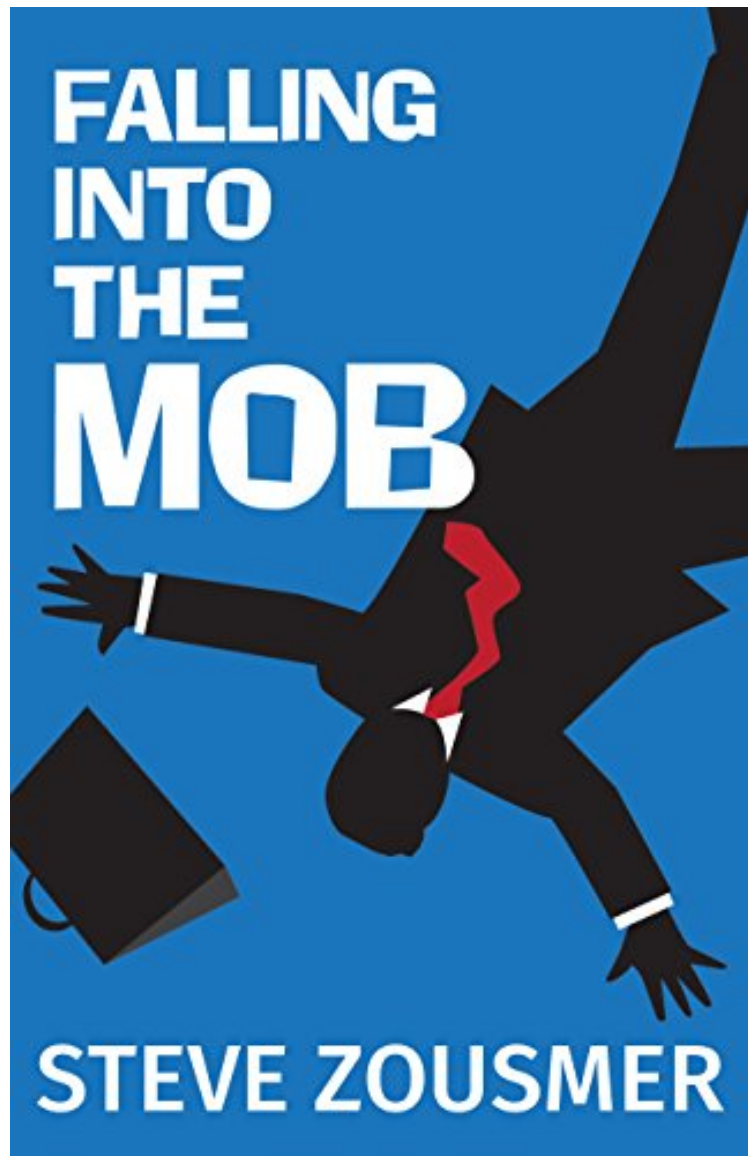


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Falling into the Mob

Steve Zousmer

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Steve Zousmer : Falling into the Mob before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Falling into the Mob:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding, Suspenseful Read! By Lane Steve Zousmer has written and published an outstanding, enjoyable book! He ties the threads together of an improbable, but suspenseful story, into real drama. I found that his in-depth knowledge of the novel's subjects coupled with his own experiences permeated his novel and added to its credibility. He has a comfortable, easy writing style and has a unique writing

talent of finding the right, exact word, necessary in suspense. I found the characters, settings and emotions were fully descriptive and developed, and "pop-out" so that I could easily visualize and feel right in the middle of experiencing each exciting situation. This is a "must-read"....you won't put it down!!!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Goodfella's Redux"By TobeyGreat fun! Witty and clever romp thru the world of the Italian mafia. Mr Zousmer does an outstanding job of developing his characters and dialog while leading the reader to want more. I couldn't put it down. Should be on the NY Times best seller list...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Falling into the Mob is great! Droll humor on every pageBy Nils H. WessellFalling into the Mob is great! Droll humor on every page! So funny I bought a copy as a birthday present for my son. But it also says some serious things about people as they grow older. It's both humorous and serious at the same time, not easy to pull off but done very successfully. If you aren't smiling throughout, hey, I gotta pair of concrete shoes in your size, wiseguy.

At fifty-nine, facing a dull and lonely future, Phillip Vail yearns for a way to put vigor and purpose into his remaining years. Then he finds the Mafia. While riding a commuter train, enjoying a chat with a younger woman sitting next to him, he encounters three violent drunks. Phil is powerless and terrified but the woman is neither; her father is the caporegime of New York's Sforza crime family and a quick call brings her three mobster brothers who deal out brutal punishment. Phil is appalled but fascinated. In subsequent contacts with the woman, he finds himself falling in love and deeper into the Mob. Then comes the game-changer: a crazy-seeming offer to become a crime boss himself, an offer he cannot refuse. Phil sees the dark comedy in his situation but tells the story earnestly describing his emotions, reflections, and surprising leadership, As well as his adventures--including a sensational brawl with a Mafia kingpin in a posh Manhattan restaurant, a near-death experience in a karate dojo, and a spectacular stunt to force the hand of the FBI. Meanwhile, his respectable life intrudes. An ex-client, the retired CEO of a blue-chip corporation, decides to run for president, with Phil as a key member of his staff. He must now find his way between two preposterously conflicting purposes: leading a crime family or serving a potential president. Which is more worthy of his allegiance? Which offers a better life?

"Freelance speechwriter Phillip Vail, the 59-year-old divorced narrator of this exceptional comic crime novel, is considering fading away into the sunset until he's suddenly presented with two big opportunities. One is to become idea man and ghostwriter for retired CEO Peter Draybin (who's considering running for president), and the far less likely option is to become head of the Sforza crime family. On a train from Manhattan to his home in Westchester County, Phil meets Sylvia Sforza, the beautiful, hard-edged daughter of the head of the clan, and together they face down a trio of thugs, though Sylvia does most of the facing down. Sylvia later introduces Phil to her dying dad, Jacopo, who decides that Phil is just who the family needs to replace him. Zousmer, who has worked as a freelance speechwriter for CEOs of major corporations, is also the author of the novel Famous . --Publishers Weekly, starred review" At 59, corporate speechwriter Phillip Vail is contemplating a bleak future. He's divorced, his only child lives half a continent away, and he has just one client left, retired CEO Pete Draybin. Then a chance encounter on a train with a woman who turns out to be Sylvia Sforza, daughter of dying New York Mafia boss Jacopo (Jake) Sforza leads to an incident that draws Phil into the crime family, against all of his better instincts. Jake offers Phil the leadership of the Sforza family after his death at the same time that Draybin decides to make a run for the presidency, with Phil's role in the campaign alternately diminished and increased. The one thing Phil is sure of is his reciprocated love for Sylvia, but whether to be capo or speechwriter is a tough call, ultimately resolved in a potentially lethal scene in a fabulously expensive Manhattan restaurant before Phil's application of corporate advice to the criminal world averts disaster. Former speechwriter Zousmer has a light touch with fast-moving prose as he not only spins an entertaining caper but also ruminates about retirement and its waste of valuable human capital. A winner for fans of both business books and lighthearted mysteries." --Booklist, starred review "It's blustery cold, gets dark early, and has been a challenging political season-a perfect storm that suggests it just might be the time to settle in with good escapist fiction. Falling Into the Mob more than qualifies. It'll make you laugh and hold your attention as you try to figure out how its skillful author will resolve the absurdities and threats surrounding his unlikely hero. Written by veteran journalist and corporate speechwriter Steve Zousmer, Falling Into the Mob is sure to restore your spirits and at the same time get you thinking about life at the top-the political top and the top of a major New York crime family. Told in smart-alecky prose and filled with wit, humor and farcical flair, including an all-out fist and bullet fight in a high end East Side restaurant, this novel has enough blood and gore and political cynicism to make it seem plausible. If truth can sometimes be stranger than fiction, fiction can sometimes be more powerful than facts. As Phil says, 'Why lose credibility by telling the truth?' Falling Into the Mob is a lot of fun." --NPR, Joan Baum About the Author STEVE ZOUSMER spent half his career as a journalist, mainly with ABC News, and the other half as a freelance speechwriter for the CEOs or presidents of about 30 major corporations. His ABC assignments included chief writer of Good Morning America and 20/20, senior producer of Nightline, and writer for Harry Reasoner and Peter Jennings. He also wrote documentaries for Discovery, Audubon, Smithsonian World, and National Geographic. He is a graduate of Stanford and Columbia Universities and served as a United States Navy officer in Vietnam. He has written six books:

two novels, three books on writing, and a Smithsonian book on evolution in the Galapagos.