

Assignment 02
Book Review

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Section: 01

The Godfather is a classic literary masterpiece that reflects the humans' fascination with criminality and introduces literature to the gritty and abrasive world of Sicilian Mafia in the 1940s. This legendary masterpiece of Mario Puzo has dominated both popular film culture and literature for decades. The epic novel of mid-century mafia violence went on to sell millions of copies since its publication in 1969 and eventually immortalized and translated onto screen as masterful film adaptations. The Godfather details the story of a fictional Mafia family, the Corleones, and their powerful legacy of tradition, blood, and honor. It is an epic tale of crime and betrayal threaded into a powerful plot.

The book follows the journey of Don Vito Corleone - the godfather, who is portrayed as a reasonable and just family man, who yields the power to turn into this ruthless Sicilian mobster if someone dares to interrupt with his interest. He is the head of the Corleones, the most revered mafia family in America. He had built the foundation of his vast empire over years of bloodshed and underworld crime where he takes an interest in the lives of all those around him. Without sugarcoating Don's sins, a man whose life has been built on the blood of others, Puzo makes the man believable and flawlessly interweaves his character into an understandable and appealing powerful character. "When the gunfire and butchery has ceased, you yourself are left questioning to what limits you would go for your family's protection." This powerful line encapsulates how family values are taken to a preposterous level of standard in this masterpiece. With its theme of power, the pitfalls of greed, and family allegiance, the violent narrative steeped into controversy has resonated with millions of readers across the globe with its captivating plot.

"I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse" delivered by Don Corleone is undoubtedly the best quote of the novel. This line in itself goes on to show the audacity and ethic of the mobster and summarized the whole operating style of their business which went on to define the tone of the entire crime novel. The quote depicted a snapshot of how they got their things done and gave a glimpse of the power this family possessed.

The narrative takes a turn for the worse when old tensions between the mob families intensify which leaves the fate of the Corleone Family with one of Don's three sons: Santino, Fredo and Michael. The tragic turn of events went on to show how fate and

corrupted ways of the mafia lifestyle can rob a man of his ethics and principles. The part where Fredo is killed by his own blood was very upsetting. The author also paints a vivid picture of numerous characters through interesting anecdotes - Luca Brasi, the loyal enforcer of the Corleone family; Tom Hagen, a German-Irish orphan who the family took in when he was a child and who eventually became the family's Consigliere, fighting battles of their own throughout the book.

The complete lack of any moral verdict by Puzo leaves the reader to draw their own conclusions about the characters. I would rate this book a 4 out of 5. It was a captivating read that gave me an insight into the mafia world and an essence into the nature of the underworld crime scene and gang violence. The Godfather is, in my opinion, one of the greatest works of art and a powerful read. It is undoubtedly one of the best investments of your time.