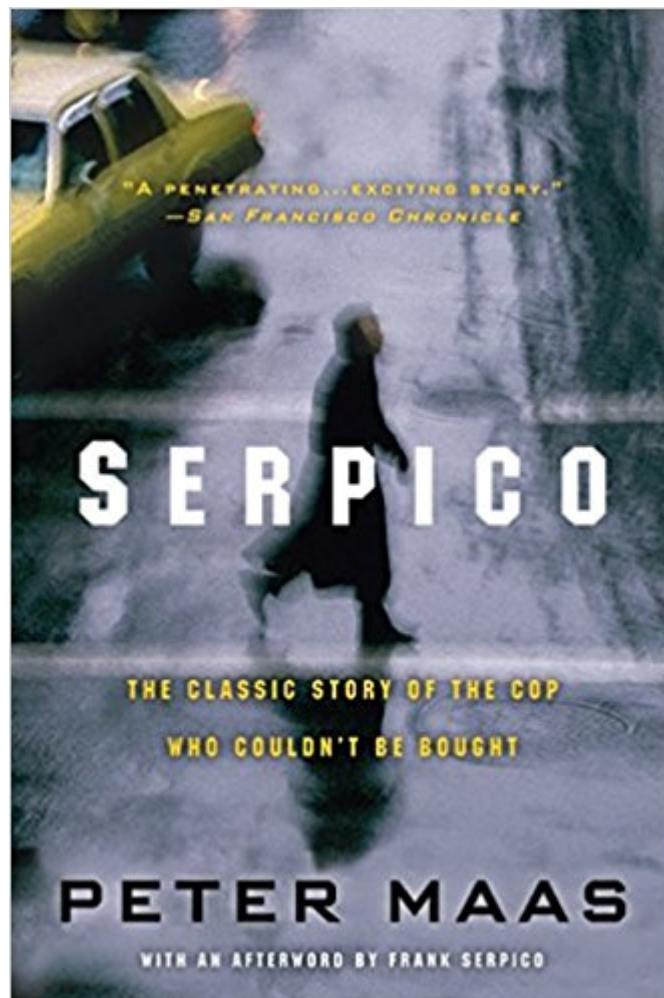


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# Serpico



## Synopsis

The 1960s was a time of social and generational upheaval felt with particular intensity in the melting pot of New York City. A culture of corruption pervaded the New York Police Department, where payoffs, protection, and shakedowns of gambling rackets and drug dealers were common practice. The so-called blue code of silence protected the minority of crooked cops from the sanction of the majority. Into this maelstrom came a working class, Brooklyn-born, Italian cop with long hair, a beard, and a taste for opera and ballet. Frank Serpico was a man who couldn't be silenced -- or bought -- and he refused to go along with the system. He had sworn an oath to uphold the law, even if the perpetrators happened to be other cops. For this unwavering commitment to justice, Serpico nearly paid with his life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Excellent.” (Newsweek) “[A] raw and moving portrait.” (Chicago Sun-Times) “Maas’s reportage is detailed and of high narrative quality ...[Full of] tension and drama.” (Rolling Stone) “An absorbing story of what one angry, honest man can do | told by a master of factual reporting.” (Detroit News)

Peter Maas's is the author of the number one New York Times bestseller *Underboss*. His other notable bestsellers include *The Valachi Papers*, *Serpico*, *Manhunt*, and *In a Child's Name*. He lives in New York City.

graft [grafht] (n.): the acquisition of money, gain, or advantage by dishonest, unfair, or illegal means, especially through the abuse of one's position or influence in politics, business, etc. I've had a hard time concentrating on reading for a few months, otherwise it wouldn't have taken so long to finish this memoir. Oddly enough, while trudging through it, I started watching the BBC series *George Gently* and the documentary series called *Detectives*. The former deals with police corruption in Scotland Yard during the mid 1960s, and the other focused on a string of historic sexual abuse cases that took place in the late 60s and early 70s by a famous Manchester radio deejay. They really helped set the tone and environment for the events that transpired in the book.

February 3, 1971 Frank Serpico, aged thirty-five is shot in the face while working as an undercover detective in South Brooklyn's Narcotics division. Another close call in the line of duty, or a deliberate set-up by "his own kind"? An odd question to ask, except Frank Serpico is not like any other detectives of his time. A Greenwich Villager sporting a full beard, long hair, funky boots and dungarees, he embodied everything police feared in the 60s hippies. He was also unique in another more meaningful way: "Serpico" this apparent hippie, womanizer, hedonist had dared to do the unheard-of, the unpardonable, in police circles. Having solemnly sworn to uphold the law, he elected to do just that, to enforce it against everybody and not, in the grand tradition of even the most personally honest policemen, against everybody except other cops. He would not go along with the graft, the bribes, the shakedowns; and he refused to look the other way.

A very interesting read. I found the ending unsatisfactory, even though this edition contained an afterword from Serpico himself dated Fall 1996. The truth is that this is a true story, not a fairy tale. Have things changed much since Serpico's time in law enforcement? I think we'd all like to hope so. However his memoir created more doubts than certainties for me. Hmmm food for thought.

EXCELLENT...SHOULD BE REQUIRED READING FOR ALL POLICE RECRUITS AND CHIEFS OF POLICE

Serpico is an interesting and well written book about the struggles Frank Serpico faced while trying to be an honest cop among the corrupt practices which were ongoing at the time in New York City. His struggles ultimately led to the Knapp Commission and reforms at the NYPD, and set the stage

for ethical reforms in policing across America.

Serpico is one of the best books I have ever read. I could not put it down. The movie follows the book almost scene for scene, but I enjoyed the book tremendously.

My husband loves this genre.

A man who could not be moved. He Stood Tall, He Stood Alone. A greatly detailed book that is, in its own way, inspirational.

This man Serpico was my hero in high school and remains my hero today! What he did is a rare and great deed for all of us who live in this country. He just stood by his beliefs that police personal are there to serve and protect, not take advantage, harass, bully, etc. His story is far wilder and outrageous than any fiction could be! I'm so glad he lived to tell the tale!

A good book and stories a bit dated

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Serpico

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