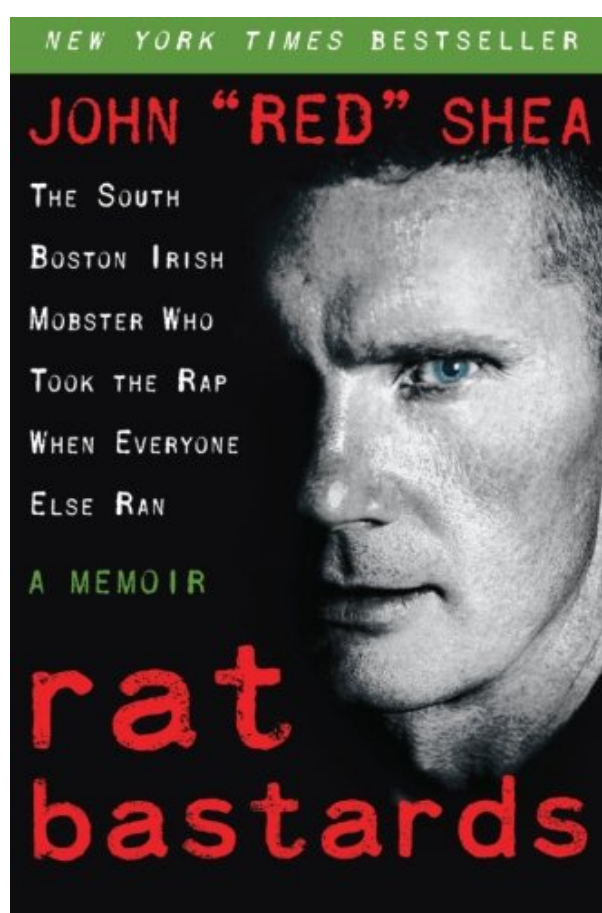


**RAT BASTARDS: THE SOUTH BOSTON
IRISH MOBSTER WHO TOOK THE RAP
WHEN EVERYONE ELSE RAN BY JOHN
"RED" SHEA**



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MOBSTER WHO TOOK THE RAP WHEN EVERYONE ELSE RAN BY JOHN
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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

JOHN "RED" SHEA

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From Publishers Weekly

Shea—who at age 20 was the drug boss for South Boston Irish mobster James "Whitey" Bulger and later served 12 years in federal prison for drug trafficking (yes, he was given the opportunity to rat, but, "like a man," he didn't)—gives gangster honor a bare-knuckled workout in his memoir, a slick read dripping with the underworld holy trinity of sex, drugs and violence. Born in 1965 into a "fucked up family" in South Boston, Shea traded a foundering boxing career for a gig making \$4,000 a night selling cocaine and marijuana. Before long, Bulger took him under his wing and, being a tough and honorable guy, Shea ascended the ranks and had a crew working for him before he was busted and did his time. To hear Shea tell the story, he's about the only guy in South Boston who can keep his trap shut—including Bulger, who turned rat and is now in hiding—once the cuffs are on. And though his unrelenting swagger can wear thin and the writing has lackluster moments, Shea's story is a bawdy page-turner in the Iceman tradition that true crime fans will enjoy. 16 pages of b&w photos.(Mar.)

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Review

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John "Red" Shea, forty, completed his twelve-year federal prison sentence in 2002 and is now living on the right side of the law and working in Boston, Massachusetts.

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Rat Bastards: The South Boston Irish Mobster Who Took The Rap When Everyone Else Ran By John "Red" Shea When creating can alter your life, when creating can enrich you by supplying much money, why do not you try it? Are you still really confused of where understanding? Do you still have no suggestion with what you are going to create? Now, you will certainly need reading *Rat Bastards: The South Boston Irish Mobster Who Took The Rap When Everyone Else Ran By John "Red" Shea* A good author is a great viewers at the same time. You can define just how you create depending upon just what books to review. This *Rat Bastards: The South Boston Irish Mobster Who Took The Rap When Everyone Else Ran By John "Red" Shea* can help you to address the issue. It can be among the best sources to develop your creating skill.

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RAT BASTARDS: THE SOUTH BOSTON IRISH MOBSTER WHO TOOK THE RAP WHEN EVERYONE ELSE RAN BY JOHN "RED" SHEA PDF

John "Red" Shea, 40, was a top lieutenant in the South Boston Irish mob run, led by James "Whitey" Bulger. An ice-cold enforcer with a red-hot temper, Shea was a legend among his peers in the 1990s South Boston, as much as John Gotti, Bugsy Siegel, and Al Capone were in their time and place. When the actor and producer Mark Wahlberg, raised in nearby Dorchester, learned of a script based on Shea's life circulating in Hollywood, he immediately committed to playing the gangster on screen. A major feature film project is now in development.

From the age of thirteen, when he started robbing delivery trucks, to the age of twenty-seven, when he began serving a twelve-year federal sentence for drug trafficking, Shea was a portrait in American crime – a bantam-weight, red-headed terror, brutal with his fists and deadly with a lead pipe, a baseball bat, or a knife. At fifteen he was selling marijuana . At seventeen he was handling Bulger's cocaine. At eighteen he was loan sharking and laundering Bulger's money. At twenty, initiated into Bulger's inner circle at the point of an Uzi, he was running a multimillion-dollar narcotics operation for his mentor.

RAT BASTARDS was the first-ever, firsthand account of mob life that wasn't told by a rat. Red Shea did his crime, then did his time—and never informed, unlike Henry Hill of Wiseguy, Sammy "The Bull" Gravano of Underboss, and so many others. Holding fast to the code of his upbringing, he remained a man of honor.

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- Original language: English
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- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

I'm very interested in books of this type especially when ...

By Amazon Customer

I'm very interested in books of this type especially when written by guys who actually took part in the life. This gave an interesting look into the Boston Irish Mob of Whitey Bolger.

26 of 29 people found the following review helpful.

EASILY the worst of the whole Whitey/Southie genre

By Jack Daly

I am SO glad I read this via a library and didn't pay a cent for it! Johnny Shea is the ultimate example of the self-serving, ignorant Southie project product. Absolutely NO redeeming value to Shea or his fictions. An embarrassing project, one which should never have been put to publication. In a world of insecure, self-important criminals attempting to cash in on their connections to Bulger, Shea stands apart as uniquely loathsome. A MUST not-read.

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

In The Southie/Irish Mob Genre, This Is Only Okay

By Hooley

If you're just getting into what has now become a genre of Irish/Southie/True Crime books, definitely start with the ones done by the writer/reporters, ie, Black Mass, Westies, and Paddy Whacked - books with multiple sources and footnotes and everything - instead of the biographies. I've now read all the Southie books except for Kevin Weeks', which I'm only kind of looking forward to after this one and Pat Nee's. This is the conclusion I have come to.

If you're just interested in this book, it is, essentially, one big self-inflicted ego stroke minus numerous details that would have added to the intrigue of the tale. There are almost no interesting, well-developed or enlightening stories aside from the tales of prison life.

The biggest thing I came away with from this book is that Shea feels the need to tell you how tough he is at least once in every single chapter. Frankly, it gets tiresome and takes away from the story. Shea turns from a would be protagonist (if you buy into the "admirable" qualities the main character portrays) into someone you hope will at least bring something redeeming to the table in the end. It doesn't happen.

This one had potential. Unfortunately, the egomania, the lack of details, and the lack of developed stories take away from the impact.

As mentioned, read the compilation books first, followed by All Souls (truly excellent), Street Soldier (what this book could have been, ie, very authentic and interesting, even if horrifying), and A Criminal and An Irishman (Nee, it seems, is one of the only genuine stand-up guys). From there, the rest are pretty much the same.

See all 121 customer reviews...

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