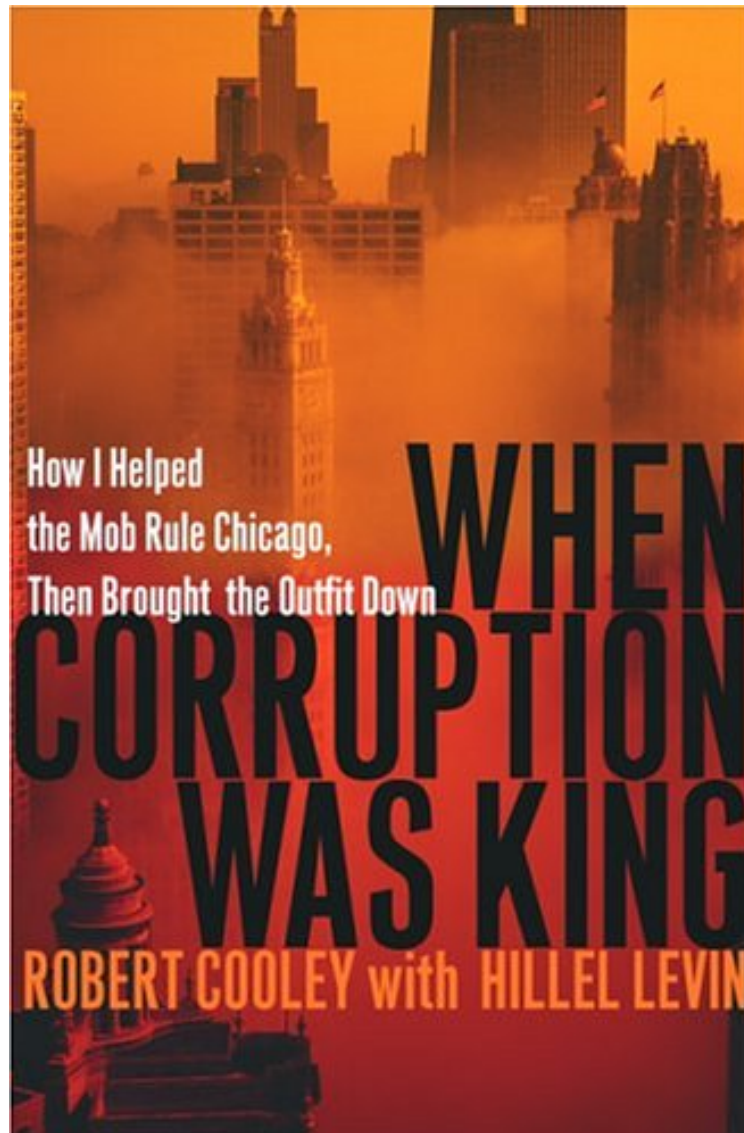


[Read free] When Corruption Was King: How I Helped the Mob Rule Chicago, Then Brought the Outfit Down

## When Corruption Was King: How I Helped the Mob Rule Chicago, Then Brought the Outfit Down

Robert Cooley

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**Robert Cooley : When Corruption Was King: How I Helped the Mob Rule Chicago, Then Brought the Outfit Down** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Corruption Was King: How I Helped the Mob Rule Chicago, Then Brought the Outfit Down:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A riveting history of Mob lawyer turned Federal witnessBy

katrinkaMob and politics colluded so well that corruption reached the limit of their own lawyer/fixer's tolerance in 1989. He volunteered himself to the Feds who successfully prosecuted 24 judges and mobsters. The court system was reformed during the early 1990s, and Mayor Daley broke up the infamous First Ward. The mayor believed corruption had reached a level to deter good businesses from locating in Chicago. Cooley tells how he enabled their power and then worked on convictions in a blow by blow, persuasively candid narrative. The copy I bought is missing 50 pages from the heart of the story which goes into activities of Alderman Ed and Justice Anne Burke. The book appears to be complete because fifty pages have been duplicated from another section of the book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth readingBy Peter MillerI thought the book was worth reading, but it is more about corruption in the Cook County courts, then typical mob corruption.Cooley is a little too impressed with himself throughout the entire book.However, wearing a wire on these crooks took a ton of guts. I do think Cooley is a smart guy, and I enjoyed his story.Also, turning his future life over to the decision making of federal prosecutors also took guts. Like Cooley says in the book, these same federal attorneys take jobs in the private sector and then go to work for the very crooks they initially were chasing. Reminded me of the situation Treat Williams character was put in when he portrayed the cop "Prince of the City".0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating insider's view of corruption in ChicagoBy book junkieFormer high-rolling attorney Bob Cooley takes us on a guided-tour of political and judicial sleaze, Chicago style. On Cooley's tour, you'll see everything from fixed parking tickets to fixed murder cases. You'll see the tentacles of the Outfit-dominated First Ward get a stranglehold on the levers of power in the city. You'll see Cooley's role in making all this possible and then his sudden and shocking secret defection to the Feds and his role in Operation Gambat, during which, at great risk to his life, he wore a wire on top mob bosses.

Bob Cooley was the Chicago Mafias fixer of court cases. During the 1970s and 80s, Cooley bribed judges, juries, and cops to keep his Mob clients out of jail. Paid handsomely for his services, he lived fast and enjoyed the protection of the men he served. Yet, by the end of the 90s, without a pending conviction, he became the star witness in nine federal trials that took down the most powerful Mafia family in the history of organized crime. When Corruption Was King is the story of a Mob lawyer turned mole with a million-dollar contract on his head who went back and forth between sin and sainthood a turbulent youth, a stint on Chicago's police force, law school, and then the inner sanctum of Chicago's wiseguys. He dined with Mob bosses and shared last suppers with friends before their gangland executions. In a startling act of conscience, Cooley walked into the office of the U.S. Organized Crime Strike Force and agreed to wear a wire on the very same Mafia overlords who had made him a player. This book, including eight pages of memorable photographs, reveals the personal story behind the federal government's most successful Mafia investigation.

From Publishers WeeklyIn this true-crime memoir, former Chicago mob attorney Cooley engagingly recounts his role in sparking Operation Gambat, a sweeping federal corruption probe into Chicago's political and judicial arenas. Operation Gambat succeeded in documenting the extensive ties between the mob and local government, thanks largely to Cooley's cooperation and courage. The author doesn't spare himself in recounting his descent into the world of crime, despite his loving family and policeman father; and his transformation from fixer and operator into avenging angel is plausibly rendered. Cooley does a nice job of taking the reader inside an undercover investigation, with its glitches, ego clashes and inevitable setbacks. Although his extensive involvement in graft makes Cooley less than fully sympathetic, his risk-taking to expose the crooked system goes a long way toward redeeming him. While the writing is more workmanlike than memorable, this is a nice counterpart to Gus Russo's *The Windy City Outfit: The Role of Chicago's Underworld in the Shaping of Modern America*, and Cooley's achievements deserve the wide acclaim this book should garner. Fans of *Serpico*, *Prince of the City* and *The Informant*, as well as those of Scott Turow's fiction, will enjoy this unfamiliar story. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistFans of insider Mob books should thrill to this account (midwifed by veteran writer and magazine editor Levin) of a guy who wore a wire against the Chicago Outfit and lived (in greatly reduced circumstances in the Witness Protection Program and in constant danger) to tell the tale. Cooley was a lawyer who "got bent." In Chicago, that means a lawyer who sells out by defending the hit men and functionaries of the Mob, while greasing the wheels for them with Mob-connected politicians and police. Cooley begins the story with autobiography, from his upbringing through his slide into Mob lawyering to his walk into the Organized Crime Strike Force office in 1986 with an offer to wear a wire against the mobsters he represented for years. The book also offers a revealing analysis of how the Mob was able to gain a stranglehold over Chicago's government, court system, and police. And it takes a revealing peek into Mob rituals, like the "last suppers" held on the eve of a mobster's execution. And it's a thriller, as readers accompany Cooley on sweat-raising stings and meets. The result of Cooley's return to values was his becoming a star witness in nine federal trials that crippled the Chicago Outfit. Levin's notes at book's end offer more details from various sources on Cooley's assertions. A mesmerizing treatise on organized crime. Connie FletcherCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Cooley engagingly recounts his role in sparking Operation Gambat, a sweeping federal corruption probe into Chicago's political and judicial arenasCooley does a nice job of taking the reader inside an undercover investigationCooley's achievements deserve the wide acclaim

this book should garner." --Publishers Weekly "Fans of insider Mob books should thrill to this account of a guy who wore a wire against the Chicago Outfit and lived to tell the taleThe book also offers a revealing analysis of how the Mob was able to gain a stranglehold over Chicago's government, court system, and policeAnd it's a thriller, as readers accompany Cooley on sweat-raising stings and meetsA mesmerizing treatise on organized crime." --Booklist