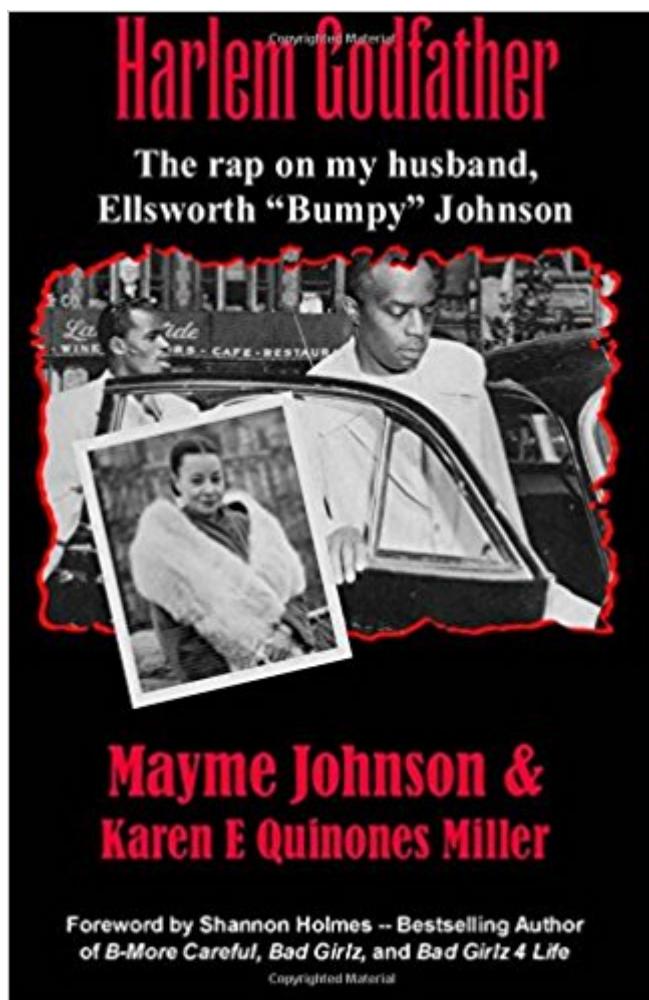


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# Harlem Godfather: The Rap On My Husband, Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson



## **Synopsis**

The first and only full biography on legendary Harlem gangster, Bumpy Johnson who was depicted in the movies Cotton Club, Hoodlum and American Gangster Al Capone may have ruled Chicago. Lucky Luciano may have run most of New York City. But from the 1930s to the late 1960s, when it came to Harlem, the undisputed king of the underworld was Ellsworth Bumpy Johnson. Bumpy was a man whose contradictions are still the root of many an argument in Harlem. But there is one thing on which both his supporters and detractors agree in his lifetime, Bumpy was the man in Harlem. *Harlem Godfather: The Rap on My Husband, Ellsworth Bumpy Johnson* is the first complete biography of a man who for years was Harlem's best kept, and most cherished secret. There is also a full chapter on Madame Stephanie St. Clair, the infamous Harlem numbers banker who instigated the famous fight with Jewish mobster Dutch Schultz. The book is written by Bumpy's widow, Mayme Johnson, and details not only his criminal life but also his personal life. This book also details Bumpy's relationship with Frank Lucas, who has called himself Bumpy's right-hand man, but was -- according to Mrs. Johnson -- little more than a flunky.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Bumpy Johnson was Harlem. Period. Here, he becomes more than a conflicted character in Hoodlum or a blatant misrepresentation in American Gangster. Here, his charisma and creativeness prove he should be acknowledged with all the great bosses of the "mafia" heyday. -- The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers "The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers [www.rawsistaz.com](http://www.rawsistaz.com)" "I recommend Harlem

Godfather: The Rap on my Husband, Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson to anyone wanting to know the truth about the real American gangster." -- Jennifer Coissiere - APOOO Book Club "APOOO Book Club [www.apooo.com](http://www.apooo.com)"

Al Capone may have ruled Chicago. Lucky Luciano may have run most of New York City. But from the 1930s to the late 1960s, when it came to Harlem, the undisputed king of the underworld was Ellsworth Bumpy Johnson. He was called an old-fashioned gentleman. He was called a pimp. A philanthropist and a thief. A scholar and a thug. A man who admonished children to stay in school, and a man who some say introduced heroin into Harlem. Bumpy was a man whose contradictions are still the root of many an argument in Harlem. But there is one thing on which both his supporters and detractors agree in his lifetime, Bumpy was the man in Harlem. If you wanted to do anything in Harlem, anything at all, you'd better stop and see Bumpy because he ran the place. Want to open a number spot on the Avenue? Go see Bumpy. Thinking about converting your brownstone into a speakeasy? Check with Bumpy first. The police knew it they came to him to negotiate peace between young street gangs. The politicians knew it they counted on him to deliver votes on Election Day. Even the Italian and Jewish syndicate knew it, although they had to find out the hard way. *Harlem Godfather: The Rap On My Husband, Ellsworth Bumpy Johnson* is the first complete biography of a man who for years was Harlem's best kept, and most cherished secret.

I really enjoyed reading this book I didn't want to put it down it was never boring and I was amazed how Mr. Bumpy Johnson rose from an unknown street thug to the renowned Godfather of Harlem. There are so many that don't believe who Bumpy Johnson was, but I know family members (an great aunt who is still alive at 98) that migrated to Harlem from Georgia in the 30's and 40's that knew him in passing and what he was, they whispered about him with awe. Frank Lucas story of his life is a fairy tale even the detective that arrested him said he was a liar and a snitch. Bumpy Johnson was no snitch and nobody's flunky or henchman. Bumpy Johnson was who he was.....a Gangster, he made no excuses for that but he did it his way. I wished he could have used that same talent and energy for a more respectable profession but he used what was given to him at the time, and of all the old gangsters of his time he was the last man standing. I would highly recommend this book if you are interested in the Real black gangsters of Harlem. Frank Lucas ain't it.

A quick, easy, and interesting read. Miss Mayme, one of my grandmother's former neighbors, set the record straight!! Learned a lot. Not just a book about a famous Harlem gangster from yesteryear,

it's also a history lesson because Bumpy's life touched and crossed paths with everyday people and numerous famous people in and outside of Harlem.

I purchased the Kindle edition of this book. Best 5.99 I ever spent. I really wish there was a tip jar because I owe someone some more money. More than just a story about the notorious Harlem Godfather Bumpy Johnson, this book puts you square in the middle of the action during the Harlem Renaissance. Mayme Johnson was only married to Bumpy Johnson for three years, but she lives several lifetimes in those three years. She knew or knew of EVERYBODY. From Sarah Vaughn to Billie Holiday to all the hipster party goers, hustlers and cops. Reading this book gives me more than an inside look at Bumpy Johnson's life, it gives me an inside look into life in Harlem. Harlem, at that time, had to be the sexiest place the world and in this book, the story of Harlem is told with just as much care as the story about Bumpy Johnson.

This book tells the story of the original "American Gangster" Ellsworth 'Bumpy' Johnson as told by his wife Ms. Mayme Johnson. As with any bio book about a infamous person written by a loving spouse you will see a certain amount of bias, especially when it comes to violence but Ms. Mayme did a fine job of telling about the good and the bad of the legendary Bumpy Johnson. After first seeing Bumpy's story in the movies 'Hoodlum', 'The Cotton Club' and a snippet in 'American Gangster', I wanted to read more about this man. In my opinion none of the movies did him justice but Hoodlum at least had some of the facts straight. This book gives the most complete story we will ever have. Of course Ms. Mayme was not there to witness acts of violence and must rely on what was told to her by Bumpy or his associates regarding these acts. I enjoyed learning about his family history but especially liked the description of the co-author's encounter with the Queen, Madame St. Claire. It was good to read another example of the exagerations told by fellow legendary gangster, Frank Lucas. I mean isn't he enough of a bad-a\*\* without having to make up things? Another excellent book on this topic is 'Sargent Smack', the story of the real Ike Atkinson who also exposes the many delusions in the mind of Frank Lucas. I read the Kindle edition of this book after waiting almost six months for the price to go down and it's well worth the current price. A very good read. Well-written and hard to put down. Like taking a stroll down the streets of Harlem back in the day. Kindle Edition Review #12 - 12/22/11

As a New Yorker very interesting and I enjoyed.

I had been interested in reading about "Bumpy" from the days of "Shaft" and "Hoodlum". Just who was this guy that instilled fear into the hearts of "BIG" "BAD" Mafia hoods like Dutch Shultz and demanded respect from Luciano? The way other gangster books and movies told the story: The game began and ended with Italians. Everybody knows Capone, Luciano, Gambino etc.... But who was Bumpy Johnson? Mayme told the story the way it was!! And introduced many more characters of the underworld that no one had ever heard about.....Unless you were there in the game!And this is what I liked about the book: IT WAS FRESH!!! New information that I had not read before in The Godfather, Goodfellas and other Mob books (And God knows i've read 'em all!).I HIGHLY recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Bumpy and the Harlem that has been misrepresented in the media. My only complaint is that it wasn't long enough. Mayme made me feel like I knew her and I could listen to her forever!!!! Thank you for telling the real story!

Where do I begin?! Let me just say this book is EXACTLY what I was looking for. I wanted to read or learn about the life and times of a gangsta from a "black point of view" back in the days. This book is just that. Even though it is supposed to have been told from his wife's point of view, it is still as gritty as can possibly be. The book was a little of 200 pages and I think I finished it in 2-3 days during the work week. The book had a few grammar errors but Im a trucker not an editor. That was not an issue for me. lol The STORY, whether true or not, was great!!! What else do you want when you open a book if not a GOOD STORY?????? The main character and the story is in Harlem NY. I suspect people from New York would enjoy it even more.

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