

The Sicilian Study Guide

The Sicilian by Mario Puzo

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Plot Summary

The Sicilian, by Mario Puzo, is the exciting story of Turi Guiliano who is a legendary bandit in Sicily. He became a bandit by accident. Having killed a police officer who shot him, he fled to the mountains and became a bandit to survive. He had rules and principles that had to be followed. Half of the band's profits had to be given to the poor and this is why he and his band were legendary and supported by the people.

Turi had his cousin, Aspanu, as his second in command in the hills that they had played in as children. Turi began with a fear of the Mafia and would not have anything to do with them. He was spotted by the powerful Mafia man Don Croce as a possible successor and in the early days Don Croce helped Turi out. However, Turi came to hate the Mafia and was determined to destroy them in his desire to help the poor people of Sicily. Turi saw himself as serving the poor while he viewed the Mafia as serving the rich.

Little by little, Turi encroaches on their territory. He also becomes more ruthless and violent during his seven years in the hills. The government mounts a major campaign against him but needs his help in suppressing the Communists and Socialists. He is promised by Don Croce that the government will halt its campaign against him and give him a pardon in exchange for his help. He agrees to help them and then is set up by Don Croce with the massacre at Portella della Ginestra. By this time he and Don Croce are bitter enemies.

When Michael Corleone is ready to leave Sicily and return to America after his two year exile, his plans are changed when he receives orders from his father, Vito Corleone to meet with Don Croce and help Turi Guiliano escape to America. At the luncheon with the Mafia don is a high ranking police official who also says he is trying to help Turi escape. Michael is not sure what is going on especially when he finds that Don Croce and Turi are bitter enemies but he tried to follow the orders of his father. Michael receives Turi's Testament and sends it on to America, thinking it will be published in the event of Turi's death. The Testament and the documents with it will bring down the Christian Democrat government.

This book is full of suspense as are all of the Puzo novels and the reader will have a hard time putting the book down once he/she begins it. It is easy reading for anyone who likes a good novel. The reader will be caught up in who will betray whom, who will kill whom and who will strike where. The book is well worth the time spent reading it.



Chapters 1-2

Chapters 1-2 Summary

The Sicilian, by Mario Puzo, is the exciting story of Turi Guiliano who is a legendary bandit in Sicily. He became a bandit by accident. Having killed a police officer who shot him, he fled to the mountains and became a bandit to survive. However, she had rules and principles that had to be followed. Half of the band's profits had to be given to the poor and this is why he and his band were legendary and supported by the people.

Michael Corleone has been in exile for two years in Sicily. He is due to meet Don Croce Malo to arrange for Salvatore Guiliano's escape from Sicily. He walked across the pier toward three men, Father Benjamino Malo, Inspector Frederico Velardi, and Stefan Andolini. After introduction, they all get into the car. They drive to the Hotel Umberto where the entrance was sealed after their arrival.

In their suite, Don Croce warmly embraces Michael. After eating, they talk about Salvatore Guiliano. It appears that Guiliano no longer trusts Don Croce who was to deliver him to Michael for transport to America. Michael can only wait seven days. He comments on Inspector Velardi's involvement. Apparently Guiliano could name enough officials who are corrupt that it would cause a collapse of the government which would open the door for the Socialists and Communists. To keep this quiet, Velardi is willing to help Guiliano escape.

Michael's orders are to wait in Trapani for Guiliano but Don Croce wants him to go to Montelepre to visit Guiliano's parents. Stefan Andolini drove Michael to Montelepre and tells Michael that Guiliano and Don Croce are enemies.

Michael tells the Guiliano's that he has come to help Turi and must be in Trapani in the morning. The men go for a walk and Guiliano's father explains that seven hundred of the town's people are in prison as conspirators of Turi. There are more than two thousand carabinieri in the town and thousands looking for Turi in the mountains. Waiting back at the house were Gaspare Pisciotta and Professor Hector Adonis. They are distrustful of Michael because of his meeting with Don Croce. They want to know his plans.

Michael relates his orders from his father and how he is to wait for Turi in Trapani, go to Africa by ship and then fly to America. Michael can't help Turi if he won't go to Trapani.

Michael asks about the Testament and is told it is in a safe place. He then learns about Turi's pregnant fiancée who is to be sent to America ahead of him. They stayed up all night talking.

Chapter Two reveals that Hector Adonis became a Professor of History and Literature at the University of Palermo in 1943. From his window, he watches various Mafia chiefs going to talk to different faculty about the grades of their children. One brought Hector a



basket of fruit and talked about a student whom he had failed. The President of the University calls for help. Don Croce is there about his nephew who is failing medical school. Adonis works out a suitable compromise in both cases. That night he receives a call saying that his godson, Turi, has murdered a police officer.

Chapters 1-2 Analysis

Michael Corleone, the son of the Godfather, is supposed to help Salvatore Guiliano escape to America. His father delayed his departure from Sicily because of this, and Michael wonders why. He has not seen his family during his two years in exile but knows that a lot has happened in his absence. Michael is also ill at ease with Inspector Frederico Velardi being at the luncheon meeting.

Michael wonders at all of the security around Don Croce. He is the top man in the Mafia in Sicily and basically controls the police. So who does he fear that he requires so much security. Michael concludes that it is Salvatore Guiliano that he fears.

As the son of the Godfather, Michael's first duty is to his father. He doesn't understand the situation but his father wants him to help Turi escape and this is what he must do. He learns more about the situation at Turi's parents house. They all claim that Turi and Don Croce are enemies. Michael must tread carefully. He makes it clear to Turi's family that he will help Turi.

Hector Adonis is Turi's godfather. He has been teaching at the University of Palermo since 1943 and is used to dealing with the Mafia and their gifts in exchange for passing grades for their families and Chapter Two shows how the system worked. On the same day that Adonis worked out an arrangement for Don Croce's nephew, he learns that his own godson, Turi, has murdered a police officer.



Chapters 3-4

Chapters 3-4 Summary

On September 2, 1943 the seven thousand people of Montelepre were preparing for their three day Festa. Each year a Committee of Three was selected to organize the Festa and to raise funds. Turi was to be a part of the opening ceremony where two donkey's were mated. He was twenty years old at the time.

Turi had refused to work the harvest for the low wages offered and had urged other laborers to do the same. For this he was arrested and only released due to the intervention of Hector Adonis.

Playing billiards the night before, Turi, Aspanu and other had a run in with Guido Quintana, a loyal Mafia member who planned to become the Mayor of Montelepre. Instead of fighting, Turi's instincts told him to walk away. Turi laid awake that night thinking of the incident.

Turi and Aspanu brought the donkey to the town square for the opening ceremony. They received their two hundred lira and returned to Turi's house for lunch. Aspanu and Turi will return the donkey to Corleone and return with cheese and other foods. Turi also planned to bring a pistol after the problems of the previous night.

In Chapter Four the black market provides a means of existence for people after the war. This violated the smuggling laws and it was the only way people could exist. The black market was controlled by Don Croce. Turi and Aspanu were not only dealing on the black market, they were smuggling the food between provinces. The men were using the mountain paths that they knew so well, looking out for the carabinieri, who they unexpectedly walk into.

The carabinieri want their cheese and the name of the farmer they got it from. They refuse and try to escape when another man arrives. Turi is shot and shoots back, killing one of the carabinieri. The other smuggler is arrested and the police have Turi's identity card.

After the men leave, Pisciotta finds his injured cousin. Turi never attends the Festa.

Chapters 3-4 Analysis

Turi was respected in the town of Montelepre as a leader of the youth. After the incident with Quintana, Turi was worried about his reputation. He didn't want to be labeled a coward because he had walked away from Quintana instead of fighting. Yet Turi feared Quintana because he knew he was a member of the Mafia. He was very relieved when his cousin paid no attention to the incident but carried his pistol when the two men went to pick up food for the family party.



In post-war Sicily, Don Croce controlled the black market for food and people were found to deal on the black market if they wanted to survive. While smuggling food to Montelepre from a neighboring province, Turi and Aspanu are stopped by a National Police patrol. Turi is shot and kills a police officer and never makes it to the Festa.

Turi is stubborn and principled. He would not work the harvest for the low wages offered and encouraged others to do the same, even though he ended up in jail. He also would not give his family's food to the police even though they told him they would let him go. As a result, he is shot and has killed the police officer who shot him.



Chapters 5-6

Chapters 5-6 Summary

Aspanu drags the injured Turi to a monastery which functioned as the headquarters for the black market smugglers. The Abbot knew that Don Croce and his Friends of the Friends were interested in recruiting Turi. The monk had Turi taken to his quarters and sent for a doctor who says that Turi has lost one third of his blood and will probably die.

Hector Adonis arrived in Montelepre the next day having been called by Guiliano's parents. The carabinieri were positioned outside of the house. Adonis says he will ask Don Croce for help. They need to keep the Abbot quiet and find a safe place for Turi to live.

Turi slowly healed and spent several months at the monastery. He wore a monk's cassock and worked as the monks did. Turi was amazed at the amount of food the monastery produces and learned it was all sold on the black market. He also learned about the phony treasures manufactured and sold by the monks. Turi struggled to keep from laughing as he saw all of this.

Father Benjamino arrives one day to offer Turi refuge with Don Croce in Villaba. He will be safe there and paid a good wage. Turi, who fears and hates the Mafia, says he must first consult with his family. Aspanu decides he will go with Turi wherever he goes. Before they leave, Aspanu kills the smuggler who offered to catch Turi the day he was shot, even though he is from the Friends of the Friends. They left the monastery with Turi telling the Abbot that he was in his debt.

In Chapter Six, Aspanu has stocked a cave near Montelepre for them to stay in. Changing clothes and heavily armed, they crept into town to Turi's house. His mother had a feast of all of his favorite food waiting. Hector Adonis is there and tells him of the plan they have worked out but Turi doesn't want to see his parents risk losing their land. He and Aspanu plan to hide in the mountains. The two leave when one of the waiters knocks on the door telling them of the coming police raid. They watch the raid from a dark alley.

Aspanu and Turi attacked the carabinieri and their truck full of prisoners. They made it safely back to the mountains.

Chapters 5-6 Analysis

The injured Turi is taken to a monastery by Aspanu. The monastery is involved in the black market and functions as the headquarters for the operators and smugglers. The Abbot knows that Don Croce has spotted the potential of Turi and is considering recruiting him. Turi is given sanctuary and nursed back to health. He learns about the



business of the monks in the relic forgery business. Turi knows that the Abbot is part of the Friends of the Friends.

Turi decided he would never behold by the traditional bonds. He would never take order from anyone and that he would be the one who would decide who would live and who would die. He would fight for freedom and justice in Sicily and would help the poor and the oppressed. His cousin Aspanu is with him and they hide in the mountains.



Chapters 7-8

Chapters 7-8 Summary

Don Croce was born in the small Sicilian village of Villaba. His family was grooming him for the priesthood but the older he became as he grew up, the more obvious it was that he wouldn't accept authority. He lived in the hills for a year as a bandit and then made contact with the Mafia which began as a secret society of avengers at the time of the Spanish Inquisition.

Within five years, Don Croce was a qualified man. He became a Don and head of the strongest faction in the Sicilian Mafia by the time he was forty and would mediate the vendettas between the rival factions. He married, had a son and trapped the King into being the godfather.

When Mussolini came to power he recognized the power of the Mafia as a rival to government and declared war on the Mafia. Its power was all but destroyed within a year. Don Croce had gone underground to Abbot Manfredi's monastery. During the war, they helped the underground and the Allies. After the war, Don Croce recommended his Mafia friends for the positions of mayor of many of the small Sicilian towns. As a result of this, Don Croce was in a strong position at the end of the war. The only problem Don Croce had was that there was no male heir for his empire. This is what he was eying Turi for.

Chapter Eight has Turi and Aspanu at the cave hideout. That afternoon they saw a man on a donkey on the path to their cave. They recognized him as Adonis. They had raised a Sicilian flag that they had buried in the cave when they were kids. Adonis tells them that the flag is visible to the whole town, including the police. Turi tells Adonis that he is not afraid of the police and he is not afraid to die. He plans to rescue the men who were taken prisoner the previous night.

Turi asks Adonis to be his eyes and ears in Palermo. After thinking about it, he agrees to do so.

Chapters 7-8 Analysis

This chapter focuses on Don Croce and his life. He decided early in life that he was not one to accept authority. He became a bandit and lived in the hills and then became a respected member of the Mafia. Because of his abilities and ruthlessness, he quickly moved through the ranks and became very respected. He was mediating the various vendettas between the rival factions by the time he was forty and became known as the Don of Peace.

He went underground at Abbot Manfredi's monastery when Mussolini attempted to crush the Mafia. When the war began, he saw the only chance the Mafia had was if the



Allies won, so he did what he could to support the Allies. By ingratiating himself with the Allies, he was in a position to recommend Mafia people for positions after the war. This gave him a strong power base and he quickly established himself in black market operations. His only problem was that he had no acceptable male heir and he was eyeing Turi for the position not knowing that Turi detested the Mafia.

In the hills above Montelepre, Turi is putting his plans together. Aspanu is second in command of his band, and at present, there are not others. He gets Adonis to join by asking him to be his eyes and ears in Palermo. Adonis had always thought that Aspanu would be the gang leader when he and Turi were kids. Adonis listens to Turi's plans but doesn't comment.



Chapters 9-10

Chapters 9-10 Summary

Turi and Aspanu were up early the next morning since they saw the armored police car arrive in Montelepre the night before. The vehicle and the troops left in the morning for the path that led to the cave. An hour later, they fired over the heads of the police and then departed and went to Montelepre, leaving the police still climbing to the cave thinking they had the two men trapped.

Adonis had followed Turi's instructions and left the painted cart full of jugs of wine. Aspanu walked to the Bellampo Barracks and told the guard that he knew where Turi Guiliano was. The guard opens the gate for Aspanu and took him into the administration building. Turi drove the cart in and called out to the guards that their wine had arrived. Guards began carrying the jugs when Turi and Aspanu pulled guns on them. Turi demands the keys and tells the Corporal that he is Guiliano. They release the prisoners who warmly greet Turi. Turi invites them to go to the mountains with them or they can go to other parts of Sicily.

Two of the men, Passatempo and Terranova had no choice but to hide from the authorities because of their crimes. While they are talking the corporal pulls a gun and aims it at Turi's head. Luckily for Turi, the bullet was defective. The other three men attacked the Corporal and Turi stops them from killing him. Turi's neighbors left the barracks leaving the four men alone with the Corporal. Turi locked the police in a cell, stole the weapons, ammunition, and other supplies. They returned the cart to the person Adonis borrowed it from, buried their loot and escaped to the mountains leaving an angry Maresciallo to look for them.

The incident was reported in newspapers all over Sicily.

Chapter Ten opens with Don Croce's admiration for Turi, even though he had approved of and assisted in the capture of Passatempo and Terranova. Turi deduced this from questioning them. He explained his plans. Half of the profits would be given to the poor. They had to obey his rules if they stayed with him.

Turi would help free the Sicilian people, improve conditions for the poor and destroy the Mafia. They were impressed by him.

The next morning, with the assistance of a group of carters, the group stops a convoy of three food trucks. The truck drivers sat and ate as the carters unloaded their trucks into the carts. The third truck was driven to another town and the food distributed to the needy. Turi gained good press but didn't know that the trucks had been headed to one of Don Croce's warehouses.

Within a month, Turi had his own informers. They targeted the jewels of the Duke and Duchess of Alcamo and Aspanu secured a job as a laborer there. The Duke paid



protection money to the Friends of the Friends. Aspanu befriends Graziella, the personal maid of the Duchess and learns the information that he needs about the jewels.

Five days before Christmas the band appears at the estate. Turi introduces himself as Guiliano and says he is there to ask her to donate her jewels to the poor. The Duke complained to Don Croce about the robbery. He received five years of free protection from Don Croce. Adonis is sent to Turi to arrange for the ransom of the jewels but Turi kept the emerald ring. Adonis tells his godson to work with Don Croce and not against him.

Chapters 9-10 Analysis

Turi carried out the bold plan to release the prisoners, just as he had told Adonis that he would do, and they did it without any deaths. The incident resulted in national news coverage for Turi. Reporters came from all over Italy to interview his family and friends. He was almost portrayed as a hero for his wits. While the police were searching the mountain for Turi and Aspanu, they were at the police barracks releasing the prisoners. The Milan paper was the only one that pointed out that Turi was a murderer.

Turi's plan to free the prisoners worked because of his planning and the fact that Adonis helped secure the cart from them. The planning including the painting of the cart so that it couldn't be identified. It also led to the growth of his group since Passatempo and Terranova joined them in the hills. All of the men accepted him as their leader and obeyed his orders.

The legend of Turi grew. They staged the robbery of the jewels of the Duchess of Alcamo. The Duke, who paid protection money to Don Croce complained and Don Croce offered five years free protection and told the Duke to ransom the jewels. Adonis was sent to arrange for the ransom. Turi kept the emerald ring which he had put on his when he took it off the Duchess. For him, it represented power, the power that he would obtain from the rich.

Adonis warns his godson about opposing the Mafia. He tells Turi that he must work within their framework or be destroyed. At this point Don Croce is still too impressed with Turi, still viewing him as the heir apparent to his throne.



Chapters 11-12

Chapters 11-12 Summary

Turi's band continued to grow. Even the Corporal from the police appeared and said he wanted to join. He had been court-martialed for dereliction of duties since Maresciallo believed he helped Turi in the jail break. Instead of a court-martial, he was forced to resign. Turi allows Silvestro to join, telling the others that they will test him when the time comes.

Turi went to visit his family for Easter having been told that Maresciallo and most of the police were gone for the holiday. As he walks out of church, Aspanu says he was betrayed and his mother's house was surrounded. He and his men return to the mountains and Turi tells Aspanu to find out who the traitor is. Aspanu's investigation reveals that Frisella, the barber in Montelepre, was the informer. Turi's father had been to the barber in preparation for Turi's visit. Frisella was apparently a paid informer who had broken the law of omerta. Silvestro is selected to execute Frisella, which they did the next day.

Chapter Twelve reveals that Turi had become so famous that the government offered a reward of ten million lire for him. The band continued to grow and Turi was very happy living in the mountains. Adonis kept him supplied with books. The band frequently moved their camp and sometimes stayed in the homes of family or friends.

Kidnapping was popular in Italy and usually practiced by the Mafia. They would send a note and obtain the ransom money without doing the actual kidnapping. If there was an actual kidnapping, the 'guest' was well treated so there were no problems with revenge afterward. It was called 'Inviting a Guest.' When Turi decided to engage in the practice, he selected only the richest people. His first guest was Prince Ollorto. Turi's men just walked into his heavily guarded home and told him he was invited to the mountains and was expected to pay for his room and board.

Turi sent men to secure the insulin the Prince needed and to Abbot Manfredi who he wanted to handle the ransom negotiations. Turi and the Prince had many long discussions with one another. The Prince says that Turi should join forces with Don Croce because they are the only ones who can ensure the freedom of Sicily. A ransom of sixty million lire was finally paid. The night before his release, Turi and the band held a banquet for the Prince.

Chapters 11-12 Analysis

Turi's band is growing. Silvestro, the police Corporal who tried to kill him, appears and asks to join the band. The others want to kill him but Turi listens to the man's story and decides to give him a chance. At some point in the future, he will have the man prove himself, which he does when he executes Frisella, the barber.



The execution of Frisella was not only the way for Silvestro to prove himself, it was also a way of sending a message of what would happen to anyone who betrayed Guiliano. It was a hard decision for Turi to make, but he would have lost the trust and respect of his men if he did not order the execution of the barber. Informers made it dangerous for everyone and as the leader, he had to do what he could to protect his men.

Turi expands his operations to kidnapping and focuses only on the most wealthy. When they kidnapped Prince Ollorto, he and the Prince had many discussions together and the Prince was returned in better physical shape than he had been in when he arrived. The Prince saw the future freedom of Sicily resting in the hands of Don Croce and Turi and suggested they join forces. This was one of the few times that Turi lost his temper. The Prince did not know of Turi's hatred of the Mafia and his plans to destroy it.



Chapters 13-14

Chapters 13-14 Summary

The Mafia chiefs wanted a meeting with Don Croce and they had a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Umberto. The problem is Turi Guiliano and they want him negated. Quintanna says he will try to have Turi eliminated if he has the council's approval. Don Croce says that Turi will try to work out a deal with Turi and will given them an answer in three days.

Don Croce sends Adonis to Turi with a message. The other chiefs are not happy with him. Turi will have a high position with the Friends. Adonis goes to Turi and tells him he must reach some accommodation with the Friends. If he accepts Don Croce's rule, he will be his heir. Turi does not accept. This led to three attempts on his life in the following month with the body of one of the assassins sent to Quintana nailed to a cross. After these failures, Don Croce decides to send his most reliable man, Stefan Andolini.

In Chapter Fourteen, Turi is listening to his father and one of his friends talk of their days in America and how they worked on an underwater tunnel. He decides to build a tunnel from his parents house to the base of the mountain. They discuss the design and layout of the tunnel. They also agree on an escape tunnel to the home of La Venera, who agrees to the idea. This offshoot tunnel was competed in four months time. Turi used this offshoot tunnel several times to escape the carabinieri. It also led to an affair between him and La Venera.

Chapters 13-14 Analysis

Turi's activities were making the Friends of the Friends upset. His band was stealing from them and making them look bad. People, like Prince Ollerto, paid them protection money. The Mafia chiefs did not understand or like Don Croce's attitude toward Turi and wanted Turi eliminated. Don Croce send Hector Adonis to talk to Turi but Turi rejects his offer. Turi says their groups serve different people. The Mafia serves the rich while his band serves the poor. Don Croce has no choice but to allow the murder attempts against Turi. When the first three fail, he brings in Stefan Andolini, his best man,

Turi has an underground tunnel built so he can more easily visit his parents. They first built an offshoot tunnel to the home of La Venera, which Turi used several times. This led to an affair between Turi and La Venera. Turi had mostly led a chaste existence in the hills thinking it befitting for his position as leader of the band.



Chapters 15-16

Chapters 15-16 Summary

Stefan Andolini was told by Don Croce to join Turi's band. He was to provide information to Don Croce and was to kill Turi if the opportunity presented itself. Stefan took two men with him to the hills. Stefan tells his story to Aspanu who agrees to let him speak to Turi. Turi decides to death the facts with his father. While they are awaiting the senior Guiliano's arrival, Aspanu kills the picciotti who refused to surrender their weapons.

When Guiliano's father arrives, he confirms Stefano's story. Turi tells them Andolini is welcome. Later he tells Andolini that he knows he is a spy for Don Croce and that he will kill him. They are surprised that he would lie to his father. Andolini tells him that he owes Abbot Manfredi and that Manfredi will ask for Andolini's life to be spared. They go to the monastery and the Abbot asks for Andolini's life. Turi frees him and they go inside to talk.

The Abbot is Andolini's biological father. The Abbot tells Stefan that he can't go back to Don Croce. His first loyalty must now be to Turi and the Abbot will try to arrange things so Stefan serves as a link between Don Croce and Turi.

In Chapter Sixteen, Michael Corleone arrives in the town of Trapani. Michael is surprised to find Peter Clemenza, one of his father's chiefs, waiting for him. Andolini, when he says goodbye, tells them he will not betray them or Turi Guiliano.

Michael learns their instructions come daily via Tunis and after a rest, he meets Don Domenic Clemenza. He tells Michael that he does not side with Don Croce who sells information to the government. Michael tells them that he has seen Aspanu and that the men carry the red Minister of Justice security passes. He tells them about Tur's pregnant girlfriend who is to go ahead of Turi and send back a code word if the route is safe. Clemenza says they can do it.

Chapters 15-16 Analysis

Don Croce sends one of his best men to kill Turi. Stefano Andolini is not believed by Aspanu nor Turi. They felt that he had betrayed La Venera's husband. When Turi's father vouches for Andolini, Turi says he accepts Andolini into his band. As soon as the elder Guiliano leaves, he orders Andolini's execution surprising everyone that he would lie to his father. Turi knows this but realizes he is responsible for the safety of his men. When Andolini mentions Turi's debt to Abbot Manfredi, they travel to the monastery to see the Abbot who asks for and receives Andolini's life.

The Abbot works out an arrangement where Andolini remains with Turi band passes information to Don Croce through the confessional of Father Benjamino. He only passes the information that Turi approves.



Michael Corleone is in Trapani and is greeted by Peter Clemenza, one of his father's chiefs. They discuss the Guiliano situation. Michael learns that Don Croce sells information to the government. Andolini tells them that whatever happens, he will not betray Turi or them.

Michael learns that the Testament is in the Black Madonna that Turi's mother gave him. He learns this from Adonis, who is at the villa with them. Turi trusted him with this information and he trusts Aspanu with his life. If Turi is betrayed, it will take both of them.



Chapters 17-18

Chapters 17-18 Summary

Andolini is due to pick up Adonis and drive him to Montelepre. When he doesn't arrive, they begin to worry. Michael goes to his room to read the Testament with Peter Clemenza. In addition to Turi's handwritten documents, there were also documents with official seals. The men spent two hours reading the documents. Because the documents are so important, Clemenza says he will take them to Tunis right away.

On the way to the boat, they find Adonis still waiting for Andolini. They provide him with a car to take him to Montelepre. Michael then sees Peter off in the boat to Tunis. After dinner, Michael walks along the beach thinking of the others. He wonders why Don Clemenza did not appear for dinner.

Chapter Eighteen discusses the referendum, vote that did away with the Italian monarchy and established Italy as a republic. Sicily sent many Socialists and Communists to Parliament. This did not sit well with Don Croce. The Sicilians had basically voted for candidates who promised them their own land.

The Minister of Justice Franco Trezza called Don Croce to a meeting to discuss the political situation. The Minister is worried about the coming elections. Don Croce says he will deliver Sicily but the government must not move against Turi, who had sent letters forbidding the police to patrol at night in certain cities. Don Croce says he will have Turi's group attack the Socialist and Communists. The government must stop trying to capture Turi and must promise him a pardon if the Christian Democrats win the election. Don Croce needs certain supportive documents to prove his case to Turi. If the Minister cannot arrange a pardon, Don Croce will arrange for Turi to disappear.

Don Croce shows the documents planning the war against Turi to Hector Adonis. The plans will into be implemented if Turi helps with the election. He asks Hector to arrange for a meeting with him and Turi.

Adonis meets with Turi and shows him the documents with the government's plans. He recommends that Turi meet with Don Croce and Turi says he will meet with him at the Montelepre home of Adonis. This is when Hector suggested that Turi write a Testament for his own protection.

Chapters 17-18 Analysis

For the first time, things begin to go wrong. Adonis is waiting for Andolini who does not appear. Eventually Peter Clemenza orders a car to drive Adonis to Montelepre.

Peter and Michael read the Testament and documents that were hidden in the statue. They are as explosive as they heard they were and could certainly cause a collapse of

the Christian Democrat government. The documents are so important that Peter Clemenza takes them to Turi's as soon as they finish reading them.

The elections will soon take place and there is fear that the Socialists and Communists will win. A worried Minister of Justice asks Don Croce for his help in delivering Sicily for the Christian Democrats. Don Croce says that the government must call off its plans against Turi because they need his help. Don Croce says he wants a pardon for Turi after the election. If it can't be arranged, he will help Turi leave the country.

It is obvious to the Minister that Turi is a problem for both of them. He is too popular with the people. Even though Don Croce says Sicily is big enough for both him and Turi, it is obvious that it isn't and he wants Turi absented from the scene.



Chapters 19-20

Chapters 19-20 Summary

The meeting between Don Croce and Turi took place two days later in Montelepre. They met in the house of Adonis. Don Croce says that Turi has seen the government's plans. If Turi agrees to help in the elections, the government will not implement the plans and will give him a pardon after the elections.

Turi wants to know how Don Croce can be sure that the government will keep its promise. Don Croce says that he will personally guarantee it. Turi wants the assurance personally from the Minister and he wants something in writing. He is told by Don Croce that the Catholic Church will support a pardon and will have a cardinal function as an intermediary. Turi says he will send Aspanu with Don Croce.

In Palermo the Cardinal promises a sermon on Easter that supports Guiliano if they help suppress the Communists. Aspanu asks for the promise in writing and the cardinal obliges. In Rome, the Minister cannot guarantee a pardon even though he will work for it, especially if they stop the kidnappings and robberies. The Minister gives Aspanu the red security pass as a token of his good faith.

Aspanu returns to the mountains and tells Turi. Turi says they will support the Christian Democrats and help suppress the Communists. If they receive the pardon, they will be elected to rule Sicily. Aspanu accepts Turi's decision even though he isn't happy about it.

In Chapter Twenty, the 1948 elections did not go the way the Christian Democrats had planned. Since the elections for the legislature went so badly, attention turned to the national elections. Turi saved all the correspondence he received from the government and included it in the Testament.

There was to be a big May Day celebration in the towns won by the Communist. Don Croce had plans to Turi's people to attack the procession in a place calls Portella della Ginestra.

Guiliano had sent word to Silvio Ferra, the Socialist Party organizer not to take part in the festival at Portella della Ginestra. The Friends of the Friends wanted to disrupt the festival. As far as Turi's band went, their orders were to fire over the heads of the crowd and hurt no one.

Turi was not at Portella della Ginestra. He was nursing Aspanu who had had a hemorrhage. When the massacre was reported to Turi, both Passatempo and Ternanova swore their weapons were aimed high and they stopped firing when they say people being hit. Turi was furious and not sure what to believe.



Chapters 19-20 Analysis

Turi must make the decision of whether to help the government or not. He wants assurances that the government will uphold its end of the bargain if he agrees to suppress the Communists and sends Aspanu to Rome and Palermo with Don Croce.

Turi explains that they basically have no choice but to support the Christian Democrats. The Communists would do more to wipe them out if they came to power. Turi also has political ambitions. If he can secure a pardon from the government, then there will be nothing to stop him from being elected to office and running Sicily.

The story of Portella della Ginestra is told. Two towns were having a May Day celebration. Turi's band was to disrupt the festival by firing over the heads of the people as a message to the Communists. When the firing began, many people were killed. A furious Turi found that his men aimed high and stopped firing when they saw people falling. Turi was to discredit him with the poor. He suspects that Don Croce has something to do with it.



Chapters 21-22

Chapters 21-22 Summary

Fifteen people were dead and more than fifty were injured in the massacre at Portella della Ginestra. Silvio Ferra publicly blamed Don Croce but the Friends swore that it was Turi's men and Turi remained silent. Quintanna and his men picked up Ferra and killed him. The people of the town who had seen what happened wouldn't talk to the police but they did talk to Turi's people.

The Christian Democrats won the 1948 election but couldn't provide the promised pardon because of the massacre at Portella della Genestra. Don Croce suggested Turi emigrate to Brazil or the United States.

After the election there was supposed to be a land distribution to the peasants. Some of Prince Ollorto's estate was involved. He did what other nobility who paid protection money did. He hired some Mafia men to ride horses on the perimeter of the land. It was well known then that anyone that tried to stake a claim would eventually be killed.

Turi's men appeared. All were masked except for Turi and Aspanu. The six Mafia men continued their patrol. Turi ordered the six men brought to him. When Aspanu stepped in front of a horse and was almost trampled, he shot the horse out from under the rider. The other five stopped and dismounted when told to pay their respects to Turi. The six men were executed and the crowds went to claim the land.

Chapter Twenty two has Turi and his men in Palermo for Easter 1949. He was always well guarded and had fifty men with him this time. They entered the cathedral, leaving some guards outside. In Turi's eyes, he had been lied to and betrayed by the cardinal. Turi invited the cardinal to the mountains. No one would be hurt if he came willingly, which he did. The Church immediately paid the ransom of one million lire. Turi makes the Cardinal read his Testament before he releases him.

Chapters 21-22 Analysis

The Mafia was used by the wealthy to keep the peasants from claiming their land when the government decided they could. The wealthy, like Price Ollorto did, would hire the Mafia to patrol the land. Any peasant who staked a claim was killed. Turi was aware of this practice and arrived at Prince Ollorto's estate. He executed the six Mafia riders.

Turi knew that he delivered an insult to Don Croce and the Mafia. If the six men were allowed to live, they would have been his mortal enemies and eventually killed him. Once the confrontation began, he had no choice but to execute them. Turi did it because of his desire to help the poor.



Neither the government nor the Church upheld their part of the agreement with Turi. Because of this, on Easter 1949, he had his men kidnap the Cardinal of Palermo. The Church immediately paid the sixty million lire in ransom. Turi's real purpose, however, was to buy some insurance for himself. He had the Cardinal read his Testament and told him to tell the Church and the Minister what was in it. It would bring down the Christian Democrat government. Turi wanted them to know what would be revealed if anything happened to him.



Chapters 23-24

Chapters 23-24 Summary

The one thing Turi did was to unite all of the political parties against himself. The war against banditry would be headed by Colonel Ugo Luca with Frederice Velardi as his assistant. The Cardinal had delivered the message of Turi's Testament. Don Croce had already decided that Turi's execution was a necessity as a result of the murder of the six chiefs. They must find the Testament before doing anything to Turi.

Colonel Luca studied Turi and his methods. He was rather impressed with Turi. It amazed him that the government allowed the press to publish his letters, a practice that Luca wanted stopped. It is Luca who ordered the arrest of Turi's parents and other people in Montelepre. This is what infuriated Turi. Turi made his plans and discussed them with Aspanu. The others would learn their part later.

While the pay caravan was delivering the pay to the carabinieri, the convoy was stopped near Montelepre. The pay was in cash. By the time the front of the convoy realized that had lost the pay truck, Turi's men were already unloading it. When they went back to look for it, they were greeted with machine gun fire. In Montelepre, Maresciallo heard the gun fire just as an armored truck exploded at the barracks. Luca's men were being attacked by Turi.

As Colonel Luca is receiving reports, he is told that Turi was killed in the fighting. He decides to be careful in case it is a trap. When they arrive at the scene, they find that the body is not Guiliano's. On the way back to Montelepre, the police convoy is hit and several men killed. Colonel Luca asks for three thousand men to be sent to Sicily.

Don Croce arranged for the release of Turi's parents knowing the attacks would continue as long as they were imprisoned.

Chapter Twenty Four has Justina now sixteen years of age. Turi had decided to marry her secretly and send her to America ahead of him. Her father was a secret member of Turi's band. The couple married in a secret ceremony held in the mountains in a ceremony performed by Abbot Manfredi.

Before leaving, Turi talks to Andolini and Passatempo who Justina's father said secretly met with Don Croce right before the Portella della Cinestra massacre. Don Croce had paid Passatempo and Passatempo admitted this to Andolini. Passatempo is killed for betraying Turi.



Chapters 23-24 Analysis

The kidnapping of the Cardinal united most of their government and political parties against Turi. Colonel Luca was appointed to head a special unit to combat the bandit. In addition, Turi was marked for execution by Don Croce for murdering the six chiefs.

Instead of waiting for the attack by Luca, Turi attacked first by robbing the carabinieri police truck and attacking the barracks. Luca had imprisoned Turi's parents and Don Croce realized the attacks would continue until the points were free so he arranged for their release. Sentiment was turning against Turi.

Turi secretly marries Justina in a ceremony in the mountains. He plans to escape to America, sending her ahead of him. Turi learns the truth about the Poretlla della Ginestra massacre from Justina's father and has Passatempo killed for betraying him



Chapters 25-26

Chapters 25-26 Summary

Michael awoke feeling the presence of someone in the room. It was Aspanu and he wants to know about the Testament. Michael tells him it is in America now. Aspanu says Turi will come the next night but not to the villa. Michael tells him that Andolini did not keep his appointment with Adonis, which startles Aspanu. Michael wants him to join them in America but he won't leave Sicily. Aspanu leaves.

When Peter Clemenza returns, he and Michael work on their plans. Michael did not have a good feeling about all of this but he was happy that he would finally be returning home.

In Chapter Twenty Six, Turi knows that he has to leave Sicily. He also knew that Don Croce was serving his own purposes in making the arrangements with Don Corleone. Turi has no choice but to leave. He begins his journey to Palermo feeling that he will not be betrayed. Most of his band was gone. Many had been killed.

After Terranova's murder, Turi told Silvestro to go to his friends in England before it was too late. Turi had masterminded the attack on Don Croce at the Hotel Umberto and wondered how it had failed. He thought that Don Croce had been warned and left the hotel as soon as Michael Corleone departed.

Turi went to Castelvetrano where he was supposed to meet Aspanu. He is warned that Luca's troops are there looking for him so he goes to the back up meeting place which was south of Castelvetrano, at the Acropolis of Selinus.

Chapters 25-26 Analysis

Michael awakens to find Aspanu in his room. When Aspanu asks about the Testament, Michael tells him it is already in America, not wanting anything to happen to it in route. Turi will arrive the next night. Aspanu refuses Michael's offer to join them in America. He would not feel comfortable there.

Michael does not have a good feeling about this. He didn't right from the beginning. There were too many contradictions and inconsistencies that worried him.

Turi is on his way to meet Aspanu. He knew that his time in the hills had come to an end and he knows that Don Croce is serving his own purpose in making arrangements for his escape to America. He begins his journey out of the mountains feeling that he will not be betrayed. He waits for Aspanu at the Acropolis of Selinus, their back up meeting place, since Luca's men are waiting for him in Castelvetrano. He wonders how they knew he would be there.



Chapters 27-28

Chapters 27-28 Summary

Don Clemenza insisted that Michael not be armed when they went to meet Turi. Michael couldn't be charged or presented from going to America if the police appeared. Michael and Peter departed in the boat. They had changed their plans and decided to go to Africa by boat rather than by plane. They were going to Mazara del Vallo where they would then drive to Castelvetro and from there to meet Aspanu.

Andolini is on his way to pick up Hector Adonis and then go to their meeting with Inspector Velardi. The information they obtain is sent to Turi through Aspanu. Unknown to them, the Minister had ordered anyone using a red security pass to be detained. They are looking for the ones issued to Aspanu and Stefan Andolini.

When Andolini arrives at Velardi's office, he demands the security pass, which Andolini says he doesn't have with him. Velardi places Andolini under arrest. The next morning Velardi tells Andolini that he wants to know where Guiliano is. Andolini reaches for Velardi's gun and is shot by the guard.

The launch arrives at Mazara del Vallo at dawn. Three cars and six men are waiting for them. They drive toward Castelvetro and can see the city is full of police and military. Clemenza says they must return to the boat just as they see a donkey pulled cart. The old man is Zu Peppino who tells them that Turi is dead. They ask if he is certain that it is Turi. Michael says they must make sure.

They walk into the town. Later in the day they hear that Turi's mother identified the body as that of her son. In town both Michael and Peter are arrested by Velardi. The next day Turi's father announced a vendetta against those who betrayed his son and he names Aspanu.

Chapter Twenty Eight reveals that Aspanu had always stuck by Turi until he married Justina. He realized then that Turi would go to America while he would remain a fugitive in Sicily.

Don Croce knew that Turi was a danger to his empire. When he knew he couldn't convert Turi, he focused on Aspanu. He knew what Turi didn't know - that Aspanu had safe houses, bank accounts and false identity papers. Don Croce knew that Aspanu would come to him sooner or later. It was Aspanu who had warned Don Croce of the attack on the hotel.

Don Croce tells Aspanu that he will not survive without his protection. Aspanu reminds him about the Testament and Don Croce laughs at it. Aspanu tells him to let Turi go. He is lingering, waiting to kill Don Croce. Don Croce tells Aspanu that if he wants any kind of life, he must lead Turi into a trap so the carabinieri kill him. So Aspanu told Don Croce



that they were meeting in Castelvetro. When Aspanu arrived there, he learned that Turi had come and gone.

Aspanu went to the Acropolis of Selinus. He shoots Turi and flees. He tells Luca and Velardi and they concoct the story of the trap and Turi being killed by Captain Perenze.

On July 5, 1950, Turi's father left early in the morning with Zu Peppino. Hector Adonis and the police arrive asking her to go to Castelvetro to identify the body of the man they believe is her son.

Chapters 27-28 Analysis

Peter and Michael begin the journey to meet Turi. They are supposed to meet Aspanu near Castelvetro. An old man in a cart tells them that Turi has been killed. Not wanting to let his father down, Michael insists that they go into the town to be sure. There have been too many tricks and lies for him to leave for America without verifying the facts. They are arrested by Velardi. The next day Turi's father declares a vendetta against the betrayers of his son and names Aspanu Pisciotta.

Aspanu knew that Turi would go off to a new life in America and that he would remain behind. He would not be able to exist without the protection of Don Croce. Don Croce offers him protection for telling him where Turi is.

When Aspanu arrives at the Acropolis of Selinus, he knows that Turi will know that he was the traitor. Instead of talking with Turi, he panics and shoots him, then tells Luca and Velardi about it. They put the body in the town square and claim that the police killed him in a trap.

Turi's father learns the truth and names Aspanu as a traitor and calls for a vendetta against those who betrayed Turi. This, of course, includes Don Croce.



Chapters 29-31

Chapters 29-31 Summary

Michael and Peter were taken to Palermo and questioned by Inspector Velardi. He says they are involved in a conspiracy to help Turi escape and they are preparing confessions for them to sign. Just then Don Croce arrives. Minister Trezza phones the Inspector who tells Michael and Peter that they are free to go. Velardi was shot to death five days later.

Michael returned to America two days later. He talks to his father about the Guiliano affair and finds that his father has no intention of releasing the Testament. Vito Corleone tells his son that Turi lingered trying for a chance to kill Don Croce and that was his undoing. When Michael had been injured in the bomb blast in Sicily, Vito Corleone made a deal with Don Croce. In exchange for his son's protection, he would see that the Testament was never made public.

Chapter Thirty reveals that Don Croce made a small fortune with Turi gone. Many Sicilians emigrated since their hope died with Turi. Aspanu received life in prison for his crimes as a bandit. He waited for a pardon and sends word to Don Croce that he will reveal Trezza's role if he doesn't receive the pardon. Trezza is elected Premier of Italy.

Hector Adonis is on his way to the prison with a message from Don Croce. He talks to the pharmacist. Hector Adonis is in the pharmacy when the poisoned Aspanu is carried in. The slip of paper found on Aspanu's body is the usual "So Die All Who Betray Guiliano."

In Chapter Thirty One, Hector Adonis is meeting Don Croce at Turi's grave. The two dead men are legends but Don Croce and Adonis are still alive.

Chapters 29-31 Analysis

Velardi wants to charge Michael and Peter with conspiracy for trying to help Turi escape. His hatred for them is obvious. Don Croce arrives and Minister Trezza calls, and the two men are released. Don Croce had used his influence. When Michael talks to his father in America, he learns that there was a deal between Vito Corleone and Don Croce that Don Croce would protect Michael in exchange for the Testament not being published. Velardi was shot and killed five days after the release of Michael and Peter.

Aspanu was given a life sentence for his crimes as a bandit and was awaiting a pardon. He sent a message to Don Croce that he would reveal the dealings with Minister Trezza if he didn't receive the pardon. This wouldn't do since Trezza was just elected Premier of Italy. Aspanu is poisoned in prison and a note about death to those who betray Guiliano was found on him. The death was actually political but was made to look like part of the vendetta.

Turi and Aspanu were legends, but they were dead. Hector Adonis went on serving Don Croce.

Once Michael Corleone is genuinely concerned that the Testament wasn't published, but he is alive. And that is the important thing according to his father.



Characters

Michael Corleone

Michael Corleone was the son of a Mafia don. He was sent to Sicily for two years of exile after murdering a high police official. Michael is the prince and heir apparent of the Corleone family. He serves his father, the Godfather, and does what ever his father wants. Michael is confused by the events concerning Guiliano. He is told that Don Croce is arranging for Turi's escape then finds out that Turi and Don Croce hate each other and are trying to kill each other. At the meeting with Don Croce, there is an Inspector Velardi from the National Security police, the same police that are trying to catch Turi. Michael does not know who to trust as he tries to follow his father's orders. When told that Turi has been killed, instead of following Clemenza's advice, they do into town to verify that the body is Turi's. This leads to their arrest by Velardi. The next day Don Croce arrives at Verlardi's office, the Minister of Justice calls, the the two men are released. Michael thinks the most important thing is to publish Turi's Testament but learns from his father that it will never be published. That was Vito Corleone's deal with Don Croce in exchange for the safety of his son.

Salvatore Guiliano

Salvatore Guiliano, called Turi, was a young bandit who at the age of twenty-seven, gave most of what he stole to the poor. He never allowed women or priests to be touched and anyone who was executed was given time to say his prayers and make his peace with God. The famous bandit is known for his fight against the carabinieri. His parents had been arrested for conspiring with him and their release had been arranged by Don Croce Malo. Turi went to the hills and became a bandit after killing a police officer who had shot him. He became famous immediately. In addition to wanting to help the people of Sicily, he also wants to destroy the Mafia. Turi becomes more violent as the book goes on and he and Don Croce try to kill each other. He postpones his escape for this purpose. In the end, he is betrayed by Aspanu who shoots and kills him on July 5, 1950. Turi became a legend even though he was a murderer. He had political ambitions that he would have followed through on if he had received the pardon that he was promised in exchange for his help in the suppression of the Socialists and Communists. Instead, he was set up by Don Croce with the massacre at Portella della Ginestra.

Don Croce Malo

Don Croce Malo was a top Mafia don in Sicily. He was known as the Capo di Capi or The Good Soul. Don Croce is in his sixties. He controlled the black market in Sicily after the war. Don Croce had been born in the village of Villaba and married and had a son. The son became a missionary in Brazil and Don Croce began to eye Turi as a



successor. Turi becomes such a threat to Don Croce that he and Don Croce both try to kill each other. Don Croce arranges for Turi's setup through Aspanu who he has killed in prison. Don Croce succeeds in having Minister Trezza elected as Premiere of Italy.

Inspector Frederico Verlardi

Inspector Frederico Velardi is head of the Security Police of Sicily. He is at the meeting at the Hotel Umberto where Michael Corleone meets Don Croce. When the Italian government declares war against the bandits, Velardi has Andolini arrested. He wants to know where Turi is and Andolini is killed by a guard when he reaches for a gun. Velardi arrests Michael Corleone and Peter Clemenza in Castelvetro and is preparing to charge them with conspiracy for trying to help Turi escape. They are released after a phone call from the Minister of Justice. Five days after, Velardi is shot and killed.

Gaspare Pisciotta

Gaspare Pisciotta is the cousin of Turi and his second in command. His nickname is Aspanu. He and Turi grew up together and he saved Turi's life by taking him to a monastery after he was shot. He goes to the hills with his cousin when he is better and they become bandits that distribute half of their profits to the poor. Aspanu is by Turi's side through their seven years in the hills, even though he suffers from tuberculosis. In the end, he betrays Turi to Don Croce. When he meets Turi, he panics and shoots him. Aspanu receives a life sentence for his crimes. He is poisoned while in prison for threatening to expose Trezza's involvement with the Mafia and the band.

Professor Hector Adonis

Professor Hector Adonis is an elegant man of about fifty years of age. He teaches history at the University of Palermo and had been Turi's schoolteacher. He is a member of Turi's band and is also Turi's godfather. As a friend of Don Croce, he help get Turi out of trouble several times as a youth. Adonis advises Turi to work within the framework of the Mafia or it will destroy him. Adonis helps his godson as much as he can. He is involved in the poisoning of Aspanu at the prison. In the end, he becomes an ally of Don Croce.

Stefano Andolini

Stefano Andolini is a family friend of the Corleone family. He also attends the meeting at the Hotel Umberto and while driving Michael to Montelepre, tells him that Don Croce and Guiliano are enemies. Andolini is a member of Turi's band and is known as Fra Diavalo. He is from the town of Corleone and was originally send by Don Croce to infiltrate Turi's band and to kill Turi. Stefano is a cousin of Vito Corleone. When Andolini is arrested by Velardi, he tried to grab Verlardi's gun and is killed by a guard.



Father Benjamino Malo

Father Benjamino Malo is the brother of Don Croce. He was present at the meeting at the Hotel Umberto. He first met Turi in 1943 when Turi was hiding in a monastery recovering from a bullet wound.

Canio Silvestro

Silvestro was a Corporal in the National Police and tried to kill Turi during the jail break. His gun had a defective bullet. He was forced to resign over the incident and joined Turi's band. When the band begins to fall apart, Turi tells Silvestro to escape to England.

Maresciallo Roccafino

Maresciallo Roccafino is the head of the National Police in Montelepre. He is the one who led the forces up the mountain while Turi and Aspanu released the prisoners from the cells. Maresciallo wanted Silvestro prosecuted but forced him to resign.

Peter Clemenza

Peter Clemenza is one of Vito Corleone's chiefs and is at the villa in Trapani to meet Michael. His brother is Don Domenic Clemenza. He is arrested with Michael at Castelvetrano and released the next day.



Objects/Places

Palermo

Palermo is the major city on the island of Sicily.

Hotel Umberto

The Hotel Umberto is in Palermo and is where Michael Corleone meets with Don Croce. Many of the Mafia's meetings are held here.

Montelepre

Montelepre is a town in the Sicilian countryside approximately one hour's drive from Palermo.

Trapani

Trapani is a town on the coast of Sicily.

Villaba

Villaba is the Sicilian village that was the birthplace of Don Croce. It is located forty miles south of Palermo.

Monte d'Ora

Monte d'Ora is the mountain above Montelepre where Turi and his band live and hide.

Portella della Ginestra

Portella della Ginestra is a pass that joins the towns of Piani die Greci and San Guiseppe. It was the site of a May Day massacre.

Long Island

Long Island in New York is the site of the Corleone family estate.



Castelvetrano

Castelvetrano is a town near Palermo.

Acropolis of Selinus

The Acropolis of Selinus is a Greek ruin located south of Castelvetrano.

Mazaro del Vallo

Mazaro del Vallo is a coastal town near Castelvetrano.

Rome

Rome is the capitol of Italy.



Themes

Struggle

One of the most prevalent themes of the book is that of struggle. There is a continual struggle between Turi and Don Croce. Don Croce was a powerful Mafia Don who controlled the black market in Sicily after the war. His power extended to all levels of business and government. Turi was a young man who feared the Mafia and tried to stay away from it. When he got into trouble for killing a police officer who shot him, he fled to the hills. His godfather used his influence with Don Croce for the boy to have protection and a good paying job with the Mafia don, but Turi turned it down. He and his cousin Aspanu fled to the hills and became bandits.

Turi developed a plan to help the people of Sicily as a bandit by giving half of the profits to the needy. This made him very popular with the people but brought him into direct conflict with Don Croce and the Mafia. It was their food trucks that they were robbing. It was the wealthy who paid protection money to the Mafia that they were robbing and kidnapping for ransom. However, Don Croce was impressed with Turi and wanted to train him as his heir apparent, but Turi would have no part of it.

Turi saw himself as helping and serving the poor while for Croce and the Mafia served the rich. After the executions of the six Mafia chiefs who were protecting Prince Ollorto's land from the claims of the peasants, Don Croce put out the order to execute Turi, but their attempts failed. By this time Turi and Don Croce were bitter enemies with each trying to kill the other.

Principle

Principle or values is another theme of the book. The island of Sicily is where the Mafia ruled. Most people obeyed the principle of omerta or silence even if they weren't part of the Mafia. They didn't tell the police what they saw. They maintained their silence or reported to whatever organization they were loyal to.

This theme of principle was almost like a code of behavior. Certain people like a Mafia don or chief were expected to be treated in certain ways with a certain amount of due respect, depending on their rank.

Turi also had his principles. He was a bandit but he wanted to help free the people of Sicily. They were oppressed not only by the government but also by the Mafia. Turi's rule was that they would never steal from the poor or attack women. Half of their profits were given to the poor. This is what made him a legend and is why he had the support of the people. He and his men did what they could to help the poor, like killing the six Mafia chiefs during the land distribution at Prince Ollorto's estate.



Turi's principles also extended to women. His men were not allowed to rape women. When he found that his cousin Aspanu had raped a woman, he tied him to a tree and whipped him.

Loyalty

Closely related to principle is the theme of loyalty. Whatever side a Sicilian was on, he was expected to be loyal to his leader. Loyalty is something that Turi demanded from his men. Those who were not loyal and betrayed him met their death and Turi always gave those men a minute to make their peace with God before they were executed.

Turi also made some decisions based on his loyalty to his men. As their leader it was his responsibility to protect them. When they found that Frisella the barber had informed on them, Turi at first hesitated in ordering his execution. This was a man that he had known all of his life. However, when Frisella let the authorities know that Turi would be visiting his family, Frisella endangered not only Turi, but also his men. Frisella was a paid informer and Turi had him executed for his betrayal.

Because of the struggle between Turi and Don Croce, men would often have to choose sides. It was difficult to be loyal to both, although Hector Adonis managed to do so and was still alive at the end of the book.

Style

Point of View

The Sicilian is written in the third person point of view. The narrator is obviously the author, Mario Puzo, who provides the background and the details for the story. Puzo allows for plenty of dialogue between the characters. This dialogue allows the characters to express their views and opinions and also reveals the character's personality to the reader.

The third person point of view works well for this kind of novel. It doesn't have the limitations of the first person point of view which restricts the knowledge of the reader to the knowledge of the story teller since the reader only has information from events that occur in the presence of the story teller. The use of the third person overcomes this problem. Puzo is able to describe the setting and provide whatever background information is needed to convey the action of the novel to the reader.

Setting

The setting for the novel are various places on the island of Sicily for the most part. Palermo is the major city on the island of Sicily. It is where Inspector Velardi and other government officials have their offices. It is where the cathedral is located that the cardinal was kidnapped from. The Hotel Umberto is located in Palermo. This is the hotel that is owned by Don Croce and is where the meeting with Michael Corleone and later the meeting with the Mafia chiefs is held.

There are many scenes in Montelepre which is approximately an hour's drive from Palermo. Thus is the town where Turi was born and where his family and the family of many of his men live. Turi and his men live on Monte d'Ora in the Cammarata mountain range around Montelepre.

There are also other towns that are the setting for the action of the novel. Trapani is a coastal town where Don Clemenza has a villa where Michael waits for Turi. Mazara de Vallo is also a coastal town where Michael and Peter go by boat and then travel by car to Castelvetro. The Polrtella della Ginestra is a pass in the mountains where a massacre occurred. The Acropolis of Selinus is a Greek ruin located south of Castelvetro where Turi is shot by Aspanu.

There are also scenes in Rome where the government officials are and in the United States when Michael returns home. The Corleone family has an estate on Long Island in New York.



Language and Meaning

The language and the meaning of the writing of the novel are such that the novel is quick reading. Most of the prose is in simple everyday English with no hidden meanings. The terms that are Sicilian are explained by the author when they appear so the reader is never left wondering what a particular term means. Puzo explains not only the meaning of the term but how it is used and more often what the history is, like the term omerta.

The language and meaning of the writing style result in a novel that is quick and easy reading. There is not much that will slow the reader or detract from the action of the novel.

Structure

The structure of the book is that the story of the novel is divided into five parts with a total of thirty one chapters. Each of the five parts focuses on one of the characters. Part One introduces Michael Corleone who is delayed in his return to the United States and two years of exile in Sicily. The chapter sets the scene for the action of the novel since Michael meets with Don Croce and then goes to Montelepre to meet Turi's parents. Part Two tells the story of the young Turi Guiliano from the time he became a bandit in 1943. It explains how his band formed and operated. Part Three focuses on Michael Corleone and his stay at Trampani as they plan their escape route for Turi. Part Four focuses on Don Croce from 1947-1950 and explains how Turi and he became bitter enemies. Part Five deals with Michael trying to meet Turi to effect his escape and what happens to all of the characters in the novel.

There is no Table of Contents, Index or even a Forward, but none is needed. The novel tells its own story and the structure chosen is the most effective for this kind of novel. There is nothing that detracts from the action of the story or the speed of reading.



Quotes

In his years of exile and hiding, Michael had developed an animal instinct for danger. He disliked Inspector Velardi, he feared the murderous Stefan Andolini, Father Benjamino gave him the creeps. But most of all Don Croce sent alarm signals clanging through his brain. (Chapter 1, pg. 24)

At twenty years of age Turi Guiliano was considered the bravest, the most honorable, the strongest, the young man who inspired the most respect. He was a man of honor. That is to say, a man who treated his fellow man with scrupulous fairness and one who could not be insulted with impunity. (Chapter 3, pg. 59)

Standing on the top of this Monte d'Ora watching the sun come radiantly alive, Turi Guiliano was filled with youthful glee that he had escaped his enemies. He would never obey a fellow human being again. He would choose who should live and who should die, and there was no doubt in his mind that all he would do would be for the glory and freedom of Sicily, for good and not for evil. That he would only strike for the cause of justice, to help the poor. That he would win every battle, that he would in the love of the oppressed.

He was twenty years old." (Chapter 5, pg. 112)

Through the centuries the Mafia governed Sicily, a presence so shadowy and indistinct that the authorities could never quite grasp the extent of its power. Up until World War II, the word "Mafia" was never uttered on the island of Sicily (Chapter 7, pg. 114)

He explained that his purpose was not only to survive but to become a political force. He emphasized that they would not rob the poor. Indeed half of the profit the band earned would be distributed to the needy in the provinces around the town of Montelepre reaching to the suburbs of Palermo. Terranova and Passatempo would rule their own subordinate bands but would be under Guiliano's overall command. These subordinate bands would not launch any money-making expedition without Guiliano's approval. Together they would have absolute rule over the provinces that held the great city of Palermo, the city of Monreale, and the town of Montelepre, Partinico, and Corelone. He impressed upon them that they would take the offensive against the carabinieri. That it would be the field police who would go in fear of their lives, not the bandits. They were astonished by this bravada (Chapter 9, pg. 150)

When the new democratic government in Rome put a price of ten million lire on his head, Guiliano laughed and continued to move confidently through many of the towns. He even dined occasionally in the restaurants of Palermo. At the end of the meal he would always leave a note under the plate which read, "This is to show that Turi Guiliano can go wherever he likes." (Chapter 12, pg. 179)

"First of all I wish to thank you for your honesty," he said. "The offer is very tempting. But I am now committed to free the poor in Sicily, and I do not believe the Friends have the



same aim. They are servitors of the rich and the politicians in Rome and these are my sworn enemies." (Chapter 13, pg. 199)

Stefan Andolini nodded to Clemenza; they obviously had met before. He shook hands with Michael and said he had to leave - there were things he had to do back in Montelepre. "Remember this, whatever you may hear," he said, "that I always remained faithful to Turi Guiliano and that he trusted me to the end. If he is betrayed it is not I who will have betrayed him." He stuttered with sincerity. "And I will not betray you." (Chapter 16, pg. 232)

Michael marveled that Turi Guiliano, so young, so idealistic, had lived through these treacheries. Michael knew enough of the world to imagine that Guiliano harbored his own cunning, his own scheme of power, in order to remain dedicated to his mission. Michael was filled with an enormous sense of identification and commitment to the cause of Guiliano's escape (Chapter 17, pg. 248)

Guiliano listened with a slight smile. He knew that someday it might be necessary to kill this man and such was the respect Don Croce inspired by his presence and the power of his personality that Guiliano flinched from the thought. As if by even thinking such a thing he went against his own father, some deep feeling of family. He had to make a decision and it would be the most important since he had become an outlaw (Chapter 19, pg. 271)

The massacre at the Portella della Ginestra shocked all of Italy. Newspapers screamed in glaring headlines the slaughter of innocent men, women and children. There were fifteen dead and over fifty wounded. At first there was speculation that the Mafia had committed the massacre, and indeed Silvio Ferrà gave speeches laying the deed at the feet of Don Croce. But the Don had been prepared for this. Secret members of the Friends of the Friends swore before magistrates that they had seen Passatempo and Terranova set their ambush. The people of Sicily wondered why Guiliano did not deny this outrageous charge in one of his famous letters to the newspapers. He was uncharacteristically silent (Chapter 21, pg. 295)

Turi Guiliano had finally succeeded in doing what no other statesman or national politician had succeeded in doing. He had united all the political parties in Italy to pursue one course of action; the destruction of Guiliano and his band (Chapter 23, pg. 317)

Persisting in his avowals of friendship, the Don had contacted Don Corleone in America to help rescue Guiliano and give him sanctuary there. Turi Guiliano understood quite well that Don Croce was also serving his own purposes, but Guiliano knew he had very few options. The power of his band was gone (Chapter 26, pg. 357)

Don Croce went on. "I cannot permit Guiliano to live or escape. If you remain faithful to him then you too are my enemy. Know this. With Guiliano gone, you cannot remain alive in Sicily without my protection (Chapter 27, pg. 384)

You would never have left Sicily alive without Don Croce's protection. So be it. Do you want to be a hero like Guiliano, a legend? And dead? I love him as the son of my dear



friends, but I do not envy him his fame. You are alive and he is dead. Always remember that and live your life not to be a hero but to remain alive. With time, heroes seems a little foolish (Chapter 29, pg. 399)



Topics for Discussion

Who are the Friends of the Friends? How did the organization originate and why?

How did Turi become a bandit? What incident sent him and Aspanu into the hills?

What is it that made Turi a popular bandit? Why were so many people willing to help him?

How does Turi view his battle with Don Croce? What does Don Croce offer Turi after his meeting with the Mafia chiefs? Why doesn't Turi accept?

What was Turi's Testament? Why was it so important? How did Michael Corleone come to possess it?

What happened at Portella della Ginestra? What was its significance?

Why isn't Turi's Testament ever published? Why does this upset Michael?