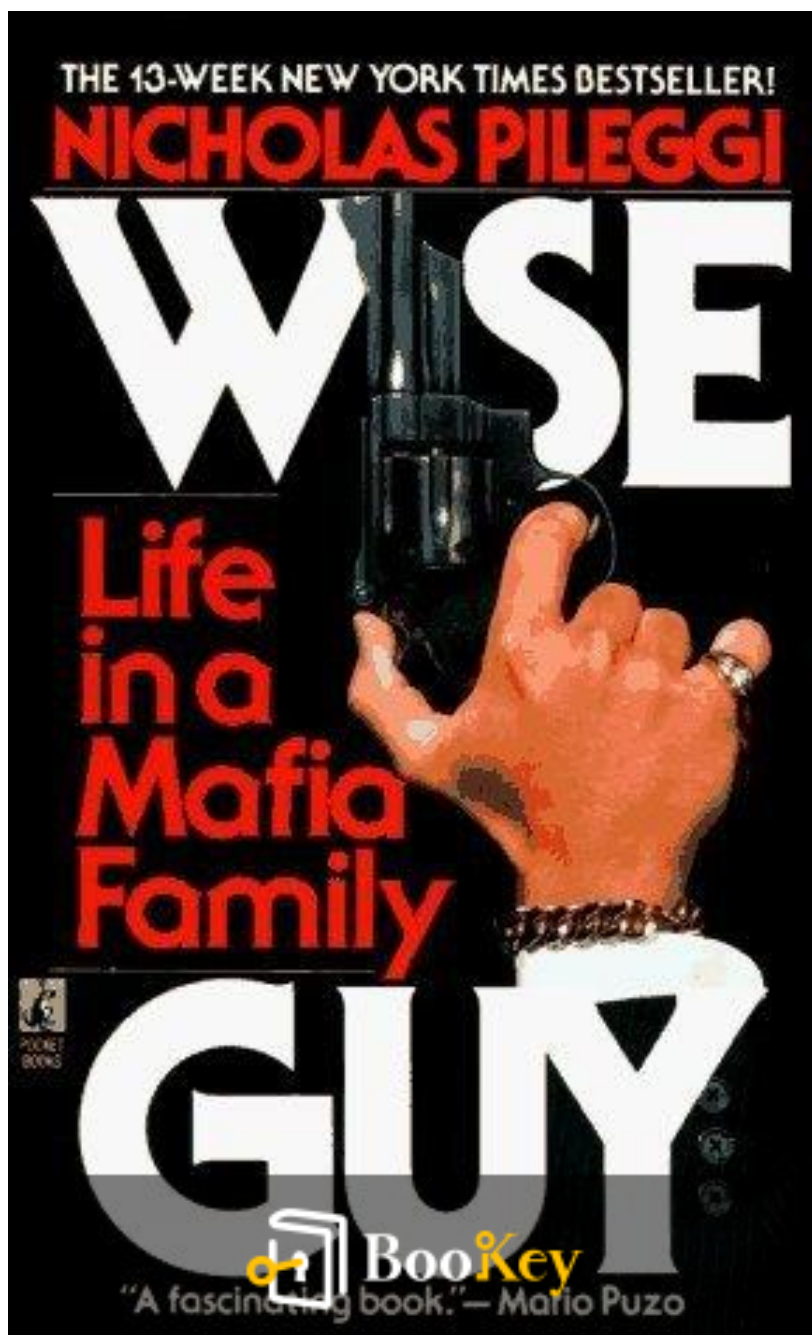


Wiseguy PDF (Limited Copy)

Nicholas Pileggi



More Free Book



Scan to Download



[Listen It](#)

Wiseguy Summary

Wiseguy Audiobook

Life in the Mafia: Loyalty, Betrayal, and Survival.

Written by Books1

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

About the book

"Wiseguy" by Nicholas Pileggi dives deep into the dark and thrilling world of organized crime through the eyes of Henry Hill, a former mobster who takes us on a riveting journey from his childhood fascination with the Mafia to his life as a key member of a notorious crime family. With captivating storytelling that blurs the line between loyalty and betrayal, Pileggi reveals the seductive allure of power, money, and the dangerous glamour that accompanies a life of crime. This gripping, true account not only chronicles Hill's rise and inevitable fall but also offers an unflinching look at the moral dilemmas faced by those embroiled in a world governed by fear and respect, compelling readers to explore the price of the American Dream when it intersects with the criminal underbelly.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

About the author

Nicholas Pileggi is an acclaimed American author and screenwriter, best known for his incisive exploration of organized crime and the intricacies of the criminal underworld. Born on February 22, 1933, in New York City, Pileggi began his career as a journalist, honing his skills in storytelling and investigative reporting, which would later inform his writing style. His most notable work, "Wiseguy," published in 1985, presents a vivid portrayal of mob life through the eyes of former mobster Henry Hill, blending real-life accounts with compelling narrative techniques. Pileggi's keen insights into the psychology of crime and his ability to create gripping, character-driven stories have earned him a prominent place in contemporary American literature, further solidified by his collaboration with director Martin Scorsese on the critically acclaimed film adaptation, "Goodfellas."

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Ad



Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock 1000+ Titles, 80+ Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

Summary Content List

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

Chapter 5:

Chapter 6:

Chapter 7:

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

Chapter 10:

Chapter 11:

Chapter 12:

Chapter 13:

Chapter 14:

Chapter 15:

Chapter 16:

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 17:

Chapter 18:

Chapter 19:

Chapter 20:

Chapter 21:

Chapter 23:

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 1 Summary:

In 1955, eleven-year-old Henry Hill stumbled upon a cabstand at 391 Pine Street in Brownsville-East New York, Brooklyn, while seeking a part-time after-school job. The cabstand, owned by the Vario family, was a bustling hub for local mobsters, gamblers, and shady figures. Intrigued by the wealthy clientele, who flaunted their expensive suits, jewelry, and an air of authority, Henry found himself mesmerized by their charisma and the lifestyle they embodied.

Henry's parents initially supported his new job. His father, a hardworking electrician, believed in instilling the value of money through work, while his mother, Carmela, welcomed the distraction it provided from their crowded household, particularly for her son, who often argued with his siblings. Additionally, she felt a connection to the Vario family, as they shared Sicilian roots, which further pleased her.

However, as Henry's involvement with the cabstand deepened, his parents grew concerned. The job quickly morphed from a casual after-school gig into an obsession. He spent all his time at the cabstand, neglecting homework and friendships. While his father expressed his anger and suspicion, fearing Henry would fall into trouble among the criminals, Henry denied any wrongdoing. He often faced his father's wrath but dismissed it, aware that he was entangled in a world that was both thrilling and lucrative.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

The cabstand was more than just a dispatch service; it was an unofficial headquarters for Paul Vario, a rising figure in New York's organized crime scene. Vario, a man of substantial size and presence, had an extensive criminal history that included loan sharking and bookmaking but prided himself on running a relatively orderly operation, disliking unnecessary violence that could disrupt business.

At the heart of the cabstand's operations was young Henry, who quickly became Vario's gofer, running errands, fetching cigarettes, and delivering messages. Gaining acceptance from the mobsters, Henry found himself privy to their meetings and schemes, igniting his dreams of becoming a "wiseguy," a role he admired deeply for its power and prestige. He was drawn into a world where he felt important, gaining advantages like preferential treatment at local shops and status among peers.

Tuddy Vario, Paul's brother who managed the cabstand, recognized Henry's quick wit and eagerness. He soon tasked Henry with minor driving responsibilities, allowing the young boy to showcase his skills. In a short time, Henry became adept at maneuvering cabs and limousines around the lot, earning the admiration of his schoolmates, and increasing his confidence.

As Henry progressed in his work, he began making a considerable amount of

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

money. His initial excitement about sharing experiences with friends faded as he grew more immersed in the wiseguy lifestyle. He started buying flashy clothing to emulate the mobsters he idolized, drawing the disapproval and concern of his parents, particularly when his mother remarked on how he looked like a gangster.

By age thirteen, Henry's integration into the mob culture was almost complete. He became a figure who straddled the line between a mischievous kid and an aspiring gangster, navigating the complexities of crime with a sense of purpose and belonging. In his eyes, embracing this identity was far more appealing than following his father's traditional path of struggle. Henry Hill was learning the ropes of a world that promised power, excitement, and financial reward, embracing the lifestyle that he believed would define his future.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 2 Summary:

In these chapters, we follow the protagonist, Henry Hill, as he navigates his adolescence immersed in a world of crime and corruption alongside his neighborhood's mobsters. By the age of thirteen, Henry is deeply involved in illicit activities, starting with selling fireworks and beer to kids in his schoolyard. He becomes a mini-fence for local juvenile burglars, buying stolen goods and selling them for a profit.

Henry partners with Johnny Mazzolla, a horse-betting junkie, who introduces him to a more daring scheme involving cashing counterfeit twenty-dollar bills. They frequent various stores, with Henry cleverly using tactics he learned, such as pretending to be in a hurry and limiting himself to carrying only one counterfeit bill at a time. This scheme proves profitable, although it also exposes Henry to the risk of arrest.

Around Christmas, Tuddy, a key figure in Henry's life, teaches him how to manipulate used Christmas trees to sell them at inflated prices for quick cash. Their operations are just one part of the hustle; Henry even finds work unloading deliveries at a high-end Italian food store, where he tosses stolen goods into Tuddy's nearby taxis. These activities give Henry a taste of the thrill of crime, an intoxicating feeling that comes with transgressing societal norms, often referred to as "the taste of getting over."

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

As he grows older, Henry gets further entrenched in organized crime activities, including illegal dice games run by the Vario family—who are crucial to Henry’s journey—and he learns the intricacies of gambling operations, from assembling game tables to collecting debts. Here, we are introduced to various characters, including Paulie, a capo in the Lucchese crime family, and Jimmy Burke, a hijacking legend known for his brazen methods and larger-than-life personality, who captivates everyone with his generosity and desire for thrills in crime.

Henry's transition into a full-fledged participant in the criminal underworld accelerates on his fourteenth birthday when he receives a bricklayer's union card as a gift. This card allows him to collect payments from construction sites for loans and illegal policy bets, further entrenching him in crime and largely sidelining his education. He continues to juggle deception, forcing him to maintain a façade around his parents that he is still attending school.

However, the criminal lifestyle soon involves risks. Henry faces repercussions when he receives a beating from his father after being caught with a truancy letter—an event that further detaches him from the idea of normal teenage life. To avoid future issues, Tuddy's crew resorts to intimidating the mailman into diverting any communication from the school.

As the narrative unfolds, we witness a shocking incident when a man runs into the pizzeria where Henry works, screaming that he’s been shot. The

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

chaos serves as a stark reminder of the violent repercussions often tied to the criminal lifestyle Henry is emulating.

In the midst of this turmoil, an out-of-state competitor opens a rival taxi service. Tuddy's response to this perceived threat is ruthless; he takes Henry along to vandalize the rival cabs, culminating in a fire that highlights the lengths they are willing to go to protect their territory.

Henry's first arrest occurs at sixteen when he and Paul's son, Lenny, use a stolen credit card to buy tires. After being apprehended, Henry's bravado quickly changes when faced with the police, yet he receives support from his mob connections, who ensure a swift release. The legal consequences are minimal, leading to a celebratory atmosphere among the crew for Henry's initiation into the criminal world.

Amidst these experiences, we see Henry grapple with concern for his father's worsening behavior and consequences of being deeply enmeshed in crime. As he contemplates enlisting in the military to escape, Paulie offers to intervene to ensure he doesn't have to go through with it, reflecting the strong bonds and loyalties within the mob family.

This segment of Henry's life captures the allure and danger of mob life, highlighting his early criminal education, the constant thrill of petty crimes, and the complexity of his relationships with mentors and peers in the

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

underbelly of organized crime. As he dives deeper into this lifestyle, the line between right and wrong increasingly blurs, setting the stage for the tumultuous journey ahead.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Thrill of Deception

Critical Interpretation: Henry's experiences with illegitimate activities reveal a captivating allure that deception can have. This chapter showcases how, for him, the thrill of maneuvering through lies and manipulation offers a sense of power and excitement, albeit with significant risks. In life, this teaches us that while taking shortcuts may provide immediate gratification, the challenges that come with maintaining a persona built on deception can lead to a cascade of consequences. This can inspire us to seek authenticity instead, embracing the value of honesty and hard work, ultimately leading to a more fulfilling and sustainable success without the burden of guilt or fear.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 3 Summary:

Summary of The Early Life of Henry Hill and the Underworld of Brownsville-East New York

Henry Hill was born on June 11, 1943, in Brownsville-East New York, a working-class neighborhood that transitioned in the early 20th century into a settlement for Italian-American immigrants and Eastern European Jews seeking refuge from the crowded lower Manhattan tenements. At this time, the area was marked by modest housing, light industry, and a complex social fabric melding hardworking newcomers with criminals from all walks of life, including Jewish gangsters, extortionists, and early mafia figures.

The neighborhood created an ideal environment for organized crime, especially during Prohibition, as it lay along critical smuggling routes. Historical reports described Brownsville as a "nurturing ground for radical movements and rebels," making it fertile territory for the burgeoning mob scene. Key figures like Al Capone and Johnny Torrio had roots there, and it became known as a hotbed for violence and organized crime where figures such as Bugsy Siegel, Louis Buchalter, and Frank Costello gained notoriety.

A particularly influential gang within this milieu was led by Paul Vario, whose crew engaged in quintessential mob activities—from strong-arming

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

local businesses to overseeing gambling and loansharking operations. Young toughs in the area, such as Henry and his peers—Jimmy Burke, Tommy DeSimone, and others—were deeply entrenched in this world, committing acts of violence in exchange for status and respect. They were viewed as outlaws, with many leading small businesses as fronts for their illegal activities. Despite their criminal undertakings, the community upheld a protective atmosphere around these "wiseguys." Residents were aware of the gangsters' doings and often helped maintain vigilance against outsiders, fostering an unsanctioned moral code that distinguished between neighborhood loyalty and external threats.

This bond between the mobsters and the community underscored a complex interplay of fear and admiration, where crime became a normative part of daily life. Residents seldom reported crimes to the police, and any unfamiliar faces quickly drew scrutiny. Henry's own experiences reflected this environment; witnesses could count on rapid and brutal retribution against those who dared to disrupt the peace of the community, such as when Henry observed the mob swiftly deal with an attempted aggressor against an acquaintance.

As Henry approached his seventeenth birthday, he decided to join the army, seeking escape from the escalating police presence targeting organized crime. The aftermath of the infamous Apalachin meeting and heightened scrutiny of the mafia shifted the atmosphere, making military service seem

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

appealing. Stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Henry found the army invigorating compared to his previous life, relishing the training and discovering opportunities for illicit profit, such as selling excess food and engaging in loan-sharking among fellow soldiers.

Despite the distance from his past life, Henry maintained connections to his mob ties, receiving support from Paulie and others as they sent him money while he adapted to military life. Eventually, he returned home to a hero's welcome, once again immersing himself in the familiar thrill of the streets while being gifted a rearview mirror to help him remain aware of his surroundings, a hint of mob wisdom applicable both in and out of the criminal world. Henry navigated this dangerous landscape with the knowledge of the stakes involved, fully aware of what was expected of him in his upbringing as he strived for power, recognition, and survival.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 4:

In 1963, Henry Hill returned to his neighborhood after a tumultuous time in the military, where frequent trips to New York and a chaotic lifestyle contributed to his downfall. His troubles escalated with a bar fight that led to his arrest and subsequent confinement in a military stockade, stripping him of his rank and benefits. Upon his discharge, he found himself entangled with Paulie Vario's family, particularly Paulie's son, Lenny, who was a raw but ambitious sixteen-year-old. Even with his father serving jail time, Lenny took to Henry, and they became inseparable partners.

Paulie, even while incarcerated, managed to secure jobs for both Henry and Lenny as union bricklayers, leveraging his influence within the neighborhood. However, instead of working, they would skip out on jobs and spend their earnings on frivolous pursuits. Eventually, this caused friction with their boss, prompting Paulie to transition them into roles at the swanky Azores restaurant, where the connections to organized crime ran deep. The restaurant, undercover owned by mob boss Tommy Lucchese, offered Henry and Lenny a front-row seat to the world of wealth and crime, solidifying their ties to the mafia.

Working closely with Lucchese and other powerful figures, Henry and Lenny enjoyed a lavish lifestyle, indulging in free meals and the nightlife reserved for the elite. However, their carefree summer came to a head when

More Free Book



Scan to Download



[Listen It](#)

they clashed with the head chef, leading to a dramatic confrontation and their abrupt departure from the restaurant. Paulie's disappointment in their immature actions only deepened Henry's entrenchment in a life of crime as they pursued illicit schemes.

Faced with boredom after leaving the restaurant, Henry turned to various scams and illegal ventures, including credit card fraud, with an insider providing him with essential information to bypass security checks. He also used fake identification from a local bakery, becoming skilled at leveraging stolen cards for quick cash. Rocking the hustle, Henry made substantial money selling cheap cigarettes, a venture introduced to him by Jimmy Burke, which led him to establish a thriving side business.

As their schemes grew, Henry connected with shady associates like Eddy Rigaud to profit from stolen cars he would then export. His partnership with Paulie led to a whirlwind of criminal activities, from loan sharking and vandalism to managing gambling operations, all while navigating the underbelly of New York's organized crime scene.

Henry's narrative captures the allure and chaos of a life steeped in crime, marked by loyalty to Paulie and disloyalty to the law. With each passing moment, the stakes grew higher, the risks more pronounced, and the lines of morality blurred as he delved deeper into the world of the mob, drawing on a complex web of relationships and schemes that ensured survival but

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

threatened total chaos. His narrative serves as both a testament to the seductive power of the criminal lifestyle and the inevitable reckoning that awaited those who dared to live by the sword.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



Chapter 5 Summary:

In 1965, twenty-two-year-old Henry Hill lived a fast-paced, carefree life immersed in the world of hustling and small-time crime. He relished the thrill of living in the moment without the burden of financial responsibility. Henry and his friends often squandering their gains within days, he embraced the excitement of lavish spending at bars and clubs, tipping generously without a thought for saving. With no dependents or legitimate financial ties, he operated entirely outside the law, often staying at his parents' house but typically crashing at various crime associates' homes or motels.

Henry's life took a turn when Paulie, a friend, enlisted him as a chaperone for a double date with a girl named Diane. Henry was initially reluctant, preoccupied with his dealings, but agreed to assist. There, he met Karen, Diane's friend, who found him obnoxious and self-centered during their initial outing. This tension sparked a chain of events where misunderstandings blossomed into a reluctant budding romance, culminating in a second date that significantly shifted both their perceptions. That time, Henry's charm shone through, impressing Karen as they enjoyed a whirlwind of nightlife in Long Island's vibrant clubs.

As their relationship grew, Henry found himself drawn to Karen's lively spirit and her world that exposed him to a different social class. Their

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

evenings included glamorous outings to upscale venues where everyone seemed to know Henry, sparking a sense of excitement for Karen. However, the cultural differences between their families created tension; Henry, who was of Italian descent, faced scrutiny from Karen's Jewish family, particularly her fiercely traditional grandmother.

When an incident arose where Karen was harassed by a local boy named Steve, her call for help drew out Henry's protective, violent side. Fueled by rage, he confronted Steve, resulting in a dramatic confrontation that left Steve humiliated and frightened. This incident solidified their bond, with Karen seeing Henry as her protector.

Despite the familial disapproval and mounting tensions, Henry decided to elope with Karen to escape the constraints imposed by their backgrounds. They traveled to Maryland only to find out about marriage restrictions there, prompting them to head to North Carolina instead, where they quickly tied the knot with an unexpected witness. Upon returning home, their families were initially stunned but soon begrudgingly accepted their union, allowing Henry to live with Karen's family.

In the early days of married life, Henry thrived in the warmth of Karen's home, endearing himself to her family. They grew comfortable cohabiting, with Henry even engaging in religious classes to convert to Judaism, further integrating into Karen's world. By the summer, they celebrated a traditional

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Jewish wedding, marking a new chapter in their lives. As their relationship deepened, the thrills of Henry's past life lingered in the background, always a potential flashpoint as they navigated the tensions between their different worlds.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The value of escape and reinvention in the face of societal expectations

Critical Interpretation: Imagine yourself caught in the whirlwind of societal norms and family expectations, suffocating under the weight of what you 'should' be. Yet, just like Henry's courage to elope with Karen and jump into a life that was entirely his own, you too can find inspiration in the idea of breaking free. It's a reminder that reinventing yourself is not just possible, but sometimes necessary, to find true happiness. So often, we hesitate, shackled by fear of disapproval, but Henry's leap into the unknown challenges you to consider: what if embracing your own path could lead you to a richer, more fulfilling life? In those moments of hesitation, remember Henry, and allow his journey to compel you to act boldly, carve out your destiny, and pursue what truly speaks to your spirit.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 6 Summary:

In this chapter, Karen Hill reflects on her relationship with her husband, Henry Hill, gradually realizing the complexity and danger of the world he inhabits. Initially, Karen sees Henry as a tough yet seemingly ordinary man who works as a bricklayer and a low-level union official. However, her awareness of his life as a "wise guy" grows over time. Set in the early 1960s, before organized crime became widely scrutinized, Karen is largely unaware of the darker aspects of Henry's life and the individuals he associates with. She's drawn into his world partly out of defiance against her mother's disapproval, which only strengthens her resolve to remain with him.

Her awakening begins subtly, as she observes the lives of Henry's friends' wives during a hostess party. These women openly discuss their husbands' incarcerations and the hardships they endure, casting a stark contrast to Karen's sheltered upbringing. Though shocked by their conversations about jail and family strife, she finds herself increasingly accepting of her new reality, even turning a blind eye to Henry's illegal activities.

As Karen becomes more entangled in Henry's life, she notices the discrepancies between their backgrounds. While her mother had prepared her for a conventional marriage, Henry's social circle is marked by hustling and small-time criminal activities to make ends meet. The social gatherings revolve around camaraderie and hidden troubles rather than conventional

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

norms, and she learns to adapt to the complexities of her situation.

Unbeknownst to Karen, as Henry engages more deeply in the criminal underworld—smuggling cigarettes as a side hustle—she gradually becomes part of this environment, sharing a life where arrests and court appearances become normalized. Despite some anxiety about Henry's choices, she remains in denial, wishing to preserve her ideal of their life together and resisting her mother's critiques.

The chapter culminates in an account of Henry's arrest during a botched cigarette smuggling operation. Karen's initial panic reflects her naivety and the cultural distance between her upbringing and the life she has chosen. Although the situation doesn't escalate to severe legal trouble and Henry only faces a minor fine, it signals the beginning of the unraveling of her ignorance about the true nature of her husband's life.

Through a series of social and personal experiences, including the challenges posed by her mother's criticism and her evolving insights into the realities of her marriage, Karen grapples with feelings of shame and alienation while trying to find her place in a world where loyalty and danger intertwine. As she navigates this tumultuous path, the dichotomy between her past and her present life only deepens, leading to further complications in her relationship with Henry.

Aspect	Details
Character	Karen Hill
Relationship	Henry Hill, a tough bricklayer and low-level union official
Time Period	Early 1960s
Initial Perception	Sees Henry as ordinary; unaware of his criminal life
Influence of Family	Defies mother's disapproval, reinforcing her commitment to Henry
Awakening	Starts at a hostess party with discussions on jail and hardships
Contrast to Upbringing	Her mother prepared her for a conventional marriage
Henry's Activities	Involved in small-time crime and cigarette smuggling
Normalization of Crime	Arrests and court appearances become part of their life
Chapter Climax	Henry's arrest during a botched smuggling operation
Karen's Reaction	Panic shows her naivety; contrast with her upbringing
Outcomes	Henry faces minor fine; signals Karen's growing awareness
Themes	Shame, alienation, loyalty, and danger in marriage

More Free Book



undefined



Listen It

Chapter 7 Summary:

In the early 1950s, the Idlewild Golf Course in Queens was transformed into a massive 5,000-acre airport, which soon became a hotbed of organized crime. Local gangsters from East New York, South Ozone Park, Howard Beach, and surrounding areas quickly learned the ins and outs of the airport, including its backroads, cargo areas, and unguarded access points. This sprawling facility employed over 50,000 people, catered to more than 10,000 cars, and handled nearly \$30 billion worth of cargo annually by the 1960s.

Among the wiseguys, Jimmy Burke, a notorious hijacker, rose to prominence as the king of airport larceny. Together with his crew, including Henry Hill, Tommy DeSimone, and others, he orchestrated elaborate heists, pilfering everything from furs and diamonds to cash and even firearms. Burke's operation thrived due to inside information from workers deeply indebted to loan sharks, who would tip him off about valuable cargo shipments. For example, an Eastern Airlines truck driver, in dire need of cash, “accidentally” dropped mail pouches that contained \$2 million in valuables.

The airport also served as a playground for credit card fraud, allowing Burke’s crew to reap substantial profits from discounted airline tickets. One notable customer was Tino Barzie, who purchased over fifty thousand dollars in tickets, later leading to his arrest. Information was carefully

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

controlled within the gang; those who dared to speak out about the rampant crime were often silenced through violence, with corrupt police on Burke's payroll feeding him intel on any informants.

Burke's childhood was tumultuous; born to a neglectful mother and shuffled between foster homes, he experienced severe trauma and instability. By the time he hit adolescence, he was in and out of reformatories, developing a penchant for stealing that would define him. After a car accident caused by his foster father's discipline led to a fatality, Burke was thrust into a life filled with delinquency. His criminal career skyrocketed after he met mobsters in prison, igniting a lifelong passion for theft.

By the 1970s, Burke had established himself as the go-to figure for hijacking at JFK Airport. With extensive knowledge of the shipping schedules and a network of insiders, he directed heists that became almost routine, occasionally executing two jobs a day. The operation was lucrative, with Burke's crew able to sell stolen goods to various buyers, including retailers and fences who specialized in offloading hijacked cargo.

Henry Hill detailed his initiation into the world of hijacking when Burke invited him to join a heist for appliances at a freight garage. With only a frail watchman on duty, their operation was successful, earning them a swift payday. Such hijackings became the norm, often involving “give-ups,” where drivers collaborated with Burke's crew to orchestrate a theft while

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

misleading their employers.

Jimmy's skill at manipulating the hijacking game was something of an art form. He crafted a network of informants and accomplices, including union workers and airport employees, ensuring that he had resources at his fingertips. These relationships allowed the gang to turn every opportunity into profit, resulting in a vast criminal network thriving on stolen goods.

New York's legal system, however, provided a unique advantage for criminals like Burke. The term “hijacking” was never officially codified, making it easier for crooks to evade serious consequences when caught. The consistent leniency shown by judges meant that most arrests led to minimal sentences, if any at all.

Burke’s methods extended into the courtroom, as he cleverly navigated the system to avoid significant jail time. The familiarity with legal processes made confrontations with law enforcement feel more like routine than serious threats. Burke and his associates would leverage their connections in the legal and union systems to influence jury decisions and lawyer strategies, maintaining their grip on the criminal underworld while continuing to profit from their illicit activities.

In essence, the chapters encapsulate the rise of organized crime at Kennedy Airport under the ruthless guidance of Jimmy Burke, painting a vivid picture

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

of a world where the lines between legality and criminality are constantly blurred, and survival often hinges on violence and deception.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of building a network of trustworthy relationships

Critical Interpretation: In the ruthless world depicted in 'Wiseguy', Jimmy Burke's success hinged not just on his cunning, but on the deep network of relationships he cultivated. This illustrates a vital lesson for our lives: success often relies on the strength of our connections. By nurturing trustworthy relationships, we can create opportunities and support systems that empower us to navigate challenges effectively. Whether in business, personal growth, or overcoming obstacles, the power of a solid network cannot be underestimated; it serves as a lifeline in times of need and can help us achieve our ambitions.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 8:

The first report detailing cargo thefts at Kennedy Airport emerged in October 1967, revealing an alarming \$2.2 million stolen over the previous ten months. This staggering figure did not account for numerous hijackings or smaller thefts, nor did it include a significant \$2.5 million in nonnegotiable stock taken from Trans World Airlines. The majority of these thefts transpired within the Air Cargo Center, an expansive facility encompassing thirteen buildings and operating 24 hours a day, leased to various airlines and freight agencies. This operation was guarded by airline security personnel, private detectives, and Port Authority police, yet an astonishing forty-five major robberies occurred, including high-value items such as diamonds, drugs, and a hefty cash sum of \$480,000 stolen from a secured area.

Amid this chaos, a pivotal character emerged: Bobby "Frenchy" McMahon, a longtime foreman at Air France cargo. Known for his deep understanding of cargo operations, Frenchy facilitated various illicit deals, including selling perfumes and clothing to a cigarette salesman named Jimmy. Frenchy tipped off Jimmy about cash deliveries stored in a vulnerable cargo office, prompting a scheme for a major heist.

The plan evolved as Jimmy, along with associates Raymond Montemurro and Tommy DeSimone, attempted to execute a robbery but backed out upon

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

encountering too many onlookers at the warehouse. They realized the monetary prize might be too easy, yet they couldn't resist the temptation of the canvas bags filled with cash. After further discussion with Frenchy, they aimed to secure a key to a newly constructed strong room housing the lucrative cash.

Frenchy pointed out the security guard responsible for the key - a meticulous man, unlike the affable and disheveled Frenchy himself. The teamwork began with François charming the guard, leveraging personal relationships and even using a sultry woman to entice him. After successful encounters at a nearby motel, the plan to acquire a copy of the key began to unfold.

A crucial break came when Frenchy and a woman lured the guard down to the steam room of the motel. While they enjoyed their time in the steam room, Jimmy and Tommy executed the heist efficiently. They swiped the guard's key ring and sped off to a locksmith to make duplicates before carefully returning the original key to its hiding spot.

With the green light to proceed, the operation was timed for just before midnight when the guard would take his usual break. Armed with their newly acquired keys, Jimmy entered the dark, secured room pulsating with excitement, only to find seven white canvas bags, all stuffed with cash, waiting just for them. He loaded the heavy bags into a suitcase and left the area victorious, illustrating the audacity and planning that characterized the

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

high-stakes world of cargo heists in the late 1960s.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

...tes after each book summary
...erstanding but also make the
...and engaging. Bookey has
...ling for me.

Fantastic!!!



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

Fi



Ab
bo
to
my

José Botín

...ding habit
...o's design
...ual growth

Love it!



Bookey offers me time to go through the important parts of a book. It also gives me enough idea whether or not I should purchase the whole book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

Time saver!



Bookey is my go-to app for
...summaries are concise, ins
...curated. It's like having acc
...right at my fingertips!

Awesome app!



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

Beautiful App



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with busy schedules. The summaries are spot on, and the mind maps help reinforce what I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 9 Summary:

In the aftermath of a major theft from Air France, valued at \$480,000, Henry and his crew hastily distributed \$120,000 to mob leaders to secure their protection. This included \$60,000 to Sebastian "Buster" Aloï, a veteran capo of the Colombo crime family, and \$60,000 to their own boss, Paul Vario, both of whom had influence over Kennedy Airport. This strategic move was part of their adherence to the mob's code, ensuring protection from rival crews and maintaining their standing within organized crime.

Following this windfall, Henry, along with his partners Jimmy and Tommy, opted to indulge themselves, taking a casino trip to Las Vegas as a cover for their newfound wealth. They dropped \$20,000 to project an image of success and returned boasting of a big win, simultaneously financing new cars—a gold Buick Riviera for Henry and a beige Cadillac for Tommy.

Shortly thereafter, Paulie presented an investment opportunity in Milty Wekar's bookmaking operation. Wekar, in need of funds due to prior betting losses, offered a fifty-percent stake, which Henry, Jimmy, and Tommy readily accepted by each contributing \$50,000. With Henry now in the bookmaking business at just 24 years old, he received a salary and was intricately involved in the daily operations, managing bets and adjusting odds—a valuable education in the world of gambling.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Their operation flourished as Milty's connections offered leverage over law enforcement, with regular payouts to police and a system of evasion that kept them out of prison despite occasional arrests. Henry's role expanded as he managed multiple betting locations and handled various transactions, all while maintaining a precarious mix of legality and illegality.

Around this time, Henry seized an opportunity to run a restaurant, The Suite, on Queens Boulevard, taking over from its owner, Joey Rossano. This venture appealed to his wife, Karen, who was looking for a legitimate revenue stream to support their growing family. However, despite Paulie's insistence to keep the place clean, The Suite quickly became a hub for criminal activity, attracting familiar faces from the mob, and serving as a venue for various hustles and scams. In addition to its burgeoning reputation, the restaurant also allowed Henry access to legitimate credit avenues, further complicating his already chaotic life.

The atmosphere in his personal life grew tense due to a series of lewd phone calls directed at Karen, which led Henry down a reckless path. In a misguided attempt to confront the caller, he ended up assaulting an innocent man—provoking public outrage and leading to his arrest. The police quickly apprehended him after discovering the weapon he had discarded during the altercation.

Despite these troubles, the calls stopped when Henry identified the source of

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

the leaks related to their phone number changes, revealing flaws in their home security. This moment served as a harsh lesson in the dangers of their lifestyle—where violence and chaos mingled dangerously with the pursuit of wealth and status in organized crime.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 10 Summary:

In the chapters provided, the grim reality of life within organized crime is vividly depicted, exposing the brutal code that governs the actions of mobsters. The narrative begins with a chilling acceptance of murder as a routine aspect of life for these men. Young Frankie Burke's initiation into violence, overseen by Tommy DeSimone, underscores the harsh truth that survival within this world comes from adherence to an unyielding set of rules enforced through fear. The violent repercussions for disloyalty are made clear, illustrated by the fate of Johnny Mazzolla's son, who, despite repeated warnings, met his end for continuing to commit petty crimes.

A pivotal episode unfolds with Jimmy's cold betrayal of his best friend, Remo, who he suspects of ratting him out. Their longstanding friendship crumbles as Jimmy murders Remo with the same ease as he would a stranger—his actions driven by suspicion and self-preservation. The dark irony of Remo's last gift to Jimmy—a trip to Florida—serves to deepen the narrative's sense of betrayal.

As the story progresses, we witness the chilling nature of Tommy, who exudes volatility and control through intimidation. His violent outburst during a party for Billy Batts ultimately leads to Billy's shocking murder. Despite having Jimmy's assistance, the assassination spirals into chaos after it is revealed that Billy is not yet dead when they attempt to bury him. The

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

duo's frantic attempt to conceal their crime highlights the desperate lengths they will go to protect their criminal lifestyle.

The emotionally draining scene continues as they dig up Billy's body for a second burial after learning that his original resting place could be compromised. The stench connected to their heinous acts haunts the narrator, symbolizing the indelible mark that this violent life leaves on a person.

A deeper exploration of Tommy's instability manifests when he shoots a young associate, Spider, addled with emotional responses to perceived disrespect. This shocking display of violence further escalates the tension among the group and underscores the precariousness of their lifestyle.

Interweaving stories of vengeance, particularly Paulie's confrontation at a restaurant that leads to a violent retaliation against waitstaff, reveals the mob's penchant for impulse-driven violence, sidelining any acknowledgment of consequences. Rather than fostering a disciplined crime operation, each act of aggression chips away at their business interests, jeopardizing their operations.

The chapters culminate with an ill-fated hijacking that underscores organized crime's unpredictable nature. The mishap of dropping cartons of stolen cigarettes while fleeing highlights the chaotic execution of their plans.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

In the aftermath, a union dispute turns deadly when Jimmy sends Tommy and Stanley to address the problem, resulting in a murder that emphasizes how personal grievances can lead to devastating consequences within their operations.

Overall, these chapters poignantly illustrate the ruthless world of organized crime, guided by a perverse sense of loyalty and brutal enforcement, leading to inevitable self-destruction and moral decay. The narrative serves as a grim commentary on the lives intertwined with violence—each decision steeped in the weight of past betrayals, betrayals yet to come, and the corrosive power of their environment.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The consequences of betrayal can be deadly and irreversible.

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at the crossroads of loyalty and self-preservation, where every choice you make could define your path. The chilling reality portrayed through Jimmy's betrayal of Remo serves as a cautionary tale in our lives; it urges you to value trust and integrity in your relationships, reminding you that dishonesty and treachery can not only fracture bonds but also lead to devastating outcomes. Embracing personal values and fostering genuine connections may protect you from the chaos that betrayal brings, steering you away from the self-destructive behaviors that can arise from fear and suspicion.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 11 Summary:

In 1969, Henry Hill was leading a life of luxury at just twenty-six, living in a rented house in Island Park, just two blocks away from his associate, Paulie. Both he and his girlfriend Karen flaunted wealth with expensive cars and designer clothes. Their home was filled with lavish items, and they had a maid to manage their household. For Henry, having a steady girlfriend was a mark of success shared among his peers in the mob world—an indulgence they openly enjoyed alongside their wives and families.

Henry's life took a turn when he met Linda late in 1969 by chance at a local steak pub while preparing to serve a sentence for smuggling untaxed cigarettes. Both he and Linda, who had just returned from California, immediately hit it off. Their relationship blossomed quickly, leading to secret rendezvous and a whirlwind romance, even as Henry maintained his life with Karen.

However, challenges arose when Paulie, worried about police scrutiny, suspected that Linda and her roommate Veralynn were undercover cops. Despite Paulie's paranoia, Henry persisted in dating Linda, who seemed blissfully unaware of his criminal ties. Over time, their relationship deepened, creating a complex situation as Henry divided his time between Linda and Karen.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Linda viewed herself as an escape from Henry's turbulent marriage with Karen, who was revealed to be strong-willed and demanding. While Linda enjoyed a carefree relationship with Henry, she also faced difficulties as he juggled both women. Karen, aware of something amiss, grew suspicious and confrontational. Tensions peaked when she confronted Henry with a gun, fueled by jealousy and fear of losing him to Linda.

Karen's realization of Henry's infidelity led her to focus on keeping her family together despite her frustrations. Observing Henry's temperamental nature, she also felt drawn to his charisma and the stability he provided, unsure if she could let him go completely.

In a chaotic cycle, Henry frequently oscillated between the two women, experiencing the pressures of his mob life alongside the emotional turbulence of his relationships. The narrative captures the duality of his existence; the excitement of his criminal enterprise contrasted with the domestic struggles of maintaining two lives.

Ultimately, the chapters illuminate the complexities of loyalty, love, and betrayal within the intimate world of Henry's life, showcasing how his relationships with Linda and Karen intertwined with his identity as a wise guy. Despite the strains and emotional risks, Henry found it impossible to part with either of them, exacerbating the tensions and chaos of his life.

Aspect	Details
Year	1969
Henry Hill's Lifestyle	Luxurious living in Island Park, flaunting wealth with expensive purchases.
Relationships	Henry has a girlfriend, Karen, representing success in mob culture. Meets Linda at a steak pub.
Shift in Relationships	Henry's romance with Linda develops despite being with Karen; he maintains secrecy.
Paulie's Concerns	Paulie suspects Linda might be undercover, creating tension.
Karen's Response	She confronts Henry with a gun, feeling jealousy and fear.
Emotional Strains	Karen strives to maintain family unity, while being aware of Henry's infidelity.
Henry's Dual Life	Juggles his obligations to both women, facing challenges in his mob lifestyle.
Themes	Loyalty, love, betrayal, and the complexity of Henry's identity.

More Free Book



undefined



Listen It

Critical Thinking

Key Point: The complexity of loyalty and emotional connections

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate through your relationships, consider the intricate dance of loyalty and emotional bonds that define your life. Much like Henry, who juggled two women, you may find yourself torn between personal desires and obligations. This chapter reminds you that while pursuing what excites you, it's vital to manage your commitments with honesty and integrity. Striving for clarity in your relationships can lead to a more fulfilling life, where love and loyalty don't complicate your existence, but rather enrich it.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 12:

In this chapter, we follow Henry, a man whose life has been marked by crime, reflecting bitterly on the irony of his harshest punishment—ten years in a federal penitentiary—stemming from a seemingly trivial barroom brawl. This incident arose from a spur-of-the-moment trip to Florida with friends Jimmy Burke and Casey Rosado, the union president at Kennedy Airport. Casey sought to visit his parents and retrieve gambling winnings but found himself embroiled in a violent confrontation due to a debt owed to him by John Ciaccio, the owner of Temple Terrace Lounge.

Upon arriving in Tampa, the trio quickly visited Casey's family and then headed to the lounge to confront Ciaccio. During a heated exchange in Spanish, tensions escalated, leading Jimmy and Henry to intercede violently. Henry accidentally brandished an antique revolver provided by Casey's cousin, an act that escalated their altercation into what would be classified as a kidnapping. Despite their clumsiness, they forced Ciaccio to promise payment, believing the situation could be resolved without major consequences.

However, the fallout from their encounter was severe. Henry was caught up in a federal investigation after John Ciaccio's sister—an unsuspecting typist for the FBI—reported the incident out of fear for her family's safety, inadvertently exposing Henry and his associates to serious legal

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

ramifications. Initially indicted for kidnapping and attempted murder, the group managed to beat the state charges thanks to Casey's convincing testimony. However, the federal government soon targeted them with an extortion case.

Tragedy struck when Casey died suddenly before the trial started, leaving Henry and Jimmy anxious about their defense. During the twelve-day trial, which concluded in November 1972, the jury took only six hours to reach a guilty verdict, and the judge handed down a ten-year sentence, shocking Henry with its finality. This chapter illustrates the unpredictable nature of crime and punishment, with Henry's sense of unfairness compounded by the sudden twists of fate that led him to the penitentiary.

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey

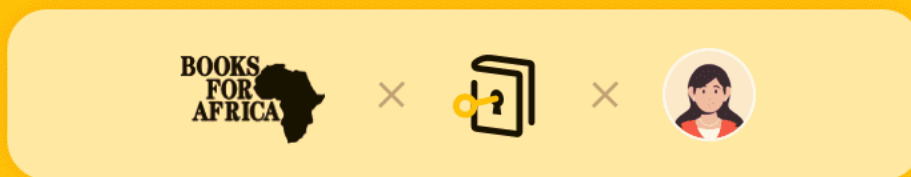




Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

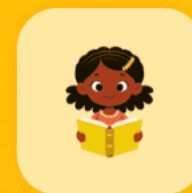
The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 13 Summary:

In the early chapters, we delve into the tumultuous life of Karen and Henry Hill as they navigate the aftermath of Henry's ten-year prison sentence. When Karen first learns of Henry's harsh sentence, it triggers an emotional spiral — she contemplates drastic measures, including suicide, extreme actions against Henry, and ultimately divorce. The uncertainty surrounding her financial future and the well-being of their children adds to her anxiety. Despite this turmoil, Karen feels an obligation to support Henry while he remains free pending his appeals, which elongate the time before he actually serves his sentence.

During the two-year grace period after his sentencing, Henry engages in increasingly reckless behavior, embodying a one-man crime wave. He indulges in illegal activities, such as operating a restaurant, borrowing from loan sharks, and trading in stolen goods. As his prison date approaches, he prepares obsessively, seeking advice from ex-cons and mob lawyers on how to survive and possibly shorten his imprisonment in Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary. This penitentiary, known for its organized crime affiliations and corrupt staff, seems the best option for Henry, who is determined to make the most of his prison experience.

On the eve of his sentencing, Henry bids farewell to Linda, a romantic partner, displaying the emotional disconnect that loneliness and guilt have

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

wrought in him. As he checks in at the penitentiary, Henry's apprehension escalates. His arrival is marked by the cold, oppressive environment of the prison, far removed from the casual jails he is used to. However, as a seasoned wiseguy, he quickly finds support from familiar faces, including known mobsters, who embrace him with warmth amid the hostility of prison life.

In prison, Henry discovers that his experience can differ significantly from that of ordinary inmates, as wiseguys are often treated with a degree of respect and isolation from the general population. He gains a coveted position in the honor dorm, where conditions are much better than the rest of the prison, allowing them relative freedom and comfort, including smuggled food and alcohol. Even in this environment, Henry channels his focus toward education and self-improvement, enrolling in a college course that enhances his skills while simultaneously maintaining his connections in the drug trade.

Karen, on the outside, remains an unwavering pillar of support, escalating her efforts to improve Henry's prison situation through passionate letter campaigns to officials, which ultimately succeed in getting him assigned to the prison farm, where he enjoys vast freedom in his daily routine. There, he cultivates an illicit operation, smuggling drugs and maintaining a lucrative side business, which provides him a means to support himself and his family while juggling the demands of prison life.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

As Henry thrives in this chaotic environment, he becomes overly entangled in the prison economy, selling drugs against the wishes of higher-ups, particularly Johnny Dio, a powerful mob figure still serving time. The tensions surrounding his dealings threaten to disrupt the precarious balance he's crafted within the prison's constructed ecosystem. Henry's ingenuity allows him to survive and even thrive, yet it continually places him at risk within both his criminal undertakings and the broader prison hierarchy, setting the stage for inevitable conflicts ahead.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 14 Summary:

In the narrative, we witness the profound challenges faced by Karen, the wife of Henry Hill, during his imprisonment over three tumultuous years. Initially committed to visiting him weekly, Karen cuts back to bi-monthly visits as the strain on their children becomes evident. The arduous six-hour journey to the prison takes a toll on their daughters, particularly Judy, who develops severe stomach cramps from the unsettling conditions of the visiting area. Meanwhile, younger Ruth often experiences boredom during these lengthy visits, which are devoid of proper facilities or entertainment tailored for children.

Struggling financially, Karen juggles her part-time job as a dental technician and learns to groom dogs to keep afloat. The support she hoped to receive from Henry's connections, especially from his friends at The Suite, never materializes. Instead, she finds herself facing an ever-diminishing household income, with payments owed to her remaining unfulfilled. Yet, Henry, despite his confinement, adapts by engaging in a lucrative under-the-table operation, smuggling contraband in exchange for bribes too significant to ignore.

As she uses her visits not just to connect with Henry but also to sneak in food and illicit items, Karen deftly navigates the challenges of prison life. She adopts various strategies, disguising items under layers of clothing to

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

avoid detection by guards. This smuggling allows Henry a more comfortable existence behind bars, providing him access to luxuries such as better food and special privileges that would normally be unavailable in prison.

In her reflections, Karen reveals the complexities of explaining Henry's situation to their children. They perceive their father and his friends as loving figures rather than crime figures, oblivious to the more sinister aspects of their lives. As the narrative unfolds, we see Henry's eventual transfer to a far less restrictive minimum-security prison, Allenwood. Here, he thrives in a more relaxed environment, benefiting from its quasi-residential aspects, where the prison's infrastructure allows a semblance of normal life: regular phone calls, unmonitored visits, and off-site activities.

Henry's cunning nature surfaces prominently when he learns of an opportunity presented by the local media coverage surrounding G. Gordon Liddy's food strike. His desperation drives him to manipulate the system for a transfer from Lewisburg to Allenwood, where he finds not only a more hospitable setting but the chance to cunningly secure privileges that allow him to visit home more often. He forges a system of religious and rehabilitation furloughs that result in significant time away from prison, allowing him to return to his family and maintain connections to the criminal world he knows.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

By the end of the narrative, Henry's calculated navigation of prison life culminates in an early parole, framed as a success story by the Bureau of Prisons. However, unbeknownst to the officials who laud his rehabilitation, Henry has orchestrated a life that continues to tether him to his former criminal activities even after his release. This juxtaposition between the facade of rehabilitation and the reality of continued criminality encapsulates the complexity of Henry Hill's character as he transitions from a prisoner to a man ready to re-enter society under pretense.

As Henry steps back into the world, he carries all the skills and connections forged within prison walls, ultimately setting the stage for the next chapter of his life, steeped in the intricacies of loyalty, crime, and survival as part of an organized empire he continues to inhabit.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 15 Summary:

Chapter Summary: Henry's Return to the Underworld

Henry Hill walked out of Allenwood prison on July 12, 1978, dressed in a five-year-old Brioni suit with only seventy-eight dollars in his pocket. He returned to his family living in a cramped two-bedroom apartment in Valley Stream, where his wife, Karen, and their children awaited him. Henry's finances had been drained by legal fees and the costs of incarceration, but he encouraged Karen to look for a house, fueled by his ambition to re-enter the criminal world rather than lead a straight life.

In anticipation of his release, Henry had concocted several money-making schemes during weekend furloughs from prison. He felt that returning to crime was his only option. Within twenty-four hours, he broke parole by flying to Pittsburgh to retrieve his share of a marijuana partnership worth fifteen thousand dollars. However, he discovered that his partner, Paul Mazzei, only had two thousand available after a recent investment in Colombian marijuana. Desperate and needing cash, Henry filled a borrowed suitcase with bricks of marijuana and took an all-night Greyhound bus back to New York to avoid airport security.

Despite his lack of experience in drug dealing, Henry eventually sold the

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

marijuana for twelve thousand dollars, which he used for a down payment on a house, fulfilling a promise to his daughter, Ruth, to buy her an expensive doll from FAO Schwarz. He quickly expanded his drug dealings, bringing various substances into his operations and recruiting a crew that included Bobby Germaine, a stickup man disguised as a freelance writer, Robin Cooperman, a secretary turned girlfriend, and Judy Wicks, a colorful courier.

Alongside drugs, Henry dabbled in fencing stolen jewelry through a jeweler connected to high-profile robberies, including one that involved the theft of over a million dollars in jewels. He also ventured into the liquor distribution business leveraging the influence of seasoned mobsters like Jimmy Burke and Paul Vario, and arranged for a no-show job to appease his parole officer.

While visiting Pittsburgh, Henry met Tony Perla, a gambler and associate of Mazzei, who proposed a plan to fix college basketball games. They zeroed in on a Boston College player, Rick Kuhn, who, motivated by financial incentives, would collaborate with team captain Jim Sweeney and potentially others to manipulate game outcomes. The allure for the players was the ability to maintain their competitive integrity while still benefiting financially.

Initially, the scheme seemed promising. However, the first game that Henry and his associates bet on did not go as planned, as the players failed to

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

adhere to the pre-agreed point spreads. Frustrated but undeterred, Henry recalibrated and pushed for a second chance with bets placed on an upcoming Harvard game, which turned profitable for the conspirators. With subsequent successful bets, their scheme escalated until a critical misstep caused a significant monetary loss.

When Boston College players didn't execute as expected during a pivotal game against Holy Cross, the operation collapsed under the weight of their ambitions. Jimmy Burke's fury over the financial losses led to threats against the players, marking the end of the point-shaving scheme. With the tension rising and losses mounting, both Wade and Henry faced grim consequences tied to their failed pursuits in the criminal underworld. This chapter encapsulates Henry's swift return to crime, driven by desperation and a commitment to reclaim his previous life, amid the chaotic tension of gambling and point shaving that would soon spiral beyond his control.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 16:

Henry was a mere two months out of prison when his friend Marty Krugman dropped a tantalizing proposition: the Lufthansa heist. As a bookmaker obsessed with the prospect of a big score, Marty detailed the opportunity offered by Lufthansa, revealing that millions of untraceable fifty- and hundred-dollar bills were stored in a secure vault at Kennedy Airport. This cache of cash comprised money exchanged by American tourists in West Germany, periodically flown back to the U.S. and left overnight in the airport's cargo vaults before being transported by armored truck to banks.

Marty's inside scoop had come from Lou Werner, a desperate Lufthansa cargo supervisor who, burdened by gambling debts, had devised an elaborate plan for the heist along with the necessary details: timing, security bypasses, and parking spots for the getaway vehicles. For criminals like Henry, Jimmy Burke, and Tommy DeSimone, cash was the ultimate prize—immediately spendable without the complications of fencing or converting the valuables.

With Jimmy and Tommy due to be released from their halfway house soon, Henry saw this as their chance to eclipse their earlier Air France score of \$480,000. However, tensions brewed as Jimmy harbored a deep distrust of Marty, stemming from their history. Jimmy believed Marty was a conman; in the past, he had demanded a weekly shake down from Marty, only for Henry to fend off the request, insisting Marty wasn't well off enough to pay.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Their animosity culminated when Jimmy's crew threatened Marty's employee, and though Marty resisted, Jimmy remained suspicious of him.

One week later, intrigued by the potential payout, Jimmy agreed to meet Marty but kept him at arm's length. During the meeting at Robert's, Jimmy encouraged Henry to obtain Werner's contact information from Marty.

Although Jimmy was initially reserved and cautious, the mention of the money eventually piqued his interest. By mid-November, Jimmy had assembled a crew to execute the heist, including Tommy DeSimone for the inside job and various other experienced criminals, all eager for their share of the potential \$5 million in cash and more than \$875,000 in jewels.

As December approached, the crew was ready, just waiting for confirmation that the cash would arrive at Lufthansa. Jimmy meticulously coordinated with Paulie, a higher-up in the mafia, ensuring that respect was maintained with the Bonanno family, who also wanted a cut of the action. Tensions rose as they counted down the days to the heist.

On the morning of December 11, 1978, the heist unfolded as planned. A Lufthansa security guard patrolling the cargo area was attacked and disarmed by two assailants brandishing weapons. The robbers swiftly moved through the facility, showing remarkable knowledge of the layout and the specific security measures in place. They captured additional employees, routing them to a breakroom and forcing them into compliance.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



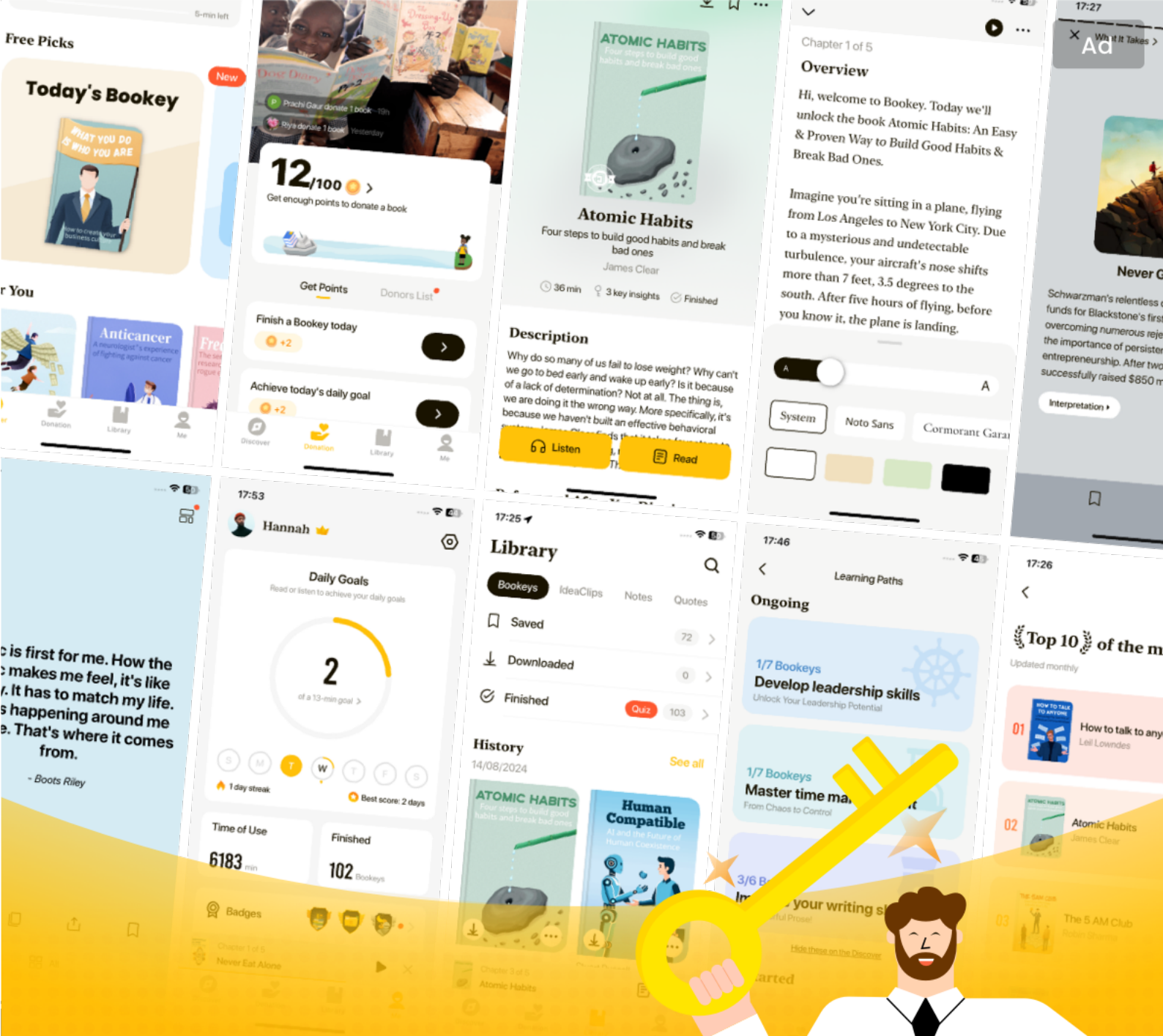
Listen It

Having taken hostages, the gunmen successfully coerced a supervisor, Rudi Eirich, to unlock the vaults. They proceeded with a meticulous operation that involved disabling a silent alarm, accessing cash, and ensuring that no unexpected interruptions would occur. Eirich, aware of the gravity of the

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





World' best ideas unlock your potential

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to download



Chapter 17 Summary:

Summary of Chapters:

The Lufthansa heist, a legendary robbery that promised immense riches for its perpetrators, quickly spirals into chaos and betrayal. Initially hailed as a monumental success, the theft of up to six million dollars in cash and jewels from Kennedy Airport becomes a Pandora's box of unforeseen consequences for the crew involved.

Henry, a member of the crew, is oblivious to the heist's details while he scrambles to manage his own illegal betting schemes. It isn't until a radio report the following Monday morning that he learns about the robbery and the mix of disbelief and exhilaration washes over him. Fellow crew members, like Jimmy, celebrate the spoils but also live with the terror and paranoia of law enforcement's looming presence.

In the immediate aftermath, Henry meets with friends at the Stage Delicatessen, where they reflect on their lives and the heist's implications. Jimmy flaunts a large cash envelope, but tension grows as he expresses concern over whether their accomplice Marty Krugman may have divulged information to his wife, Fran. Henry realizes that Jimmy's mind is racing towards a dire solution: eliminating Marty to secure the gang's secret and

More Free Book



Scan to Download



[Listen It](#)

protect their newfound wealth.

As the day unfolds, Henry struggles to balance his friendship with Marty and his loyalty to Jimmy. He calls Marty to arrange a meeting, aware that Jimmy plans to kill him. The atmosphere thickens with suspense when Henry learns about Jimmy's intent and the orchestrated cruelty behind such quick decisions in the criminal underworld.

While gathering at their favorite bar for a Christmas party, the crew becomes further embroiled in dark humor and bravado, unaware of the precariousness of their situation. Jimmy watches everyone closely, and soon after, another crew member, Stacks Edwards, is brutally murdered, illustrating the dire consequences of the chaotic aftermath of the heist.

As days turn into weeks, the tension rises with constant police surveillance and increasingly frantic finance situations. Marty, desperate for his share of the Lufthansa loot, becomes a liability, and pressure mounts as he begins to solicit improvised loans to cover debts. Despite Henry's efforts to calm him down, Marty's fate becomes inevitable.

A pivotal moment arrives when Marty becomes the target, blindsided by his trust in the crew. His disappearance sends shockwaves through the community, culminating at a bar where he was last seen. Fran, frantic for news about her missing husband, confirms everyone's worst fears — Marty

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

is unlikely to return.

Henry reflects on the ruthless world of organized crime, realizing that friendship and familial bonds are easily severed in the name of survival and greed. As he grapples with his role in the unfolding tragedy, he recognizes the grim reality: loyalty is fleeting and betrayal can come at any moment. This chilling revelation sets the stage for the continued unraveling of the heist's aftermath, as the true cost of their actions begins to surface, leading to an inevitable bloodbath.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 18 Summary:

In the pre-holiday news lull, the Lufthansa robbery captured the attention of the media, hailed as a multimillion-dollar cinematic crime without a shot fired. The sheer audacity of it, targeting a major airline with little sympathy from the populace, fueled a frenzy. This sensational coverage provoked outrage among law enforcement agencies, leading the FBI to dedicate over a hundred agents to the case within days. Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward A. McDonald, a six-foot-five former basketball player from Brooklyn familiar with the local criminal underbelly, was tasked with leading the investigation.

From the outset, McDonald suspected the robbery was orchestrated by Jimmy Burke and his crew from Robert's Lounge. Early tips from informants quickly pointed to Burke and crew members such as Tommy DeSimone and Angelo Sepe, identified through witness descriptions. However, these initial leads provided just enough information for surveillance rather than charges, prompting an all-out watch on the suspects. The FBI employed clandestine operations—bugs in vehicles, undercover agents lurking in bars—to gather incriminating evidence. Despite their efforts, Burke's gang adeptly evaded detection, often outsmarting their pursuers with clever driving maneuvers and overwhelming volume on car radios.

McDonald theorized that the robbery had to be an inside job, given the

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

meticulous knowledge the thieves had of Lufthansa's operations. They knew exactly where to find a massive stash of cash and jewels and how to bypass security measures effortlessly. Among those suspected was Lou Werner, a Lufthansa employee who had previously blocked a scheduled pickup of the money. His behavior post-robbery—boasting about newfound wealth and discussing plans for a trip—raised enough red flags to put him under FBI scrutiny.

The investigation took on a soap opera-like quality as the FBI unraveled Werner's life, revealing his web of relationships and secrets. His disgruntled wife and his close friend, William Fischetti, provided the FBI with essential leads, including details of Werner's collaboration with another cargo worker, Peter Gruenewald. Together, they had ostensibly concocted a plan following an earlier minimal theft, deciding that it was time to aim much higher. As the investigation progressed, however, witnesses began disappearing or suffering gruesome fates that hinted at the lethal consequences of crossing the mob.

For weeks, the inquiry tugged at the threads of crime and criminal complicity, revealing interconnected tales of theft, betrayal, and murder. The police discovered bodies linked to the heist, creating a chilling narrative of violence surrounding the case. Key witness testimonies, including those from Gruenewald and Fischetti, became crucial in piecing together the robbery's mechanics.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

The climax arrived when McDonald finally secured enough evidence to arrest Werner, but the investigation was marred by a growing list of missing witnesses and bodies. One of the most significant losses was the disappearance of mobster Tommy DeSimone, feared dead after becoming a liability due to his recognition by Lufthansa workers. As McDonald prepared for the trial against Werner, the fallout from the robbery continued, with reports of murders surfacing.

In a courtroom battle, Gruenewald and other witnesses stepped forward to testify against Werner. Ultimately, he was found guilty of his involvement in the Lufthansa heist, facing a prison sentence that would likely compel him to cooperate with authorities. However, the stakes were raised when he learned that Joe Buddha Manri, the intermediary who provided Werner with a piece of the illicit loot, had been executed, leaving Werner isolated and vulnerable. The tangled web of deception, violence, and fear continued to unravel, leaving McDonald worried that recovering the stolen money—possibly still concealed—might become increasingly challenging as loyalties severed and lives were snuffed out in the pursuit of it.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 19 Summary:

In the chapters leading up to my arrest, the pressure of my chaotic life was suffocating. I was juggling long hours at work while trying to maintain my composure with the help of cocaine, snorting about a gram a day. My partner, Bobby Germaine, and I were sourcing our drugs from Charlie the Jap, a lifelong junk dealer. We were desperately trying to keep our activities hidden from Paulie Vario, who had been critical of my involvement with drugs since I first got out of prison. Meanwhile, Bobby and I were feeling the heat as Jimmy Burke lay low after the infamous Lufthansa heist, which had drastically reduced our earning potential.

I was also feeling the weight of additional responsibilities. I supported Bill Arico's family while he was incarcerated, and had commitments to two Boston College basketball players whose gambling misfortunes were causing me more stress. The FBI was also circling; they had even come to my house with a warrant but were courteous enough to wait until the children were at school while they searched for guns. Little did they know, Karen, my girlfriend, had cleverly stashed a 9mm pistol in her clothing—though she later complained about its coldness.

Adding to the chaos was my turbulent relationship with Robin. Although she assisted me with my drug operations and was often a consumer herself, I knew I should have cut ties with her. The weight of it all felt unbearable;

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

perhaps that's why, when I ultimately got arrested, it felt like a relief.

On the day of my arrest, I was on my way to pick up my brother Michael from the hospital, where he was being treated for spina bifida. Before heading there, I intended to drop off some guns at Jimmy's house, which I had picked up the evening prior. These weren't just any guns; Jimmy, living under the strain of the Lufthansa job, was looking to buy firearms, even as he was on parole and under intense scrutiny.

The day took a turn when I noticed a suspicious red helicopter following me. I drove toward Jimmy's house while hardly able to shake the feeling of dread. Upon arrival, Jimmy was eager to inspect the weapons, but when he saw that they didn't fit his silencers, he became irate and refused to pay me. It became evident that he had changed since the heist; he was paranoid, and I knew better than to push back against his volatile demeanor.

As I left his residence with the guns still in my trunk, I spotted the helicopter again. Rushed and panicked, I almost collided into a massive traffic pileup after speeding down the Long Island Expressway. Upon finally reaching the hospital, I was a frantic mess and caught the attention of Michael's doctor, who gave me Valium to calm my nerves.

That evening, after making dinner for my brother and preparing for Judy Wicks, one of my couriers, to fly out to Pittsburgh with heroin I was

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

supplying, I noticed the helicopter had returned. Trying to shake off the feeling of being watched, I decided to hide the guns in my mother's garbage cans to avoid being seen and to lessen the burden.

I ended up at a shopping mall with Karen, and while we initially felt relieved that the helicopter had vanished, I began to grow paranoid. When I attempted to call Bobby to inform him of my situation, he dismissed my concerns as paranoia, which only heightened my anxiety. After retrieving the guns from my mother's, I continued to feel hunted, carefully avoiding the suspected tail.

Once we arrived at Bobby Germaine's, I felt a sense of normalcy returning. After some cocaine and laughter amongst friends, I prepared the heroin package for Judy. That's when the chaos reignited. I received a call from Robin that only added to my anxiety about the situation. Screaming matches ensued as I attempted to multitask cooking and managing my operations.

As the evening wore on, Judy grew insistent on returning home for a lucky hat, despite my better judgment. I reluctantly drove her to her house, but just as I had stashed the remaining heroin to avoid being caught, I was ambushed by law enforcement. The realization hit me—there was no escape this time. The entire operation was collapsing, and I was about to be interrogated, trapped in a web of my own making.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 20:

In the early stages of an investigation, Nassau County Detective Daniel Mann views the case of Henry Hill as just another suburban drug bust, typical of the numerous petty dealers he confronts annually. Initially skeptical about Hill's significance despite intelligence reports and wiretaps, Mann's interest piqued when a teen informant—arrested for selling Quaaludes—offered insights about organized crime. This informant, a previously convicted youth linked to drugs, claimed knowledge of a sophisticated heroin and cocaine ring run by the Lucchese crime family, specifically naming Henry Hill, an ex-con tied to mobster Paul Vario.

Mann discovers Hill is not an ordinary dealer; rather, he navigates various crime operations beyond drug trafficking, impressing law enforcement with his connections to high-ranking mobsters and his capacity to conduct business across different criminal spheres. Hill's criminal activities began after his release from prison in 1979 when, under the guise of employing the informant as a drug courier, he revealed his operation involving substantial quantities of cocaine.

Securing a wiretap order for Hill's communications from a Nassau County judge, Mann uncovers Hill's extensive network involving various criminal players. Hill's meticulousness and operational caution make traditional investigation methods ineffective; thus, the wiretap becomes essential. The

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

recorded conversations are filled with coded language—terms like "opals" and "dogs" cleverly disguise drug transactions—yet they still expose the intricacies of Hill's drug empire.

As the investigation progresses, Mann's team accumulates enough evidence

Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio

Free Trial with Bookey





Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics
New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

Chapter 21 Summary:

In these chapters, the overlapping worlds of crime, loyalty, and betrayal unfold against the backdrop of Henry Hill's tumultuous arrest and the precarious position he finds himself in. Hill, while not a high-ranking mobster, is considered an invaluable asset for law enforcement due to his vast knowledge of mob operations. This interest leads Assistant U.S. Attorney McDonald and the Strike Force prosecutors to seize on Hill's vulnerability following his arrest on drug-related charges.

As Hill navigates the chaos of his arrest, his wife, Karen, initially unaware of the gravity of the situation, tries to maintain normalcy. She recounts the police raid that precipitated his arrest and how she managed to destroy evidence of his drug dealings. Despite her initial belief that they might beat the case due to lack of evidence, the atmosphere around Hill shifts as his associates begin to distance themselves. One particularly significant turn is Paulie, a pivotal figure in Hill's life, who delivers a painful message of abandonment by refusing to help him due to his involvement with drugs, something that is strictly forbidden within their criminal code.

As investigations unfold, Hill realizes that his former allies, especially Jimmy, may be narrowing in on him as a liability. The narrative dives into the strain of Hill's dual loyalty to his criminal associates and the pressure from law enforcement to cooperate against them. With multiple close calls,

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Hill contemplates the precarious balance between survival and betrayal; he knows too much and understands that his candid involvement with drugs places him at risk.

As time passes in jail, Hill feels cornered between the feds who pressure him to flip and gangsters who might soon want him dead. His recognition of Jimmy's shifting loyalties becomes clear—he suspects that Jimmy is plotting against him while presenting a façade of friendship. The first significant strain materializes when Jimmy asks Hill to undertake a hit on the son of another mobster, someone who has been labeled a rat. For Hill, this request is not only ethically troubling but also emblematic of the desperate lengths to which Jimmy is willing to go to maintain power and protect himself.

Feeling the walls closing in, Hill devises a plan for a risky escape and attempts to reclaim control over his life and finances. However, as he seeks safety among familiar streets, law enforcement swiftly encircles him. Hill's life hangs in the balance—his past associations, combined with his current precarious position, set the stage for a crucial decision: to betray the life he knew for the potential of survival. The intense pressure leads Hill to the realization that his choices will have irrevocable consequences, framing his transformation from mob participant to potential informant. This pivotal juncture highlights the intricate connections between loyalty, fear, and the moral complexities faced when survival is on the line.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

Chapter 23 Summary:

In these chapters, Karen and Henry Hill confront the sobering reality of their imminent participation in the witness protection program following Henry's decision to cooperate with the FBI against organized crime figures. The urgency of their situation is underscored by a visit to Ed McDonald, an FBI agent, who lays out the dangers they face. To protect themselves and their children, Karen learns that the only option is for the entire family to enter the program together. McDonald presents a stark choice: if they remain with Henry, they risk violent retaliation from those he will be testifying against. Additionally, he threatens that there is enough evidence to prosecute Karen and Henry for their involvement in a narcotics case, further complicating their predicament.

As they prepare to leave their lives behind, Karen experiences a whirlwind of emotions. She grapples with the reality of abandoning her family, her home, and the life she has always known. Despite her mother's pleas for Henry to go into hiding alone, Karen understands that doing so would only put their family at greater risk. The departure is rushed and traumatic; marshals arrive to escort them home and help pack their belongings into garbage bags, all while armed guards secure the area. The kids, oblivious to the full gravity of the situation, mistakenly view the relocation as an adventure.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It

As they transition into the witness protection program, the family's identities are carefully reconstructed. They are given new names and social security numbers, and the children's school records are sanitized to protect them from any potential threats linked to their past. The marshals, while stern protectors, exhibit kindness towards the children, providing a semblance of comfort amid chaos.

Meanwhile, Henry reflects on the stark contrast between his past life as part of the mob and his new reality. He remembers the thrill and power of being respected and feared, living in luxury with access to every vice one could desire. The adrenaline of their criminal lifestyle is juxtaposed against the mundane existence that now awaits him. As he begins to recognize the fundamental change taking place, he mourns the loss of his former identity and status, now reduced to living as an "average nobody." The chapters illustrate the deep complexities of leaving behind a life of crime, love for that life, and the overwhelming fear of what lies ahead for the Hill family.

More Free Book



Scan to Download



Listen It