

# Watching Sympathetic Perpetrators On Italian Television: A Case Study of the Mafia

In recent years, there has been a growing trend of sympathetic portrayals of Mafia perpetrators on Italian television. This trend has been met with mixed reactions, with some viewers praising the shows for their nuanced and realistic portrayals of complex characters, while others have criticized them for glorifying violence and organized crime.



## Watching Sympathetic Perpetrators on Italian Television: Gomorrah and Beyond by Dana Renga

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2438 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Print length : 418 pages



There are a number of factors that have contributed to this trend. One is the long history of the Mafia in Italy. The Mafia has been a part of Italian society for centuries, and it has played a significant role in shaping the country's culture and politics. As a result, many Italians have a complex and ambivalent attitude towards the Mafia. They may condemn its violence and criminality, but they may also admire its sense of loyalty and family. This ambivalence is reflected in the way that the Mafia is portrayed on television.

Another factor that has contributed to the trend of sympathetic portrayals of Mafia perpetrators is the rise of globalization. In recent decades, Italian television has become increasingly globalized, and Italian shows are now being watched by audiences all over the world. This has led to a greater demand for shows that are both entertaining and culturally relevant. Mafia shows fit this bill, as they offer viewers a glimpse into a world that is both fascinating and foreign.

Finally, the trend of sympathetic portrayals of Mafia perpetrators has also been driven by the changing nature of television itself. In the past, television was seen as a primarily educational and informative medium. However, in recent years, television has become increasingly entertainment-driven. This shift has led to a greater focus on stories that are emotionally engaging and visually appealing. Mafia shows fit this bill, as they offer viewers a high-stakes, action-packed world that is both thrilling and addictive.

The trend of sympathetic portrayals of Mafia perpetrators on Italian television has had a significant impact on viewers. On the one hand, these shows have helped to raise awareness of the Mafia's violence and criminality. On the other hand, they have also helped to create a more sympathetic image of Mafia perpetrators. This can be a dangerous trend, as it can lead viewers to underestimate the threat posed by organized crime.

It is important to note that not all Mafia shows are sympathetic to their subjects. There are a number of shows that have taken a more critical stance, and these shows have been praised for their realism and their unflinching look at the Mafia's violence and brutality. However, the trend of

sympathetic portrayals is undeniable, and it is important to understand the factors that have contributed to it.

The trend of sympathetic portrayals of Mafia perpetrators on Italian television is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. It is driven by a number of factors, including the long history of the Mafia in Italy, the rise of globalization, and the changing nature of television itself. These shows have had a significant impact on viewers, and it is important to be aware of the potential risks and benefits of watching them.



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