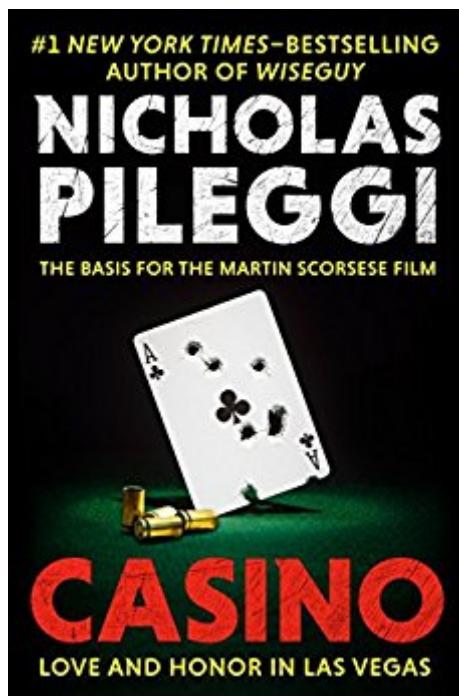


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# Casino: Love And Honor In Las Vegas



## Synopsis

The true story behind the Martin Scorsese film: A “riveting . . . account of how organized crime looted the casinos they controlled” (Kirkus Reviews). Focusing on Chicago bookie Frank “Lefty” Rosenthal and his partner, Anthony Spilotro, and drawing on extensive, in-depth interviews, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Mafia classic *Wiseguy* •basis for the film *Goodfellas* •Nicholas Pileggi reveals how the pair worked together to oversee Las Vegas casino operations for the mob. He unearths how Teamster pension funds were used to take control of the Stardust and Tropicana and how Spilotro simultaneously ran a crew of jewel thieves nicknamed the “Hole in the Wall Gang.” For years, these gangsters kept a stranglehold on Sin City’s brightly lit nightspots, skimming millions in cash for their bosses. But the elaborate scheme began to crumble when Rosenthal’s disproportionate ambitions drove him to make mistakes. Spilotro made an error of his own, falling for his partner’s wife, a troubled showgirl named Geri. It would all lead to betrayal, a wide-ranging FBI investigation, multiple convictions, and the end of the Mafia’s longstanding grip on the multibillion-dollar gaming oasis in the midst of the Nevada desert. *Casino* is a journey into 1970s Las Vegas and a riveting nonfiction account of the world portrayed in the Martin Scorsese film of the same name, starring Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci, and Sharon Stone. A story of adultery, murder, infighting, and revenge, this “fascinating true-crime Mob history” is a high-stakes page-turner (Booklist).

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have enjoyed watching Casino 5 or 6 times, no one would argue it is a masterpiece, however, Pileggi's book discloses so much more, fleshing out the characters, revealing their true natures and interrelationships. Until reading the book, I always felt sympathy for Rothstien (Rosenthal), a perfectionistic genius whose only real crime seemed to be turning a blind eye to the skimming (maybe the investors lost a bit, but everyone "got fat").....Instead he was quite ruthless and had no problem threatening the Stardust's owner, Glick, with death. Birds of a feather, and all that. Soon, anyone who presents a problem for Glick dies, because of the connection between the Teamsters' loan that financed Glick's purchase of the casinos and the skim. It is an incredible story, and if the movie intrigues you, you may really appreciate the added details provided by the book.

It is like goodfellas meets Vegas. If you have seen the movie Casino, it tells slot more in depth as to the history of Anthony Spilotro and Lefty Rosenthal

Any chance to watch these two guys together is as good as the right steak with the right red wine. Your mouth will water and you will crave it over and over. Love this movie! Sharon Stone ties it all together perfectly. I dare you not to try to identify with one of the characters, no matter how pure you think you are. Enjoy!

Casino has gotten somewhat of a diminished reputation over the years due to superficial similarities to Martin Scorsese's 1990 film, Goodfellas, but is absolutely its own film and a great film at that. Released only five years after Goodfellas, one can't totally blame the public for thinking that Scorsese simply wanted to make a bigger, glitzier version of that film. First of all it is based on research by Nicholas Pileggi just as Goodfellas was. It is filmed in a similar manner to Goodfellas, with narration, extensive use of pop songs, a very mobile camera, and even a violent opening foreshadowing a scene that will happen much later in the film. And most of all it stars Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci in roles remarkably similar to their roles in Goodfellas, with De Niro a relatively

level-headed mob associate and Pesci a dangerous loose-cannon. But Goodfellas was the story of small time hoods, neighborhood crooks, who had connections to the actual Mob but who were minor players at best. Casino is the epic story of how the Mob infiltrated Vegas, basically ran it through the Teamsters Union, and were gradually brought down by the carelessness and violence of the very people they sent to actually run the operation. The meticulous research and preparation for which Scorsese is known is here in abundance. As usual the story was based very closely on true events and characters with names barely changed. (De Niro's Ace Rothstein was based on Lefty Rosenthal; Pesci's Nicky Santoro was based on Tony Spiletro). The actual mobsters portrayed in the film including Mr. Rosenthal, and associates who survived it all were consultants on the film and often on the set. In interiors of the "Tangiers" casino were shot in the Riviera late at night with actual customers in the distance for authenticity. The acting is of the highest order and Scorsese is at his very best here. It is a long film at three hours, but it's meant to be an epic and it's never boring. There is no one here to really root for, they're all terribly flawed characters, but that's who they were. This is not a film with a hero. It's almost a type of documentary. The ending is as grim as it gets. That's what happens when you screw up.

One of my favorite movies. How Vegas went from being run by corrupt gangsters to being run by corrupt corporations. All of the major players are at the top of their game.

Another Scorsese master piece that no matter where or how far into the movie it is, it's hard not to get engrossed into it. Between Good Fellas and this one the number of times seen is probably in the 40's.

I have seen this movie about a dozen times & I always catch something that I missed. So much detail to the time period: music, clothing, cars, bad guys. The plot is riveting & I always hope that the end could change for some. De Niro, Stone & Pesci are characters that will live on in movie history. Course we know Martin directs like nobody else. I had my "Good Fellas" movie fix with Casino & Black Mass with Depp this weekend. Glad for these dramas, always feel lucky to not be involved with crime.

As usual beautiful cinematography from Coppola but at three hours at least an hour too long. Great performance by Sharon Stone as the beautiful but very damaged and self-destructive Las Vegas hustler who becomes the wife of the very controlled Jewish casino boss, a kind of Meyer Lansky

type. Joe Pesci is all id as the mob guy, childhood buddy of De Niro, who brings heat on all of them, plenty of violence. Good supporting work for Don Rickles and others, good score.

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