

A Fugitive

The Italian Mafia is similar to any other structured organization in "Corporate America. It has a stringent chain of command, defined goals and purposes, and is ruled by a Board of Directors (The Commission). And like its legitimate counterparts, it is occasionally plagued by the evil of nepotism.

The only reason Armond "Buddy" DEllacroce was a "made" member of the Italian syndicate was because his father, Aniello, was the Underboss of the Gambino Organized Crime Family. But unlike his father, Armond was not a real tough guy. In fact, he soiled his underwear at the very thought of going to Jail and had disgraced himself on the few occasions it had happened.

It was therefore no surprise that when word leaked out that indictments would be coming down for Family members in 1985 that Armond went into hiding. He was nowhere to be found on March 28, 1985, when DEA agents and New York City Detectives went to arrest him and was declared a fugitive from justice.

So when Group Supervisor Eddie Magnuson received a "tip" from a reliable informant that Armond's lower east side girlfriend would be going to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to visit him, he applied a little Logic 101. Although an exact airline, flight, and airport (La Guardia or JFK) were unknown, a precise date and approximate time for her departure from her residence were known. And after applying deductive reasoning and many calls to the airlines, Eddie was able to pin point a mid-afternoon flight out of La Guardia Airport with a high degree of probability.

On the identified date, Group Supervisor Eddie Magnuson and Special Agent Jefferson Moran initiated surveillance in the vicinity of the paramour's home while detectives Billy Burns and Frank Boyle did a few last minute checks with the airline. As if on cue, the "well stacked" and "dressed to kill" girlfriend dragged an oversized suitcase to the curb and jumped into a waiting car. Following at just the right distance, Eddie

and Jefferson tailed the unsuspecting vehicle to the terminal at La Guardia where DEtectives Burns and Boyle put the excited girlfriend on a flight to Fort Lauderdale.

A few hours later, DEA Resident Agent in Charge Jack Toal and Eddie's former partner George Whalen watched as Armond embraced his lover. However any plans Armond had for the evening were rudely interrupted when the agents made him an invited guest of the government.

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