

SUMMARY - ~~Three Days of Prohibition~~ "Capone as I Knew him"
By Harry C. Read
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Foreword

Explains that the book is dedicated to Arthur Brisbane and Clarence Darrow because both urged the author to write it. Goes on to point out that Capone succeeded only because he was a political creation, rendered the more secure in his position by the attacks of professional reformers, and stresses the urban American's total incapacity for self-government.

Chapters One, Two & Three

In 1924, Joe Howard, a cheap speakeasy character, is murdered, and Alphonse Capone emerges from obscurity to be sought as the murderer. The author is introduced to him by Assistant State's Attorney William P. McSwiggin (later to be murdered). Closeup of the old Criminal Courts press room. Foundation of the Chicago beer and booze racket with accompanying political deals. John Torrio founds a suburban Republican stronghold in Cicero and Al Capone takes the center of the stage.

Chapter Four

Greed wrecks the Torrio dynasty and Capone assumes command. He makes amazing political deals, holding off his enemies meanwhile by superior military strategy. The opposition seeks control of the Unione Siciliana, and a new reign of murderous terrorism results. Underworld peace truces and their constant upset by greedy politicians.

Chapter Five

As city editor of my newspaper I go to see Capone. He explains the background of attacks on the Unione Siciliana. Drinks are served and I get a closeup of his men reporting on their day's work. He forecasts the St. Valentine Day Massacre vaguely in connection with the current trouble. The new president of the Unione is murdered a month later.

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Chapter Six

The St. Valentine Day Massacre of 1929. Capone is in Florida and the politicians put on their usual show of indignation. Capone returns to Chicago and invites me to dinner at his headquarters. His private cabaret party. He talks more and more frankly about the political deals he had made. He promises me a big exclusive story.

Chapter Seven

I do not get my exclusive story because Capone is arrested and sent to prison in Philadelphia while returning to Chicago. The story was based on the national underworld peace treaty made at Atlantic City with politicians in attendance. Gang and political alignments under the new peace treaty.

Chapter Eight

The peace treaty falls apart as politicians and other gangsters strive to seize Capone's territory while he is in prison. Jack Zuta and Joe Aiello strive for dictatorship. Incidents illustrating Zuta's methods. The guns blaze again.

Chapter Nine

A new gang war starts out Back o' the Yards. John "Dingbat" Oberta, gangster, politician and friend of Capone. His mysterious murder. Ralph Capone tells me of the Capone family member who vanished without leaving a trace. The Chicago stage kidnaping racket and how Capone handled it. Eddie Cantor a beneficiary.

Chapter Ten

Introducing Jake Lingle of the Tribune. Capone returns from prison and I dine with him. He is disturbed about the Oberta murder. He talks frankly about his political deals and intentions. Several days later the

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gang gives him a huge homecoming party at which I am the only outsider invited.

Chapter Eleven

Intimate details of how gang-politics rule the city as related by Capone. Ruth Hanna McCormick is nominated for the United States senate. I go to Florida for my health and am entertained by Capone there.

Chapter twelve

Capone's family life on his Palm Island estate at Miami Beach. His legal staff. A newspaper interview. We visit his huge floating gambling house. He relates how he insulted President-elect Herbert Hoover and the possible consequences. A federal court moves to protect Capone's constitutional rights against the state of Florida. We go on a deep sea fishing expedition. The notorious Red McLaughlin is a caller at Palm Island.

Chapter Thirteen

We go on a jaunt to Cuba and land in a Havana jail. A Havana policeman tries to make a deal on booze. Harassed by Cuban G-men, we return to Miami. Capone talks to me about Jake Lingle. During our absence my old army buddy, Policeman Leavitt of Miami, gets into trouble. Fired from the force he goes back to wrestling and emerges in public life as Man Mountain Dean. I return to Chicago. I identify the body of a murdered man as that of Red McLaughlin whom I had met in Capone's Palm Island manor home.

Chapter fourteen.

The murder of Jake Lingle and the resultant political upheaval. The reaction on Capone when I call him on the long distance telephone. The attempt to frame Capone. The Chicago publishers go to war. The Tribune's Col. McCormick outmaneuvers his enemies.

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Chapter Fifteen

The new gang war begins. Jack Zuta, Capone's arch enemy, is trailed to his lair and murdered. Capone returns to a hiding place in Cicero where I see him. His views on many current topics and his attitude on the new police commissioner. The effort to indict and remove the commissioner and why it failed.

Chapter Sixteen

Joe Aiello, another bitter Capone enemy, murdered. Capone gives orders to his gang for election day. The Lingle murder investigation moves on apace. After election Capone returns openly to Chicago. He takes me on a tour of inspection of his private dining hall, motion picture theater and gymnasium. He discusses possible candidates for mayor.

Chapter Seventeen

Capone discusses the murder of Dingbat Oberta with me again. Police guards for gangsters calling socially on gangsters. Leo V. Brothers is arrested for the Lingle murder. The U.S.A. begins its major offensive against Capone. He is under investigation for income tax law violation and admits that the end is in sight. The blow dealt him by murdered Mike Heitler's post-humous letter.

Chapter Eighteen

Capone supports both candidates for mayor and does me a turn as a labor mediator. His part in the cleaning and dyeing racket. How the reformers played their part in the deal. Capone tells me why there is more money in beer. Brothers is convicted of the Lingle murder and Capone derides the verdict. Declares that the murderer of Lingle is dead and virtually identifies him. Relates how he himself was invited to go into a deal in narcotics.

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Chapter Nineteen

Indicted for income tax violation Capone makes his usual deal. How the deal became public. Capone relates the details of a notorious fix on a gambling house. The famous Frolics kidnaping case is finally explained.

Chapter Twenty

The deal on the income tax case falls through and Capone prepares for trial. He takes an excursion into the kidnaping racket as intermediary. Tried in the Federal Court he is found guilty on the income tax violation. He predicts political sidetracks for the federal officials he blames for upsetting his plans. His prediction comes true. The Lindbergh kidnaping.

Chapter Twenty-one

Arthur Brisbane and Al Capone discuss the Lindbergh kidnaping. Capone is sent to prison for eleven years.

Chapter Twenty-two

The Capone empire remains intact while he is in prison, except for changes in top personnel. The politicians keep what they have and strive for more.

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