

BOOK REVIEW

Name:- Valluri Venkata Krishna Karthik
Branch:- Biotechnology
Roll No:- 24BTB0A70

Title & Author:

The Sicilian by Mario Puzo

INTRODUCTION:

After reading *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo, I was eager to explore *The Sicilian*, its literary companion. So when I spotted it in the library, I couldn't resist picking it up. Expecting to revisit the same world, I dived in with high hopes.

I have a deep admiration for crime family stories, drawn to their gripping storytelling, morally complex characters, and rich cultural backdrop. This book promised all that, and it did not disappoint. It offered a unique blend of history, crime, and

drama, making me even more invested in the world Puzo masterfully created.

SUMMARY:

The Sicilian drops you right into post-WWII Sicily, where things are tense, messy, and ruled by a mix of corrupt officials and the Mafia. At the heart of it all is Salvatore "Turi" Giuliano—a regular guy from a small village who turns into a legendary outlaw. What starts as a personal act of rebellion quickly grows into something much bigger. He becomes a symbol of resistance, fighting for justice and freedom in a place that's had very little of either. The story is told partly through Michael Corleone, who fans of The Godfather will recognize. He's still hiding out in Sicily, but before he can head back to the U.S., he gets one last job: help get Turi out of the country. Sounds simple, but of course, nothing ever is. As Michael gets pulled into Turi's world, he finds himself caught between loyalty, politics, and danger. Turi's got a tight crew, especially Aspanu Pisciotta—his best friend and right-hand man—and they're up against some serious power players like Don Croce Malo, a Mafia boss who doesn't like how much attention Turi is getting. Even though it's linked to The Godfather, The Sicilian totally holds its own. It's part folk tale, part political drama, part tragedy. It dives into big themes like honor, freedom, betrayal, and what it really costs to stand

up for what you believe in. If you're into stories about rebels, legends, or just really good drama, this one's worth the read.

ANALYSIS AND OPINION:

The book worked well for me. This was my second time picking it up—I had forgotten why I stopped the first time, but now I understand and appreciate it. Though it strays from *The Godfather*, its source book, it does so in a powerful way. As a huge fan of *The Godfather*, I found *The Sicilian* to be completely different—and better. The complex characters and the unreal motivation of the young boys of Sicily to fight for their country intrigued me and revealed how hostile environments can shape people in unexpected ways.

What stood out most was that while the book is framed by Sicily's political turmoil after World War II, it focuses more on the thoughts, choices, and lives of its characters. Characters like Turi, Aspanu, and Don Croce—each with their agendas—add intense drama and layered storytelling.

One character who left a lasting impact on me was Mario Lombardo, Turi's mother. When Turi was about to be born, they were living a simple, happy immigrant life in America. But driven by nostalgia for their homeland, she returned to Sicily, where her son, once full of potential, became a legendary bandit. Still, she stood by him, believing in his cause and strength.

The book also powerfully explores the effect of power on a person. Turi once said, "*You have a minute to make your*

peace with God," before shooting a childhood barber who had betrayed him. This chilling moment reflected the Sicilian code of *omertà* and showed how Turi's ideals had turned dark.

At another point, it's mentioned that he believed the people would always protect him because he protected them—an indirect speech that shows his unwavering belief in mutual loyalty.

PERSONAL CONNECTION:

This was the first book that genuinely brought tears to my eyes. As an avid reader, I've come across betrayal many times in fiction—but this time, it truly hurt. Watching such a strong, handsome, and intelligent young man like Turi turn into a bandit because of political circumstances made me reflect deeply. It showed how a hostile environment can *push someone over the edge*, even when their motive was to *set things right*.

What hit hardest was how the people he fought for—his people—forgot him in the end. One man against a corrupt government, the Mafia, and socialist reformers—it seemed impossible. Yet Turi brought them all to their knees, not for power, but because he believed in a better Sicily. He *rose above the rest*, not by chance, but by choice.

His belief in his mission, his fearlessness in the face of death, and the purity of his purpose struck me deeply. He left behind

comfort and safety the day he ran to the hills with a lupara and a shotgun, knowing death could come any time. He only wanted to help, even when it wasn't his responsibility.

Turi was a loyal son, a loving partner, a devoted friend, and above all, a selfless fighter. He changed how I view life, loyalty, and sacrifice—*he raised the bar* for what it means to live with purpose.

CONCLUSION:

After finishing the book, I felt it was too real to be fiction. Searching online, I discovered that Turi, Aspanu, and others were real people who fought Sicily's internal war. The struggles, betrayals, and sacrifices were not just Puzo's creation but history itself. His ability to weave this into *The Godfather* world while making it dramatic and engaging is remarkable—I might never have learned this through a history lecture.

I highly recommend this book. Though slow at first, it becomes gripping. Its beauty lies in the journey, not the destination. Fans of crime, political history, and character-driven stories will love it.