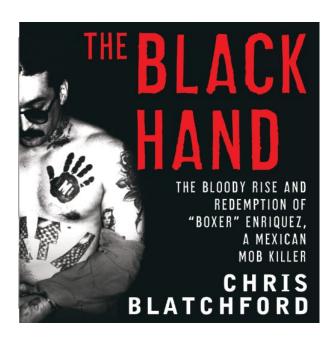
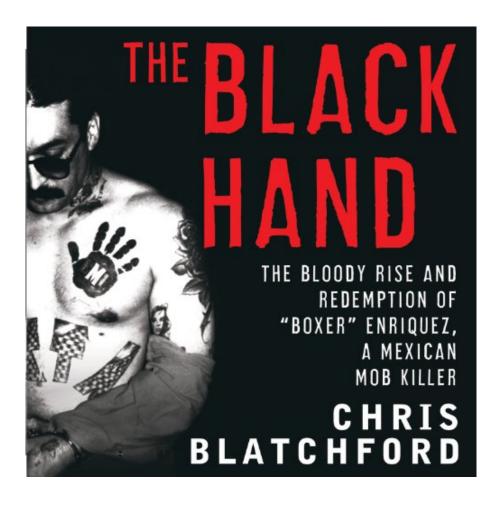
THE BLACK HAND: THE BLOODY RISE AND REDEMPTION OF "BOXER" ENRIQUEZ, A MEXICAN MOB KILLER BY CHRIS BLATCHFORD



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What it saw in Enriquez was a young man who knew no fear and would kill anyone—justifiably or not—in the blink of an eye. That loyalty and iron will drove him up the ranks as a mob enforcer and ultimately to the upper echelons, where he would help rule for nearly two decades.

He helped La Eme become the powerful and violent organization that it is now, with a base army of approximately sixty thousand heavily armed gang members who control the prison system and a large part of California crime. Arguably the most dangerous gang in American history, its reach is growing.

And now award-winning investigative journalist Chris Blatchford, with the unprecedented cooperation of Rene Enriquez, reveals the inner workings, secret meetings, and elaborate murder plots that make up the daily routine of the Mafia brothers. It is an intense, never-before-told story of a man who devoted his life to a bloody cause only to find betrayal and disillusionment.

After years of research and investigation, Blatchford has delivered a historic narrative of a nefarious organization that will go down as a classic in mob literature.

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT BOOK WITH MORE CHARACTER EXPLORATION By Mommyof3

I am going to be generous and give this book four stars, but with reservations.

It is a good read, and says a lot about the workings of the Mexican Mafia. My problem with it is the handling of the character and the character development of Enriquez, or lack thereof. This man is a rapist, a murderer, and a gangster. Why did he suddenly go to the other side? The book really glides over this quickly. It seems that a hit was ordered on Enriquez. That they should suddenly turn on him should not be a surprise; the Mafia was his life, he knew how it works. So certainly it could not be for idealism that he defected. Instead it was to protect himself and stay alive. Now he turned and is sharing everything, going above and beyond the call of duty. That is commendable, and I am grateful to him for that. And just as he was promoted up the ranks in the Mafia, now he has reportedly become a celebrity to the LAPD, doing classes, giving speeches, etc. So this man just seems like a great opportunist, but Blatchford doesn't say that at all. To him, he is a new Christian who came from a rough background. As a Californian, I am relieved Davis denied his parole. He's creepy and Blatchford doesn't explore that.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

This book takes you to the pits of hell, as you ride in the mind of a cold blooded killer.

By Joe A

Just finish reading this book and it easily replaced "Mafia Under-boss: Sammy the Bull Gravano's Story of Life in the Mafia" and Henry Hill's "Wiseguy" as the most intense mafia story Ive ever read. I must admit it changed my entire view of La Eme. Coming from a family that has had its share of camaradas and even a

carnal (pg 6. Joe "Colorado") in this organization, Ill admit that I had a somewhat different view of La Eme. I knew they were responsible for lowering the drive-bys in the barrios and unlike the monsters south of the border, women and children are totally of limits. What I didn't realize was how plagued this organization is with power-struggles and politicking. Mob books have always interested me, and one thing Ive always noticed is that, if they were to actually follow their own rules they'd probably have less defections. From the books Ive read the story always seems to be the same, the hypocrisy of a broken organization always seems to be the main factor behind these defection. Most these guys would be willing to die for this thing that they grew up loving and believed in, its when they have that sobering moment of hypocrisy within a broken brotherhood (if you could even call it that), that they decide their life has better value. If you like mob book I highly recommend this one but be ready to go on a ride into the darkest places human evil can take you. The majority of this book is about that long, hard, dark ride but I think its a necessary ride the writer must take the reader so that the reader can appreciate the full weight of Renee's decision and redemption. This man (Renee) would take orders without blinking an eye and walk into situations fit only for a gladiator, only to come out the tired bloody victor eagerly awaiting his next assignment but its not until the end of the book, when Renee decides to leave the only life he has ever loved or known, that you see the true raw courage of a warrior.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Fast read, well written, comprehensive

By Wishful Dreams - Tim Townsend

This book is about Rene Esq (Boxer) starting as a teenage kid in a good Mexican family, his rise to the head of the Noestras, the creation of the Mexican mafia La Eme, and eventually his departure. It details prison life, the fear and practices of EME, both inside hand outside of prison, the growth and control of the EME, methods of communication into and out of prison. I liked this book because it is told from the mindset of a teen (through his adult EME life) and his seduction by drugs, control, protection, respect, and false security/happiness in leading his (admitted) horrible life. It is written from Rene's point of view; only part way through the last chapter, the author writes from his perspective. Anyone who knows the EME (i.e., gang cops, prison authorities) will tell you THE WRITING IS FACTUAL AND NOT EXAGGERATED. The prison gang politics & life are detailed. He also gets into his struggle in AND IN coming out of the EME; and cooperating with law enforcement and CA politics. There are 30,000 gangs with 800,000 members that have now captured 2,500 communities. (100,000 alone in Southern CA). I highly recommend this book to would be gang members, all members of law enforcement, state politicians of ALL U.S. States and members of Congress.

Another read is an excellent book "Counter/Strike" which details America's response and struggle in fighting Al Queada, but ends with the increasingly GROWING threat of Radicalization in the U.S. & gangs in the U.S..

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