

PICTURE IT:

Sicily, 1860s.

NEAR THE TOE PART OF THE BOOT.

WHEN MOST PEOPLE HEAR THE WORD **MAFIA** THEY THINK OF THE **GODFATHER**, **AL CAPONE**, **BUGSY SIEGEL**, **BOOTLEGGERS** AND **MURDERERS**. THE **AMERICAN SPIN** AND **SHINE** ON ORGANIZED CRIME.

BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT **REALLY** HAPPENED.



AS THE **FEUDAL SYSTEM** IN ITALY **BROKE DOWN**, **PROPERTY** AND **OWNERSHIP** **DISPUTES** **EXPLODED**.

BANDITS AND **THIEVES** **TERRORIZED** **LANDOWNERS**. THERE **WEREN'T** **ENOUGH** **COPS** TO **GO** **AROUND**.



THAT'S WHERE MY **GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER** **GINO BERTINELLI** AND THE **CASSAMENTO FAMILY** **STEPPED** **IN**.

THEY **BECAME** **KNOWN** AS THE **MAFIA**.



THE WORD "**MAFIA**" **COMES** FROM **ITALIAN-ARABIC** **SLANG** FOR "**PROTECTOR** **AGAINST** **THE** **POWERFUL**." THE **MAFIA** **WERE** **THE** **TOWN** **PROTECTORS**. **VIGILANTES**.



IF YOU **WERE** **MAFIA**, YOU **WERE** **RESPECTED** AND **APPRECIATED** AS **HEROES**.

BUT **OVER** **TIME**, THE **MAFIA** **GREW** **SICK** WITH **POWER**.



PROTECTION **MONEY** **WAS** **DEMANDED** **UP** **FRONT** FROM **EVERYONE**, **WHETHER** **THEY** **ENCOUNTERED** **PROBLEMS** OR **NOT**.

CASSAMENTO BROS. MARKET

BERTINELLI
RISTORANTE

MY GRANDFATHER, SALVATORE BERTINELLI, IMMIGRATED TO AMERICA WITH HIS FAMILY AND SETTLED IN GOTHAM.

THE BERTINELLIS AND CASSAMENTOS CONTINUED THEIR ALLIANCE. THERE WERE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO NEEDED "PROTECTION" IN GOTHAM CITY.

Gotham, 1930s.

DANGER: SHARP SUITS AND HIP HATS AHEAD.

CASSAMENTO BROS. MARKET

BERTINELLI'S
RISTORANTE

EVENTUALLY, THE BERTINELLI ORGANIZATION ROSE TO THE TOP OF THE FIVE FAMILIES OF GOTHAM.

SALVATORE SIDED WITH THE OTHER FAMILIES AGAINST THE CASSAMENTOS, WHICH NOT ONLY ENDED THEIR FRIENDSHIP, BUT ALSO THE CASSAMENTO BUSINESS.


SALVATORE'S SON, FRANK, FELL FOR A SMART, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN-- MARIA.

MY PARENTS MARRIED AND A FEW YEARS LATER MY BROTHER PINO WAS BORN. I SOON FOLLOWED.


WHAT LITTLE CIVILITY WAS LEFT BETWEEN THE FAMILIES DISAPPEARED WHEN GRANDFATHER DIED. FRANK WAS CERTAIN THE CASSAMENTOS KILLED HIM. THEY DENIED IT.

DAD WAS MY PROTECTOR.

I NEVER REALIZED HE NEEDED *ME* TO PROTECT HIM. I WASN'T ABLE TO DO THAT AS A CHILD.



I'M NOT PROUD OF MY FAMILY'S HISTORY. THEY WERE CRIMINALS. BUT THEIR PAST SINS DON'T EXCUSE WHAT THE CASSAMENTOS DID TO THEM.



I'VE COME TO KILL SANTO CASSAMENTO FOR THOSE PAST SINS-- AND NOTHING CAN PROTECT HIM NOW.

WHO IS ORACLE?

WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT

JULIE BENSON & SHAWNA BENSON WRITERS

ROGE ANTONIO ARTIST

ALLEN PASSALAQUA COLORS **DERON BENNETT** LETTERS

YANICK PAQUETTE & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN COVER

KAMOME SHIRAHAMA VARIANT COVER

DAVE WIELGOSZ ASST. EDITOR **CHRIS CONROY** EDITOR

MARK DOYLE GROUP EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**

IF YOU WANT
SOMEONE
DEAD--



--KILL 'EM
YOURSELF.



TEAMING UP WITH A
KNOW-IT-ALL BAT AND
A SCREAMING BIRD
WAS A MISTAKE.



AND I DON'T
MAKE MISTAKES.



THEY MADE ME
LOSE FOCUS ON
MY MISSION.



BUT NOW
I'M RIGHT ON
TARGET.



SANTO.
THERE HE IS.

AN OLD VENDETTA,
SETTLED IN AN ANTIQUES
WAREHOUSE. FITTING.

AND THE PERSON HE'S
TALKING TO...THAT MUST
BE THE MYSTERIOUS
FENICE--?

SSSSSSSS

DAMN.

WE BROUGHT YOU A
TOWEL, SWEETHEART.
NEXT TIME, MAYBE DRY
OFF BEFORE LYING ON A
GRATED CATWALK.

AH, AH,
AH...

...THAT THING
COULD HAVE
HURT MY
BOSS.

WHERE
ARE YOUR
LITTLE
FRIENDS?

I DON'T HAVE
FRIENDS--