



## The Company She Keeps

*Georgia Durante*

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## **The Company She Keeps** Georgia Durante

The author describes her connection to the Mafia, which began during her childhood in Rochester, New York, and the years of abuse and fear before she was able to escape from the darkness.

### **The Company She Keeps Details**

Date : Published October 1st 1998 by Celebrity Press

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Author : Georgia Durante

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Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir, Mystery

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## **From Reader Review The Company She Keeps for online ebook**

### **Nichole Green says**

I picked up this book in Cortez, Colorado thinking it'd be an action packed biography about a full time getaway driver for the Mafia. This book definately was action packed, but it lacked in the getaway driver part. Nonetheless, I found myself entranced by Durante's descriptions, and the endless twists and turns. You start with a model, and a crashed lamborgnini, and you end up with a woman whose independence is the only thing keeping her safe from imminent death. It's gritty, shocking, and never ending. I do recommend you buy the newest edition, the photos give another layer to it, or maybe I just enjoy looking at pictures. Who knows.

I'd read it again

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### **Sylwia says**

My heart. This book literally took over my heart and my life when I was reading it.

It was the first autobiography I've ever read but undoubtedly one of the best books that I've ever held.

The author, supermodel Georgia Durante, shares her life story with the readers starting from the early years of her childhood. The book is written so well that you really feel like you're getting to know the author on a personal level, as if she's actually telling you her life story in person.

This comes with an emotional rollercoaster. When it came to an end I didn't even know what I was feeling! After reading about everything she's been through, how could I not feel happy and sympathetic towards her though?

Georgia Durante is honestly an inspiration and after reading the book you realise the important values of life and how they can truly get you through even the toughest of times.

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### **Christie says**

Excellent book. This woman fell into a life that books are to be wrote about. Her involvement in the mob and the way they protected her. Her hardships in relationships were heartbreakng. I admire her for how she overcame adversity and made something of herself....on her terms.

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### **Craig says**

Georgia Durante has lived a life few have. She has had her ups and downs like anyone else has. But with her her highs and lows have been so much more. The book kept me up most nights. With this true life story being

fast paced and an inspiration. And shows how people can have two different sides to them as different as night and day.

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### **Amy says**

The back of the book is false advertising. It leads one to believe the story is about a get-away driver for the Mob but in actuality it's about an egomaniacal woman who makes countless terrible decisions and doesn't learn from any of them; it's a long, drawn out chronicle of her past relationships with men. The get-away driver parts are next to nil. If you want to indulge in a conversation with a woman who relied heavily on her parents to raise her daughter while she grew up in a bar and several marriages, this is for you. There are several other books on the Mafia that are better than this.

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### **Angie says**

I am obsessed with the mafia. This was an interesting perspective of someone not quite "made" but a part of the inner circle of the Rochester mafia. If you can get past the fact that the author is an unrelenting egomaniac, you can be entertained. It was hard for me to respect a woman who repeatedly made such poor mistakes. I hoped to read her epiphany in actual events instead of having her say, "I had my a-ha moment.". Still it was an entertaining read.

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### **Lindsey Jones says**

Couldn't get enough of this book...what a life!

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### **DAISY DISNEY says**

Couldn't get into this one. It got annoying to keep reading about the author's looks.

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### **Amanda says**

I heard Georgia Durante on the breakfast buzz and thought it would be a cool book to read since it's so close to home. I could not stop reading this book, it was amazing!

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### **Maria says**

American Authors Association Review -

She kept dangerous company - and what a great personal story it is!

Model, stunt driver, get-away driver for the mafia and now author, Georgia Durante, gives readers an rare insiders look at a world we never get to see. In her brilliantly written personal memoir, "The Company She Keeps," she exposes the underbelly of the mob. As a former mafia wife and friend to many of the East coast's biggest mobsters, she was in a privileged position to see and hear things that if she talked about could get her killed.

Georgia tells of a life that few can actually relate to in any fashion at all. First off, she is a stunningly beautiful young woman who begins modeling in her hometown. Then, she gets raped, beat up, has her life threatened, used as a get-away driver for a robbery, gets married and divorced several times, abused by boyfriends and husbands, sees friends and people she knows get beaten up and killed, escapes an abusive relationship, is a victim of a deadly stalker, arrested in Vegas, interviewed by the FBI, loses custody of her children at some point in time and creates her own stunt driving business. That only opens up a brief look at the complex world of emotional and spiritual experiences she has endured and survived through.

The book truly reads like a great action novel (like The Godfather) but it has so much more feeling and energy. We finally get to see and feel what this lifestyle is like from the female point of view. You come away realizing how strong this woman was and continues to be. She could have given up and had just gone along with the flow but she chose to take charge of her life and thus took some huge risks in order to become independent and healthy.

For readers who love the Mafia type genre this is a wonderful book. However, if you dig a little deeper into her story you will see an almost stealth like spiritual presence in her story as she evolves and grows emotionally and spiritually. Towards the end of the book, readers who are more in-tune with the universe, will see her change from someone out to have a good time and just survive to someone who is searching for the real meaning in her life. Georgia has taken up the cause of battered and abused women and uses her money, fame and connections for the betterment of others. She has truly come full circle in her life. She is still creating her life-story – but one cannot help but come away from reading this book believing very strongly, that she will continue her spiritual quest for inner peace for herself and others. It is hard not to truly like Georgia, there is just something special that emanates from her very soul – and it is not just skin deep!

I will admit that at times during the reading of this book that I was saddened and had tears for her situation. I even wanted to go strike out against those forces in her life that were so evil and negative. I hurt for her when I read about the abuse she went through. It was an eye-opener for me. I came away with a clearer understanding of the issue of abuse that women and children put up with. It was not comfortable to read but it is message that needs to be shared.

This book has been nominated for one of The American Authors Association's annual book awards. It has also earned their top book rating of FIVE STARS. More importantly, it has earned my highest personal recommendation. The book is a page turner and will emotionally move you long after you finish reading it.

Submitted by AAA Founder - W. H. McDonald, Jr.

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### **Jessica says**

This is a great book. The mob world is something that I knew nothing about, so that was interesting. The social worker in me cried for Georgia and I'm thankful for her speaking out for abused women. Knowing her personally in her life after what the book covers makes it a special book for me. Great lady, great book!

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### **Mark says**

Georgia wrote a first person account of a life that would make a good movie or series. She was a beautiful and wild teenager who got mixed up with gangsters and drove getaway cars while she was modeling for Eastman Kodak. I think most women will find her story compelling and a lot of men will as well. I know I did. She did a good job of telling her story and she's got quite a story to tell.

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### **Melissa VanH. says**

A gritty, hard core insiders look at the world of organized crime, mainly based in Rochester, through the story of this woman's extremely difficult life. Her life is incredible: modeling, stunt driving, every kind of abuse imaginable, several marriages and divorces, plane crashes, murder, crime, corruption, you name it. It was very interesting to read in more detail about the Italian mafia when I've only heard brief stories through family members over the years. It's a world that most of suburbia Rochester is oblivious to.

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### **Roxanne says**

This is a wonderful survivor story about a women who married into the mob and the life she lead. From Beautiful model to driving for gangsters it is a page turner that you just cannot put down. Great for people who like memiors,true crime or just a really good book. It is one that stays with you.

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### **Sonia Reppe says**

(Review originally printed at Bookpleasures.com)

For Georgia Durante, a Rochester-based model in the 60's, the world was "mysterious, exciting, and seductive." She had an "endless appetite for excitement" and she attracted dangerous men. This led to her having several ties to the Mob and more than one bad relationship, which you can read about in her confessional memoir, *The Company She Keeps*.

She started running errands for the Mob as a young mother, leaving her baby daughter with her mother. "I was taken in by the intrigue...without much thought of consequence." After one close call fleeing from a robbery (Georgia at the wheel) she had second thoughts while she accepted her cut of the money, but says she was "hooked on the adrenaline rush." She seems so tough and worldly it is easy to forget that she was just a girl. Some readers might harshly judge her lifestyle; some might say she had it coming when her second husband—who also had ties to the Mob—quickly becomes an abusive, controlling force in her life, cutting her off from friends and family; but that attitude of "those women deserve it" is exactly the attitude that Georgia decries while opining on society's oppressive view of women; which she had to deal with at any early age when she was violently raped by her sister's husband.

This was just the beginning of the reoccurring violence that surrounded her young adult life. Besides witnessing violence in the Mafia and her tumultuous second marriage, her first husband's brother kills his entire family, and later on an obsessive stalker holds a gun to her head. How does she deal with the violent

tendencies of men around her? She says a dark shadow emerged through her pain. As an interesting device, she calls this hard-hearted, desensitized side “Georgia Black” a counter-point and protector to her vulnerable, soft-hearted side, “Georgia White.” Through-out the book, “Black” and “White” take turns emerging in different situations.

This memoir doesn’t fall easily into any category. Coming-of-age at the beginning, turning into survivor memoir mixed with true crime. Georgia shares some insights into the psyche of a domestic abuse victim; when writing about overcoming victim mentality and finding her inner-strength she is at her most introspective. Interestingly, after getting out of her second marriage, she calls her estranged husband (the abuser) to help her out of yet another violent relationship. He sends a guy to “take care of it.” Is this bizarrely sweet? Georgia makes it seem like it’s just another day in her crazy life.

Generally speaking, the second half is depressing as we see Georgia’s personal life fall into shambles but it’s during this time that she pursues a new career in L.A. as a stunt driver and gains confidence in herself.

I called this a “confessional” but sometimes it seems as if Georgia is only partially revealing the truth. Understandably, not too much is revealed about the Mafia or the errands she runs. At some points, she interrupts her personal commentary to give an editorial about the latest Mafia news of that time, but we don’t understand how much she has to do with these situations, and when she says her life revolved around her six-year-old and her new career, the FBI present themselves (for the second time) and it’s revealed that she’s been hanging out with John Gotti and Salvatore Reale. Drug usage is down-played and hinted at defensively; it is things like this, like the casual unremorseful mention of throwing an ashtray at her sister which caused fourteen stitches, which causes the reader to go “whoa—what is really going on here?” In the last chapter, she talks of soul-searching, needing to do inner-work to let light back into her spirit and become whole, but these just seem like superficial phrases.

There is one steady presence that gives the book a romantic quality: that of Frankie, a mobster she met in NYC the summer after high school graduation. He loved her but didn’t want her involved in his kind of life; little did he know she was destined for it anyway when he refused to marry her. They kept up a relationship all through Georgia’s life so far.

This book was originally published in 1998. As a re-release, this mass-market paperback edition includes an epilogue which shows real redemption and genuine soul-searching. Georgia is now involved in leading an abused-women organization and using her adventurous spirit to help people in crisis. I am looking forward to her next memoir.

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