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The Life and Treacherous Times of Las Vegas Casino King Steve Wynn

By John L. Smith

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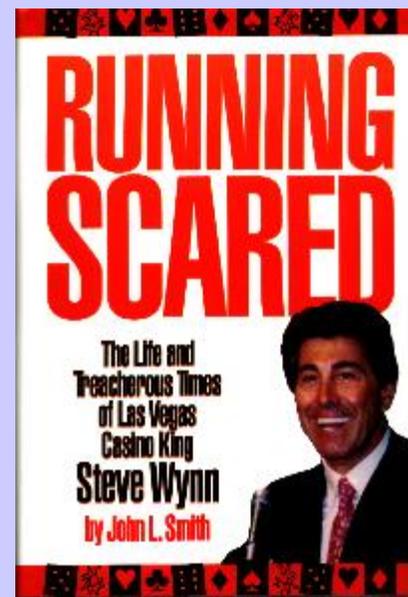
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Our Review

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-Anytime you have an "unauthorized biography", you can expect some juicy dirt to be tossed in the mix. Even better if the subject sues the author and publisher following its publication. And this book has it. Lots of **very** interesting tidbits of the most powerful man in Las Vegas and perhaps the entire State of Nevada. This is the guy with the Mirage, pirates and dolphins. A little background reading for those planning on visiting Las Vegas anytime soon.

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Information from the Publisher

Always supportive

From the Book Cover

Steve Wynn has already sued the author of this book and its publisher twice for material that merely describes its contents!

To his admiring public, Wynn is that smiling fellow who bantered with Frank Sinatra on television commercials for his Atlantic City casino and whose face now promotes his Las Vegas casinos, the Mirage and Treasure Island, as well as his soon-to-be constructed gambling palace in Atlantic City,

This is the investigative biography that he didn't want published.

Wynn is the widely acclaimed genius who revolutionized the casino concept. He has caused America's gaming industry to explode in growth.

The carefully crafted public image of the most dynamic force in today's legalized casino business offers a handsome, university-educated operator in a modern mob-free casino industry. The trouble is that the image is fiction. *Running Scared* reveals a much different Steve Wynn -- one whose reality Wynn has fought to keep in the closet of his past.

The fact is that Wynn has often been accused of shadow-waltzing precariously close to the wise-guy world throughout his meteoric career.

Running Scared tells of Wynn's rapid rise to wealth and power. It began with Wynn's father who was one of the rulers of New York's scandal-ridden world of illegal Bingo. Michael Wynn dealt with a front man for the Genovese crime family. Another of his associates was a point man for Chicago mob lieutenant Johnny Rosselli.

Steve Wynn's 3-percent investment in the Las Vegas Frontier exploded in his face when investigators discovered that the true owners of the hotel were members of the Detroit mob. His early success depended heavily on the friendship and support of Nevada banker E. Parry Thomas. Thomas, a conduit for the mobbed-up Teamsters Union Central States pension fund, was the money man whose loans built the old Las Vegas.

Parry wasn't Steve Wynn's only ally. His casino expansion career was jump-started by convicted felon Michael Milken, the notorious junk bond wheeler-dealer. Milken has been called "the Meyer Lansky of the modern casino era" and Steve Wynn was his best customer.

Running Scared explains Steve Wynn's tremendous power in Nevada where he is easily the most powerful and most feared man in the State. It shatters the Prince Charming myth. It details why a confidential Scotland Yard report

deprived him of a license to open a casino in London.

And this is only the beginning. *Running Scared* offers an intimate look behind the green felt tables, the pretty ladies, the loud music and the feverish whirl of slot machines never before available to the reading public.

This book took courage to write and courage to publish for Wynn is rich, powerful, litigious and, as these pages show, often intensely vindictive.

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About the Author

John L. Smith is an award-winning columnist for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. He's a fourth-generation Nevadan. He and his wife make their home in the quiet hills that surround noisy Las Vegas.

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