



Gentleman of Leisure: A Year in the Life of a Pimp

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"The term is pimp, but I don't use it. I'm a professional gentleman of leisure. And I make more money than the president."

—Silky

Every city-dweller has seen them, and ever city-dweller could list the telltale signs: the fur, the gold, the hats, the cars. They are the original macks, the original players. They are Big City pimps—the heroes of gangsta rap. Bob Adelman and Susan Hall dive headlong into their world in the classic investigative docudrama *Gentleman of Leisure: A Year in the Life of a Pimp*, an in-depth exploration of the underworld figures that populate our streets at night. The first book of its kind, *Gentleman of Leisure*, originally published in 1972 and now reproduced in a facsimile edition, is a collection of photographs and interviews dramatically documenting the private life of a pimp and his prostitutes. The people who appear in this book are not models: they are real people with real lives. Only their names have been changed to protect the guilty, their stories are real.

Armed only with a camera and a tape recorder, Adelman and Hall entered the lives of the pimp Silky and his women. What they found flew in the face of prevailing prejudices: stripped of stereotype and myth, the pimps and whores that shared their tales were complex people embroiled in romantic dramas, with a code of behavior as intricate as the Mafia's, and a defined sense of self.

This stunning exposé of Silky and his ladies —Lois, Linda, Kitty, Tracey, and Sandy— explains the passionate bond between a pimp and his "ho's"; why shrewd, street-smart working girls find glamour in their lives and choose to give all their money to their pimp; and why they stay with him through incarcerations, despite their jealousies, the burden of their work, and even occasional beatings. You learn how a square girl is "turned out" to be a ho and a pimp's "wife." You visit the pimp's tailor and see the source of his fly applejack hats and his mink coats—the tools of his game. You spend evenings at family parties: one man and his many wives. You learn from his wives how this pimp commands such passionate devotion, and arouses jealousy and rebellion in the girls. He explains

his game. This is a true story. The secret, intimate, and private world of a pimp and his whores is revealed, cinema vérité-style, in *Gentleman of Leisure*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"The term is pimp, but I don't use it...I'm a professional gentleman of leisure." So begins the introduction to *Silky*, a self-made buyer, owner and seller of women who, when these interviews took place in 1972, claimed to "make more money than the President of the United States." He, along with fellow pimp Dandy and "prosses" Sandy, Kitty, Linda, Tracey and Lois, are the subjects of this offbeat guide to a "Family's" life on the "Stroll." Award-winning photographer Adelman and film producer/writer Hall relay the down and dirty of the crew's day-to-day, dealing hepped-out philosophical musings ("The game is deep. In being a mack, you're supposedly the supreme being of man. Man rules woman. In being a mack, you acknowledge this fact."), spats between the girls and their pimps and candid photographs ranging from hokey Christmas portraits to the suggestively lewd to the overtly sexual. Much of the dialogue revolves around the politics of orgasms, emotional rants concerning the ever-possessive and disarmingly virile Silky, or the 69 different ways of getting off-all of which is titillating at first, but can be tiresome when consumed in too large a dose. Photos.

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About the Author

Bob Adelman has photographed cover stories for countless magazines, including *Esquire*, *Time*, *People*, *Life*, *New York*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Paris Match*. He has photographed or written more than a dozen books and produced countless others. His most recent book is *King: The Photobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Abrams, 2004). An award-winning photographer, Adelman has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEA grant, and several Art Directors Club Awards. His photographs have been exhibited at the Smithsonian, the American Federation of Arts, and several other institutions. They are included in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Adelman has taught at The Center of Photography at Woodstock, The New School, and School of Visual Arts. He currently lives in Miami Beach. Susan Hall is a film producer and writer whose work has won awards from the American, San Francisco, Vancouver, and Venice Film Festivals. Adelman and Hall have collaborated on *Down Home* (McGraw-Hill, 1972), and three children's books, *On and Off the Street* (Viking Press, 1970), *Street Smart* (McGraw-Hill, 1972) and *Out of Left Field* (Prairie House, 1976). They have used their candid photograph and edited tape recording technique to develop a series of primers to teach reading. Hall lives in New York City.

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Luis Ray:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this Gentleman of Leisure: A Year in the Life of a Pimp publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still uncertainty Gentleman of Leisure: A Year in the Life of a Pimp as good book but not only by the cover but also through the content. This is one e-book that can break don't evaluate book by its protect, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Dona Henry:

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