

To Be A King
by
G.A. Lindbloom

....is a classic saga of Mafia politics, power, love, betrayal, and Machiavellian deception around every corner. Set in modern Detroit, the story chronicles one young Mafioso's against-all-odds rise to power, fall from grace, then rise again through the ranks of the city's little-known but very real La Cosa Nostra faction. Among his many exploits is his attempt to gain the support of La Cosa Nostra's sacred Commission, a reclusive pantheon of powerful mob bosses who represent factions of the Mafia all over the country, and are led by the heads of the New York "Families," who secretly delve out power on behalf of the Mafia's true shot-callers a half-world away in Sicily, the Cappi Supremo.

Omnio "King" Falcone, a statuesque young adonis with a powerful physique and dangerous abon eyes, is the grandson of Don "The Butcher" Falcone, Detroit's onetime "Capo de Tutti Cappi," Boss of all Bosses. Omnio is only one of the aging Don's eight grandsons, but the others are products of his three daughters, making Omnio the Don's last and only male heir, landing the burden of carrying on their family name firmly on his shoulders, a responsibility so sacred to the Sicilian that it takes precedence over all else.

But there is a problem. Omnio's blood is not pure. He is only half Sicilian. His father had broken the age-old Sicilian tradition of marrying the betrothed daughter of an equally powerful Capo in order to strengthen both families. Instead, against his father's advice, he married a beautiful young Jewish woman who had not been mentally prepared for life as a Mafioso's wife. Just weeks after the birth of Omnio, their first and only child, her mind broke when her new husband was murdered under mysterious circumstances, making baby Omnio the sole heir to the Falcone thron.

Because of his mixed lineage, however, the odds are stacked against him, for one of La Cosa Nostra's most sacred decrees prohibits anyone but pure-bred Sicilians from becoming a "Made" men, a title that is so often misnomered by fiction novelists and Hollywood dramas. Being Made is much more than just a title or status symbol. It's an honor. The process itself involves a complex, sacred blood-oath that dates back millennia, an oath that ancient Sicilian peasants once swore to their "Men of Honor," powerful local land barons known as "Omniosi." To break this oath meant the eradication of their bloodline. To honor it, though, meant they would be loved, protected, and cared for by their Omnioso, as well as respected and feared by all who knew him.

Today in modern times being Made is the greatest honor that can be bestowed upon a Sicilian Mafioso, for once he takes this sacred blood-oath he becomes untouchable, protected from his enemies by the Mafia's hierarchy of Familie Capos. But far more important, it significantly raises his rank, and affords him the right to operate directly under a Familie Capo, a family boss. He must kick a significant portion of his earnings up to the Capo who controls the territory he operates in, as well as a monthly largesse to the Commission as payment for sanctioning his new "Made" status within the Syndicate. And if he can eventually prove his worth by contributing enough monies to the Commission's coffers, and he adheres to La Cosa Nostra's sacred decrees of honor and loyalty, he may even be granted permission to establish his own Familia within the Syndicate.

Because of Omnio's mixed blood, he grew up ostracized by much of his family,

and was constantly looked down upon with contempt by his thoroughbred Sicilian cousins and uncles. So, isolated by his family as he comes into manhood, he is forced to strike out on his own as a maverick, a bottom-rung, street level wise guy. But he does have one advantage--he is guided by his grandfather, who has been pruning him to take over the Familia his entire life. But the Syndicate Cappi are not prepared to accept Omnio. And they watch him closely as he slowly begins assembling a small, rag-tag coterie of low-level wise guys who have no ties to any of the Syndicate Familias. The powerful Syndicate bosses tolerate him out of respect for Don Falcone, but do not approve of him, even if they do consider he and his crew relatively harmless. But Omnio's crew is far from harmless. Yes, by traditional standards they are a motley assemblage, some of them not even Sicilian, or even Italian, but they are ambitious, loyal, and dedicated to him. And guided by the Mafia's sacred decrees that his grandfather had so painstakingly instilled in him, he quickly earns the love and respect of the men who soon find themselves calling him boss.

By age seventeen, already Omnio and his crew are involved in a number of profitable illicit street rackets, from gambling and extortion, to fencing stolen merchandise and running chop shops, to drugs and prostitution. But he is encroaching on territories and rackets belonging to the Syndicate, and he soon finds himself at odds with the various Familias. Concerned he is cutting too deep into their profits, they take the matter to the current Boss of Bosses, Omnio's execrable uncle Leoni, who obliges them by yanking Omnio's police protection in the city's outlying suburbs, where the profits are the highest, and restrict his operations to the ghettos within the city limits.

Though this infuriates Omnio, it does nothing to deter him. He simply disregards his uncle's orders and, even after two failed attempts on his life, continues expanding his operations out of the city, building up his crew with blatant disregard for the complaining Syndicate bosses. But his insolence soon forces the Commission to intervene before an all-out war erupts, which they cannot have with the city on the verge of legalizing gambling, a racket that will allow them to skim huge revenue from the casinos they plan to erect with the use of select front men.

The Commission's intervention, though, is not what Leoni and other Syndicate bosses were expecting, for they had been hoping to get the green light to get rid of him permanently, but instead are told to leave Omnio alone, to let him operate without their interference. His only penalty is he will no longer receive their police protection.

Nevertheless, even without the Syndicate's protective umbrella of paid police gendarmerie and government officials, Omnio still flourishes, taking in millions from his ever-expanding illicit rackets. But his success and right to operate with impunity soon breeds resentment and jealousy, especially since he is a "Dragon," a half-breed who by tradition can never rise above the rank of street soldier. Certain Cappi believe he is receiving preferential treatment because of Don Falcone's influence, which makes them nervous, for they know he is dangerous. He is the prodigy of The Butcher, who, before making the mistake of handing the reins of power over to his repugnant son-in-law, Leoni, was once the most dangerous and powerful Mafioso Detroit had ever known.

Fearing Omnio may soon attain the backing of the other Syndicate Cappi, Leoni asks the Commission bosses to sanction a hit on him before he can further stir up trouble. But the Commission has informants in the Detroit Syndicate, and know he is being influenced by his son, Anthony, a newly Made Man and narcissistic power-monger with an inferiority complex. They know the history

between the two young cousins, how Anthony resents his older cousin because Omnio has always been bigger, stronger, smarter, better-looking, and, most importantly, favored by their grandfather, Don Falcone. But, out of respect for the aging Don, the Commission refuses to sanction the hit. At least not while Don Falcone is still alive.

Though Omnio is well aware of the fact that his uncle and cousin are out to get him, he is not dissuaded. He remains steadfast and focused, determined to make a name for himself and take his rightful place within the Syndicate. And he is making all the right moves, kicking serious monies up to the Syndicate bosses, sending the Commission its due share. His men are loyal and devoted. His best friend and faithful underboss, Jonny New York, has sworn his life to him, and proven his loyalty by saving Omnio's life in a botched assassination attempt by a pair of contract killers. Together they have hatched a master stratagem that will either earn them the favor of the Commission, or cost them their lives in the process. For Omnio has a vision, secretly harboring a grandiose dream of someday leading La Cosa Nostra from the penumbral shadows into a new era of legitimate business enterprise. And thanks to years of tutelage from his grandfather, coupled with his intrinsically brilliant mind and street savvy, as well as the devotion of his faithful lieutenants, he has all the right tools to do just that.

Unfortunately, just when the Commission is finally ready to recognize him as legitimate part of the Detroit Syndicate, just when he is finally gaining the respect and support of the old-time Syndicate bosses, a beautiful young Mafia princess arrives in town. Her father, the second most powerful Mafioso on the planet, second only to his imprisoned father, has sent her to Michigan to attend medical school at the University of Michigan. And he has entrusted her care to an old and respected friend of his father's, Don The Butcher Falcone. Both Omnio and his invidious cousin Anthony are instantly smitten by her, and a war for her affection soon erupts, a war that ends with Omnio sentenced to life in federal prison.

But Don Falcone does not plan to let his beloved Omnio die in prison, which would mean the extinction of his bloodline. Determined to see his name live on, he seeks the help of an old friend, the life of whom he had saved over fifty years ago in Seoul Korea, when the two of them were young marines. The night he saved this now influential friend was the very night he earned his moniker, "The Butcher," by using his trusty buck knife to dispatch five Korean thugs bent on revenge after receiving the worst end of drunken bar brawl. Now fifty years later, the ailing Don, as his dying wish, asks this friend for one last favor.

Four years later Omnio emerges from federal prison a free man, having received a Presidential Pardon. But in the eight years since his imprisonment, things have changed. Under the immense pressures of being Detroit's Capo de Tutti Cappi, his once powerful and intimidating uncle Leoni has slowly begun losing his mind, as well as the respect of his subordinate Syndicate bosses, all of whom are secretly positioning themselves for a play at the throne. Everyone knows Leoni's days are numbered, and the time is right for a coup d'etat. And Omnio has a plan to speed things along. While in prison he made some new friends, powerful friends from New York, friends who do not want to see a low-profile faction like Detroit's become a high-profile one over a war between Families. So he strikes a deal with them. If he can help get the Detroit Syndicate back under control, they assure him they will support his lofty dreams of becoming a Made Familia Capo. And in the process he'll get to settle the score with his cousin Anthony.

For those who want a peek into the Mafia's clandestine world, the real La Cosa Nostra beyond over-dramatized Hollywood productions, *To Be A King* is a must-read. But this book will afford you more than just a peek. You will be transformed into the story, become a part of its tapestry, feel as if you are there in the room with the characters. Love them or loathe them, they will become so vivid, so real that you will feel you know them personally, empathize with their plight, feel what they feel, see what they see, think what they think.

Come, let G.A. Lindbloom open the doors to La Cosa Nostra's secret hypogean world. Become privy to their incredible history, codes and traditions that date back thousands of years, codes and traditions that today govern an international organization that spans the globe and generates proceeds far exceeding even the largest Fortune 500 companies, earning an estimated \$40 billion annual, a number co-published by the FBI and Interpol in 2008. Due to certain leaders losing sight of what kept them in existence for thousands of years, breaking "Omerta," La Cosa Nostra's sacred vow of silence, the Mafia has been dealt several major blows over the past two decades. Yet today it remains stronger than ever. The remaining leaders have adapted, learned from their mistakes, and are now reinforcing their age-old decrees, sacred codes of conduct, to the younger generations. After the highly publicized exploits of the New York and Philadelphia factions in the 90's, the Commission and their national constituents have reverted back to their ancient Sicilian roots by taking on a much, much lower profile. In fact, the ancient Latin word "Mafia" actually translates to "Bold Secret Warriors," because ancient Sicilians dared to defy the countless oppressive invaders--Greeks, Persians, Romans, Normans, Moors, Ottomans--who temporarily occupied the poor but proud Island of Sicily throughout history.

And Today the descendants of these bold Sicilian warriors have evolved and adapted to modern times. They are just as secret and bold as their ancient ancestors, but they have found ways to use their culture and sacred decrees to build an international empire that few know exists. Most people have no idea that La Cosa Nostra is more than just a bunch of thugs and gangsters who have slicked hair and talk with a New England accent. Today's Mafia is a college-educated, enterprising business entity so interwoven into the very fabric of global commerce that it affects nearly every facet of modern society. If you live in a large American or European city, you can be sure that La Cosa Nostra maintains a secret but very real presence there. So the next time you're out dining at your local Italian restaurant, and you happen to notice a dangerous-looking man in an expensive suit whispering in argot Sicilian to the restaurant's proprietor, consider that man may be more than the proprietor's poison. He may be the descendant of an ancient line of Sicilian warrior, there to collect his monthly street tax.

Read "*To Be A King*," and see what it takes to be a contemporary Mafia King. There has not been a Mafia epic this complex, this vivid, or this iconic since *The Godfather Trilogy*. And there may never be another. But don't take our word for it. Simply click and read for yourself...