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From William Morrow Company

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From William Morrow Company : The Valachi Papers by Maas, Peter Reprint edition (2003) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Valachi Papers by Maas, Peter Reprint edition (2003):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It may indeed disappoint some who expect a Godfather narrative By C. Breeze It's important to know what you are getting with the Valachi Papers. This is not a shoot-em up account of the mob, but a journalistic account of "the life" in the 40s, 50s and 60s. It may indeed disappoint some who expect a Godfather narrative, but this is far closer to Serpico, the book, like reading a long newspaper feature. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Organized Crime by a Harlem Hoodlum By Jim Martin Joe Valachi, aka "Joe Cago" was a racketeer from East Harlem where trouble would breed daily on the streets of 1st Ave. For a New York guy, it was very interesting to read this book, and notice all the similar streets in Harlem and in the Bronx as well. This book definitely takes you back to another era (one that you will never see again). I found it interesting to read about how Valachi got into trouble with someone, and then had to squash a beef, switch into another crew for fear of retaliation, etc... It portrayed some different views that you just don't see in a lot of books. *You realize that you're getting a 1st hand account of someone who was around organized crime figures (and was in fact - one of those figures himself). I like the fact that this book displays how mob life is not all what you see in the movies: it's not people making all kinds of money and living the high life. For others like Joe Valachi - there are tough times when you're broke, in jail, or just not getting along with certain people (to the point where it may hurt your street credit). Realize that when your status is scarred in this particular circle, you may wind up dead... There were some rare things mentioned in this book too - where Valachi stated he never abused someone who owed him money. He was a loan

shark that didn't believe in raising his hand. He would rather solve the problem in a more business-like manner. There was mention of all the stoolpigeons being held in Westchester County Jail. I didn't realize how many rats there were at that time. It goes to show you that informants were always present, not just what you read in the papers today. This book was a nice easy read and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in reading about a true story of someone growing up on the other side of the tracks where the only education a kid can get is in the street! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By POP POPA+