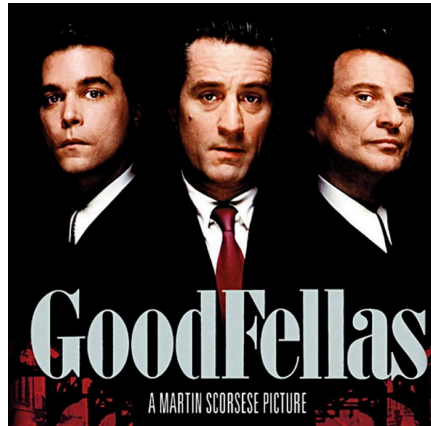


## Thoughts on *GoodFellas*

12.31.25



So in the last month or so, I have finally come around to watching a bunch of the Pacino, De Niro and Scorsese classics. I've been on a huge Mobster kick, going through *The Godfather* series, *Heat*, *GoodFellas*, *Casino*, and now I'm making my way through *The Sopranos*. The best way I can describe all these classics is like olives. When I was younger with a closed off, shallow and immature mind these movies (like *GoodFellas*) seemed boring to me. Now that I have opened my mind and grown some hair on my nuts I can fully appreciate these masterpieces. Just like my relationship with olives. Full circle metaphor bang. Anywho, what an absolute treat to get to watch all of these movies for the first time. Now let's get into the movie I am here to talk about that I watched most recently.

There are so many scenes from this movie that are burned into my mind. From the paused shot of Henry running from the explosion in the beginning (see below) to the whole scene where



Henry leads Karen into the restaurant through the mob entrance and it's all filmed in one continuous shot. That scene might be one of the coolest scenes I've ever watched. How the world seemingly chaotically revolves around Henry in that moment is such a cool encapsulation to me of his pull/gravity as a wiseguy and the chaotic nature of his line of work. I can see why Henry always wanted to be a gangster, and that scene demonstrates it beautifully in the doors and leverage it opens in the intimacy they unlock by using a special entrance finished with how they

skip the whole line to get a table front and center. Anywho I'm nerding out about that one scene but it was so sick. The movie did such a good job with Henry Hill's arc and progression. His integration and ascension in the Wiseguys, to reaping the benefits, to eventually putting too much on his plate/flying too close to the sun and crashing and burning. Watching Henry by the end of the film was quite literally stressing me out; that's how well the movie sold it. The hectic and non-stop nature of how the scenes cut and Henry moves before he's busted for his drug operation is insane and had me on the edge of my seat and feeling his angst.

De Niro is the fucking man. What an actor and role in this movie. His character is ruthless but charming, and he plays it to a tee. Pesci literally plays the same character he plays in *Casino* lmao. The dude is just a dickhead crashout who has the shortest fuse and biggest ego of all time. He absolutely killed it too and like I said at the beginning I always kinda thought these guys weren't everything public opinion cracked them up to be but they smoked it and made the movie what it is. Paulie is also the fucking man and goated Unc status. He actually has a cool head but is dealing with a bunch of hothead youngsters who don't want to do shit with care and the precision necessary to keep themselves protected. Felt bad for him when he went down at the end cause you can tell he knew wtf he was doing and Jimmy Henry and Tommy (before he gets whacked) just run his ship into the ground.

Long story short, I just enjoyed watching this movie. It absolutely flew by and I genuinely want to watch it again right now lol. It will enter that category of movies that if I'm watching TV and I see this movie on I will immediately be suckered in and my next 3 hours are cooked. This movie and *Heat* genuinely entered my top 10 immediately upon first watch and sent me down a De Niro hole (pause that). Next up for me is *Taxi Driver* which I am amped for because I genuinely don't think De Niro and Scorsese can miss together. Anyways, absolute classic and I just enjoyed tf out of watching this. One of those instances where something critically acclaimed just completely lives up to the hype and then some.