



## The Ice Man: Confessions of a Mafia Contract Killer

By Philip Carlo

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**The Ice Man: Confessions of a Mafia Contract Killer** By Philip Carlo

Philip Carlo's *The Ice Man* spent over six weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List. Top Mob Hitman. Devoted Family Man. Doting Father. For thirty years, Richard "The Iceman" Kuklinski led a shocking double life, becoming the most notorious professional assassin in American history while happily hosting neighborhood barbecues in suburban New Jersey.

Richard Kuklinski was Sammy the Bull Gravano's partner in the killing of Paul Castellano, then head of the Gambino crime family, at Sparks Steakhouse. Mob boss John Gotti hired him to torture and kill the neighbor who accidentally ran over his child. For an additional price, Kuklinski would make his victims suffer; he conducted this sadistic business with coldhearted intensity and shocking efficiency, never disappointing his customers. By his own estimate, he killed over two hundred men, taking enormous pride in his variety and ferocity of technique.

This trail of murder lasted over thirty years and took Kuklinski all over America and to the far corners of the earth, Brazil, Africa, and Europe. Along the way, he married, had three children, and put them through Catholic school. His daughter's medical condition meant regular stays in children's hospitals, where Kuklinski was remembered, not as a gangster, but as an affectionate father, extremely kind to children. Each Christmas found the Kuklinski home festooned in colorful lights; each summer was a succession of block parties.

His family never suspected a thing.

**Richard Kuklinski is now the subject of the major motion picture titled "The Iceman" (2013), starring James Franco, Winona Ryder, Ray Liotta, and Chris Evans.**



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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Prichard strives to navigate this marathon parade of torture and murder in an authoritative, almost aloof manner. But the clichéd, repetitive and overwrought prose frequently undermines him. Carlo's apparent sympathy toward the Ice Man further subverts Prichard's crime-show host persona. In stomach-turning detail, Prichard brings to life Richard Kuklinsky's extraordinary 40-year career of murder. The gruesome, clinical accounts of countless killings-by every method imaginable-leaves listeners wincing and feeling depleted. Prichard's voice is worn and aged, with a slight nasal quality as if getting over a cold. For the most part, he handles the voluminous narrative without flagging. When rendering Kuklinsky and various Mafia figures and associates, the audio actor employs a similar tough-guy impersonation, which amounts to dropping his voice, bleeding out the emotion and barking swear words. This sometimes leads to confusion over who's speaking. Also included are two not especially revealing jailhouse interviews with the chillingly congenial Kuklinsky.

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#### From [Booklist](#)

Richard Kuklinski, the Ice Man of the title, has told his story before in a variety of forums, including books and videos. Here Carlo tells Kuklinski's story more or less straight from the killer's mouth, with little verification or questioning. Given Kuklinski's grandiose claims, such as participation in the unsolved murder of Jimmy Hoffa, this produces a narrative of unrelieved horror. Kuklinski reveled not only in killing but also in the suffering of his victims, and here he emphasizes how he compartmentalized his life so that his family was shielded from the nastiness of his trade. Other than fulsome detail, not much new about Kuklinski is relayed. Carlo's presentation of Kuklinski uninterrupted does, however, make for nice comparative reading with the killer's wife's book, *Married to the Iceman* (1994). Good as an omnibus resource on Kuklinski, this is a fine entry in the burgeoning field of works tracing the decline of the traditional organized crime families and their once impenetrable structures. *Mike Tribby*

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#### Review

“Carlo effectively tells the life story of the family man who spent thirty years as a professional killer, while hosting barbecues in suburban New Jersey.” ?*New York Post*

“A hell of a book, a brutal page-turner.” ?*Larry King*

“Philip Carlo captured the essence of who my husband was.” ?*Barbara Kuklinski*

“Spine-chilling...readers will become so engrossed in the details that they'll forget that this is a true story.” ?*Library Journal*

“Reading *The Ice Man* left me cold, perplexed, horrified. No one today writing about the criminals, the streets, has the insight and innate knowledge of the criminal mind. I highly recommend this book.” ?*Joey Reynolds, host of WOR Radio*

“Carlo writes with the sharpness of a stiletto. His words are cutting and brutal and meaningful. I could not put *The Ice Man* down. It is the most compelling book I have ever read.” ?*Louis Free, the Heartland Radio Show*

“What Philip Carlo did was capture the heart and soul of Richard Kuklinski. I could not put his book down.”  
?HBO Producer Gaby Monet

“Both my wife and I read this book. While we were reading the book, neither one of us spoke to the other for days.” ?George Nooray, *Coast to Coast Radio*

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