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PROGRAM CBS Morning News

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CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT The Daughter of Sam Giancana

BILL KURTIS: Until he was gunned down in 1975, Sam Giancana was probably the most powerful, most feared organized crime leader in Chicago.

But, he has another epitaph, that of a family man, idolized by his daughter, Antoinette.

Antoinette Giancana tells of the dilemma of loving a man others despise in her new book called Mafia Princess, and joins us now as we welcome Antoinette. Good morning.

ANTOINETTE GIANCANA: Good morning.

KURTIS: How old were you when you realized your father was not like all the other dads in the neighborhood?

GIANCANA: It was in 1952 when I attended public high school.

KURTIS: And how did it come about?

GIANCANA: The children in the class kept poking fun at me and saying, "There's the mobster's daughter. There's the killer's daughter," and that kind of thing was going on between classes. It hurt quite a bit.

KURTIS: Did you go back and ask your father, "Are you?"

GIANCANA: No, I didn't. You know, during that time, we kept our mouth shut. Daughters did not open their mouths.

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KURTIS: There is a code, isn't there, among the women of the families not to talk?

GIANCANA: True. You're right, Bill. I don't know why I'm doing it, but I would like to have seen my father in a different light as all daughters did.

KURTIS: Well, you've always been talkative, though?

GIANCANA: Yes.

KURTIS: As a matter of fact, he wasn't very happy with that back in 1973, was he?

GIANCANA: No, he wasn't at all.

KURTIS: What did he do?

GIANCANA: We had violent arguments between the both of us, and as it states in the book, we had -- he had a high personality. When he loved me, he loved me very much. When he hated me, he hated me with -- with quite a rage, a physical rage.

I remember the last beating I received from him at 23-years-old.

KURTIS: He beat you, did he?

GIANCANA: Yes.

KURTIS: Did he ever threaten to kill you?

GIANCANA: That happened almost once in our times. I had taken out a knife after him, and he in turn cornered me in my bedroom and threw a crystal lamp at me, almost knicking my head.

KURTIS: Were you kicked out of the family?

GIANCANA: Yes, I was, in 1953 when I was divorced from my husband, Tom Emano. You know, father could not stand the divorce.

KURTIS: And they threatened to -- have they threatened you for writing this book?

GIANCANA: No, they haven't. In fact, I've had no static regarding the book at all.

KURTIS: How did he want you to react -- to act? He loved you sometimes.

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GIANCANA: Sometimes.

KURTIS: And you loved him.

GIANCANA: How did he want me to react? Like any father would like his daughter to react. But our society was a very special society. It was always in the limelight in one way or the other. Children were told not to speak out, to keep reasonable hours, to wear reasonably conservative clothing. Everything that was stated, I did the opposite.

KURTIS: He had friends who were well-known, like Frank Sinatra. Now you've mentioned him in the book on a personal level, but on a public level did he do business?

GIANCANA: Yes, he did. Many, many years ago, the Chicago mafia, or the mob, did help Sinatra many, many years ago. So It is true that Sinatra and my father and the Chicago organized crime did help Sinatra. It's the truth.

KURTIS: Tony Eucardo -- how would you describe him?

GIANCANA: In the beginning, he was a very crude man, but now he has mellowed out, as all his men have mellowed out in their latter years -- very fine. I see him in the grocery stores not too long ago. His cancer is really taking over.

KURTIS: Why was your father killed?

GIANCANA: My belief was the CIA did it, but or course as of now we don't have any proof, and those records could possibly be taken out. The CIA can work many ways, you know, in covering up those records.

Some say the mob did it, but there were two cars that were at our house that night but, for 15 minutes they were dispatched to other places. That gives me the impression that maybe the CIA did it because they were dispatched [?] one in a thousand.

KURTIS: We'll read the book to find out more. Mafia Princess. Antoinette Giancana, thanks for being with us.

GIANCANA: Thank you, Bill.

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