



## Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle

By Gordon Korman

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Vince Luca is just like any other high school guy. His best friend, Alex, is trying to score vicariously through him; his brother is a giant pain; and his father keeps bugging him to get motivated. There is just one thing that really sets him apart for other kids his father happens to be the head of a powerful crime organization. Needless to say, while Vince's family's connections can be handy for certain things-like when teachers are afraid to give him a bad grade as they can put a serious crimp in his dating life. How is he supposed to explain to a girl what his father does for a living? But when Vince finally meets one who seems to be worth the trouble, her family turns out to be the biggest problem of all. Because her father is an FBI agent-the one who wants to put his father away for good.

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## **Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle** By Gordon Korman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2750189 in Books
- Published on: 2004
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.02" h x .96" w x 5.24" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### Amazon.com Review

Vince Luca, 17, has a problem. His wealthy family runs the, uh, vending machine business in New York, and Vince is determined not to be part of it. Especially after a hot date is ruined when he finds that his older brother Tommy has conducted some business with Jimmy the Rat and hidden the messy and temporarily unconscious body in the trunk of Vince's car. His dad, the King of the Mob, is reasonable, sensible, lots of fun, gives great presents to his kids--and his name strikes the hearts of other mobsters to stone.

Although Vince keeps a low profile at school, his family connection brings him unwanted advantages, like the birthday Porsche that gets him arrested on stolen vehicle charges, or the football game in which he makes touchdown after touchdown because word has gotten around and nobody is willing to tackle him. Even private conversations at home have to be carried on in the basement because the FBI has bugged the house and an agent is always listening. Vince's life is inextricably tangled up with the family business, no matter how hard he tries to stay out of it. How can he show them he's serious? Then he meets Kendra, and when she innocently reveals that her father's an FBI agent--*that* FBI agent--it's a match made in heaven. He thinks.

Gordon Korman, author of (*No More Dead Dogs*) and over 30 other witty YA novels, is at his best in this *Sopranos*-style spoof about a teen's home life with the Mob. (Ages 12 and older) --*Patty Campbell*

### From Publishers Weekly

The Sopranos (minus the vulgarity and violence) meets Leave It to Beaver (minus the "aw-shucks" tone and dated sensibility) in Korman's (*No More Dead Dogs*) brassy, comical caper. With its razor-sharp dialogue and bullet-fast pace, this tale could fly on either the small or big screen, yet it makes a page-turner of a novel. Korman shapes a believable and likable crew--despite the less than reputable profession of some. Many of the novel's conflicts revolve around the fact that the affable narrator, 17-year-old Vince Luca, refuses to become involved in the family "vending machine business." But of course, since his father is the Mob boss, and his older brother serves as their father's loser lackey, Vince cannot avoid being tainted (e.g., he lands in jail "because my sixteenth-birthday present [a Porsche] turns out to be hot"). Mom turns a deaf ear to the shady goings-on, cooking up a steady storm in the kitchen and willing "to serve a sit-down dinner for fifteen guys at four in the morning with ten minutes advance notice." Things heat up when Vince begins dating--and eventually falls in love with--the daughter of the FBI agent determined to bring down Vince's father. The boy also gets sucked into the maelstrom when he loans money to one of his father's underlings for whom he feels sorry. Funny and unexpectedly affecting, this will grab--and hold onto--even the most reluctant of readers. Ages 12-up.

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### From School Library Journal

Grade 7-9--Actor Max Casella effectively becomes Vince Luca, son of the leading New York mob boss, reading Gordon Korman's novel (*Hyperion*, 2002) which presents difficult situations and choices in a very humorous way. Despite his resolve to be a "normal" teenager and to stay out of his father's criminal activities, Vince finds himself seemingly drawn as a loan shark on a deal and must find a way to get out. Complicating the situation is the fact that he has started dating the daughter of the FBI agent investigating his father's activities. Casella's nasal, slight New York accent is perfect for this selection and draws listeners into the story told in first person. Reading at a fast clip, there is never a dull moment. Casella uses pauses and emphasis to accentuate the teenage slang. Although Vince's emotions are presented in a somewhat exaggerated manner, younger teens will enjoy the excitement and humor of the story. Casella does whatever

is necessary-shouting, breaking into song, etc.-to make the narration very realistic. A great choice to motivate adolescent boys.

*Claudia Moore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA*  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **George Carter:**

With other case, little men and women like to read book *Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle*. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Providing we know about how is important some sort of book *Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle*. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, simply because from book you can know everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or maybe searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You should use it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's read.

#### **Leroy Moore:**

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#### **Joseph Rankins:**

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#### **Mark Smith:**

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely *Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle*. This book that is qualified as *The Hungry Hillside* can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this

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