

# [PDF] Little Man: Meyer Lansky And The Gangster Life

Robert Lacey - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: Little Man: Meyer Lansky and

Author: Robert Lacey

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** This biography of the notorious hoodlum by the author of *The Kingdom* succeeds in deglamorizing a gangland figure around whom all sorts of mythology was created, both during his lifetime and after. A product of the ghetto on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Lansky (1902?-1983) spent his adolescence developing the conviction that, if there were an honest and a dishonest way of achieving a goal, the dishonest way was preferable. Like many members of organized crime in his era, he became a specialist, working with casinos. He was rigidly honest about not cheating the public and paying his partners their due. His family life was a horror: Lansky's first wife became semi-psychotic and their three children had miserable lives; his second marriage was somewhat better. The media-generated image of a financial eminence grise worth hundreds of millions of dollars, the gangland chairman of the board, was largely fictional. A major

contribution to the history of organized crime in the U.S. Photos not seen by PW.

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**From Library Journal** In this intelligent, thoroughly researched biography, Lacey argues that Jewish gangster Lansky was primarily "a professional gambler . . . caught dodging his taxes," rather than the eminence grise of the Mafia as portrayed by the media. Maybe so, but Lansky was a master at keeping secrets and it is unlikely that his full criminal role will ever be known. Following the loss of his casino to the Cuban revolution in 1959, Lansky was denied Israeli citizenship in 1972 and died in a hospital in 1983. This sympathetic but objective account is brought to life with interviews of Lansky's family and friends. Superior to Dennis Eisenberg's *Meyer Lansky* ( LJ 10/1/79), it is recommended for crime collections. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 11/1/90.

- *Gregor A. Preston, Univ. of California Lib., Davis*

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