

Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle

By Gordon Korman

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Vince Luca is just like any other high school guy. His best friend, Alex, is trying to score vicariously through him; his brother is a giant pain; and his father keeps bugging him to get motivated. There is just one thing that really sets him apart for other kids his father happens to be the head of a powerful crime organization. Needless to say, while Vince's family's connections can be handy for certain things-like when teachers are afraid to give him a bad grade as they can put a serious crimp in his dating life. How is he supposed to explain to a girl what his father does for a living? But when Vince finally meets one who seems to be worth the trouble, her family turns out to be the biggest problem of all. Because her father is an FBI agent-the one who wants to put his father away for good.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Vince Luca, 17, has a problem. His wealthy family runs the, uh, vending machine business in New York, and Vince is determined not to be part of it. Especially after a hot date is ruined when he finds that his older brother Tommy has conducted some business with Jimmy the Rat and hidden the messy and temporarily unconscious body in the trunk of Vince's car. His dad, the King of the Mob, is reasonable, sensible, lots of fun, gives great presents to his kids--and his name strikes the hearts of other mobsters to stone.

Although Vince keeps a low profile at school, his family connection brings him unwanted advantages, like the birthday Porsche that gets him arrested on stolen vehicle charges, or the football game in which he makes touchdown after touchdown because word has gotten around and nobody is willing to tackle him. Even private conversations at home have to be carried on in the basement because the FBI has bugged the house and an agent is always listening. Vince's life is inextricably tangled up with the family business, no matter how hard he tries to stay out of it. How can he show them he's serious? Then he meets Kendra, and when she innocently reveals that her father's an FBI agent--*that* FBI agent--it's a match made in heaven. He thinks.

Gordon Korman, author of (*No More Dead Dogs*) and over 30 other witty YA novels, is at his best in this *Sopranos*-style spoof about a teen's home life with the Mob. (Ages 12 and older) --*Patty Campbell*

From Publishers Weekly
The Sopranos (minus the vulgarity and violence) meets Leave It to Beaver (minus the "aw-shucks" tone and dated sensibility) in Korman's (No More Dead Dogs) brassy, comical caper. With its razor-sharp dialogue and bullet-fast pace, this tale could fly on either the small or big screen, yet it makes a page-turner of a novel. Korman shapes a believable and likable crew-despite the less than reputable profession of some. Many of the novel's conflicts revolve around the fact that the affable narrator, 17-year-old Vince Luca, refuses to become involved in the family "vending machine business." But of course, since his father is the Mob boss, and his older brother serves as their father's loser lackey, Vince cannot avoid being tainted (e.g., he lands in jail "because my sixteenth-birthday present [a Porsche] turns out to be hot"). Mom turns a deaf ear to the shady goings-on, cooking up a steady storm in the kitchen and willing "to serve a sit-down dinner for fifteen guys at four in the morning with ten minutes advance notice." Things heat up when Vince begins dating-and eventually falls in love with-the daughter of the FBI agent determined to bring down Vince's father. The boy also gets sucked into the maelstrom when he loans money to one of his father's underlings for whom he feels sorry. Funny and unexpectedly affecting, this will grab-and hold onto-even the most reluctant of readers. Ages 12-up.
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From School Library Journal
Grade 7-9-Actor Max Casella effectively becomes Vince Luca, son of the leading New York mob boss, reading Gordon Korman's novel (Hyperion, 2002) which presents difficult situations and choices in a very humorous way. Despite his resolve to be a "normal" teenager and to stay out of his father's criminal activities, Vince finds himself seemingly drawn as a loan shark on a deal and must find a way to get out. Complicating the situation is the fact that he has started dating the daughter of the FBI agent investigating his father's activities. Casella's nasal, slight New York accent is perfect for this selection and draws listeners into the story told in first person. Reading at a fast clip, there is never a dull moment. Casella uses pauses and emphasis to accentuate the teenage slang. Although Vince's emotions are presented in a somewhat exaggerated manner, younger teens will enjoy the excitement and humor of the story. Casella does whatever

is necessary-shouting, breaking into song, etc.-to make the narration very realistic. A great choice to motivate adolescent boys.
Claudia Moore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Casale:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for us. The book Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle was making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The reserve Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle is not only giving you far more new information but also for being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship together with the book Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Young Legg:

The book with title Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle includes a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This kind of book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you with new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Corrine Steinke:

This Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle is great reserve for you because the content which is full of information for you who have always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it facts accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but challenging core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this reserve already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

Kyra Franson:

That book can make you to feel relax. This particular book Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle has many kinds or style. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading which.

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