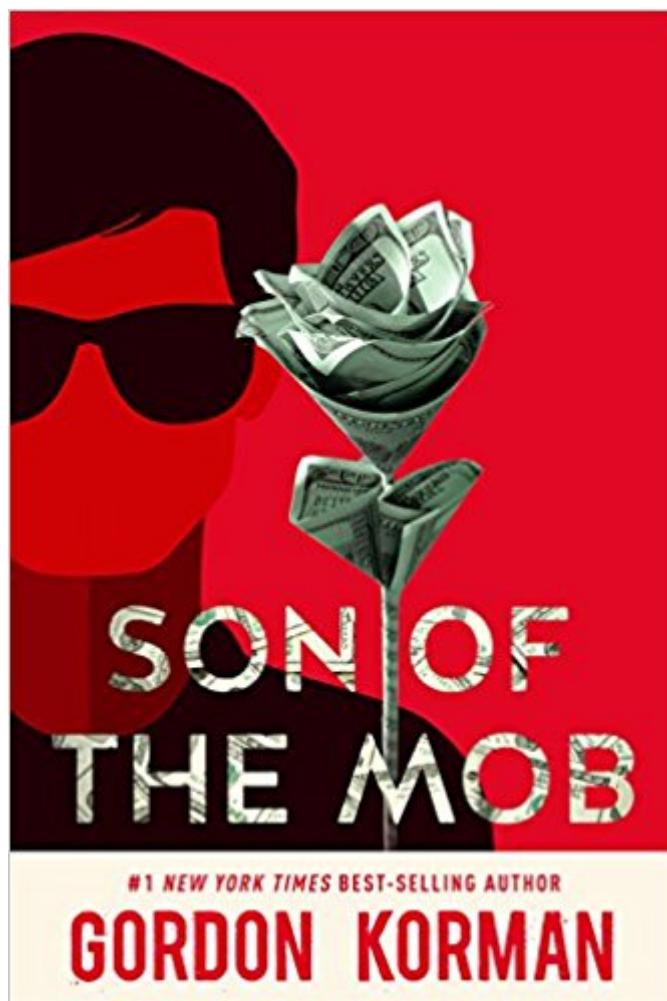


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# Son Of The Mob (repackage)



## **Synopsis**

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 from other kids-his father happens to be the head of a powerful crime organization. Needless to say, Vince's family's connections 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 a girl 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 Vince's father away for good. An ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults An ALA Top Ten Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year "A fast-paced, tightly focused story." -The Horn Book "[An] expertly plotted escapade." -Booklist "Funny and unexpectedly affecting." -Publishers Weekly

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## **Customer Reviews**

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 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Former 8th grade ELA teacher, now an Admin, this book was AMAZING and by far my favorite unit. The kids love it and I mean, all of them. It was a page turner and has a Romeo and Juliette theme which lead them into high school. Very cute and funny and the main character is a boy so this was a

great hook for the non-reading male.

This is a great book for reluctant readers in grades 7th through 10th grade. Older high school students may enjoy it to. I used this book in my high school special education English classes. The students enjoyed it and insisted that I teach this in my future classes. The narrator is funny, the plot line is interesting, and characters are engaging. High school students can relate to the main character's difficulty with navigating problems which occur with his family, his girl friend, and best friend. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in getting their students excited about reading.

My 15 year old son loved this book. Not for kids under 15 in my book due to the fact I believe in PG 15 not 13...

Just like any other seventeen-year-old, Vince Luca has problems. His best friend Alex can't get a date so he lives his love life vicariously through Vince. The problem is, Vince isn't doing so well in the date department either. Problem number two? Vince's older brother Tommy is a hothead and a real pain in Vince's neck. Even when he means well, Tommy tends to screw up Vince's life. Tommy opted to drop out of high school and join their father's 'vending machine business.' His father's business - that's Vince's biggest problem and it's a not-so-normal one. Anthony "Honest Abe" Luca is the president of Brothers Vending Machine - and one of the most powerful Mob bosses in New York. Vince loves his dad, but he hates what 'Honest Abe' does for a living. Even though Vince's dad respects his decision to keep out of the vending machine business, that business has a way of intruding on every aspect of Vince's life. So even though Alex keeps reminding him that, "it's my love life too," Vince doesn't think it's worth it to explain his father's life style (or to try and keep it a secret) just to take some girl out on a date. All that changes when Vince meets Kendra Bightly. He feels a connection to Kendra that he's never felt with anyone else. There's just one tiny problem: Kendra's dad is the FBI agent in charge of the ongoing investigation into Vince's dad. Trying to date Kendra without her dad hearing about it on a wire-tap, let alone trying to keep the family business a secret from her, may be the biggest problem Vince has ever faced.

Vince is a typical 17-year-old in an atypical situation, where breaking the law is normal, while following the law when doing something for someone shows you "really care" about them. The way Korman depicts The Life from a frustrated teenager's eyes is witty and hilarious and kept me turning

the pages, even when I could already predict who was putting up the "Kendra and Vince for Homecoming king and queen" signs and why the Meow Marketplace was filling up with odd advertisements for cats. The ending is happy, but in the long run, I kind of doubt Vince and Kendra can pull it off. An FBI agent may not do anything about his daughter seeing a mob prince, but a mob king will very likely do something efficient about his son seeing an agent's daughter. Also, as Vince had mentioned, if Kendra's dad puts Vince's family in jail, how will he feel toward Kendra? But, there's the sign of a really good book, that it kept me thinking about it long after I'd read it. Worth every penny!

Vince Luca is a likable character who just wants to be a regular kid. While reading about his trials as the mobster's son, I was continually pleased when Vince made the right decisions in each situation, even when he tried to create a financial plan for Jimmy and Ed, and especially in the situation with his brother Tommy's "forgive me" present. Vince is overall a great guy with a good head on his shoulders. The book contained some nice turns--Kendra's dad shows up at the mall, compromising pictures of Vince turn up even though he's been fighting the mob life, Ray turns out to be what he seems to be. And for all the strings that Korman lays down, he ties them up fairly well in the end. A good read with a nice ending and a likable narrator. Not every young adult book these days can say that.

Son of the mob is a very good books I love it!! also made my friend made it and she fell in love with this

I just finished reading this book, and all though the writing is a little bit awkward in some areas, the story line is fantastic. Vince's family is in the "vending maching" buisness, but Vince wants no part of "the Life". Instead he makes an honest attempt to stay sane and in good terms with the law. This all changes when he meet's his new girlfriend who's father is an FBI agent, who just happens to be bugging their house!! Vince has to find out some way to hide this from his parents, and never let her dad find out he's the son of "Honest Abe Luca"

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