

The year is 1945. World War Two has just ended with the dominating axis powers finally having been defeated leaving the country of Poland in utter turmoil following the deaths of millions of ethnic Poles under the subjugation of both the German Reich in the beginning of the war and now the Soviet Union following the fall of the Nazis. Jakub Kowalski was now an orphan at the age of sixteen, struggling to provide for his siblings throughout the conquest of his home country. Now the Kowalski family, practicing Catholics, were spared the horrors of the holocaust at the hands of the German Army, but that did not mean they were spared the



hardships of the war. His father, Aleksandr, died in the initial invasion in 1939 fighting to keep Poland free from domination. His mother, Maria, died in the Warsaw uprising during a bombing raid that leveled most of the city including the Kowalski home. Jakub, now alone and homeless and having to care for his four younger siblings, started doing odd jobs for a man who worked in the local marketplace in Warsaw post-war. These jobs included pickpocketing the local market goers, as well as stealing various different goods and items to sell to the occupying forces as they were always in need of different amenities to pass the time, with 70% of profits being kicked back to the man who would fence the goods. Jakub's goal was to make enough money to get him and his siblings out of the ruined city of Warsaw.

On March 6th 1946, Jakub made a grave mistake and was caught robbing a local antique shop by Red Army soldiers. Jakub, not having enough money to pay the corrupt soldiers off, was taken outside lined up against a wall about to be shot, when he started pleading telling the soldiers that he needed to care for his younger siblings and that they had no one else. The soldiers, seemingly making a kind hearted gesture, asked Jakub to take them to his siblings so that they could see about helping the young children. This was Jakub's biggest mistake. Upon



arriving at the rubble that used to be his home where he and his siblings lived, the Red Army soldiers, breaking their promise, made an example out of each of his younger siblings in front of Jakub, and shot each and every one at point blank range. Just as they were finally about to kill Jakub, screaming and the sound of gunfire was heard in nearby rubble and the soldiers, now distracted, gave Jakub an opportunity to escape. Alone and with the little money he had, he went back to the

marketplace and talked to his boss, the man he did these odd jobs for and pleaded with him to link him up with the local resistance group, whom for a fee, could smuggle him out of Red Army occupied territory. The man, taking pity on Jakub, was able to link him up with the resistance group, and following a meeting about twelve hours later, the group were able to smuggle him out of the occupied territory and into Western Germany. From there Jakub hitchhiked until he found himself at the coast and used his last remaining money to buy himself a ticket on a

passenger ship headed to the United States, the destination being New York City. After a few brief weeks of traveling, Jakub was finally on the shores of New York City, and saw the Statue of Liberty, a symbol that meant to Jakub what it did to the millions of other immigrants that migrated over the years, freedom and the opportunity to pursue the American dream and make something of himself. On September 18th 1946, Jakub finally processed as an immigrant and was able to take his first step into New York City, and upon asking around, headed to Greenpoint, also known as "Little Poland" in NYC. An older man by the name of Piotr who ran a small-time gang out of the back of an ethnic Polish deli took pity on Jakub and gave him work.



Jakub, much like before, would do odd jobs, running with Piotr's crew collecting debts, running back door rackets for firearms, cigarettes, and other random commodities, extorting local businesses, hijacking trucks and shipments and running lucrative gambling rings. In a fourteen year span, Jakub found himself at the top of the food chain in the Greenpoint Crew, now a fully fledged and large organization with him being the right hand man to Piotr. Jakub had made a good living and became reasonably wealthy, starting a

family with another Polish immigrant by the name of Anna, while owning a rather large estate in upstate New Jersey. The Kowalski's had three boys, Richard, Charlie, and Paul. Throughout the 1960's the Greenpoint crew had finally evolved to dealing a hot new commodity heroin, much to Piotr's disliking. Piotr was against this new profit stream, citing that this would pollute the Greenpoint population with "junk" and ruin many ethnic Poles' lives. Now Piotr, getting far up in age was overruled by the younger, more profit-hungry Jakub and the other high-ranking members in the crew. Piotr tried to talk sense into Jakub saying that it wasn't worth the potential prison time if caught peddling the Junk. Jakub was having none of it and finally after a failed hit set out on him by Piotr in an attempt to wrest control of the organization away from Jakub,



decided now was the time to act. On the night of May 7th, 1967, a hitman Jakub hired shot and killed Piotr outside a local Polish restaurant, now leaving Jakub as the highest ranking member of the criminal organization. Soon, within a few years, the Greenpoint Crew was one of the most profitable criminal organizations in all of Brooklyn running several different rackets including, the heroin trade, extortion, loansharking, illegal gambling, and credit fraud. Jakub had finally made it and made his namesake proud, letting his children have the childhood he so desperately longed for. By 1978 the Greenpoint Crew had over forty official members with dozens more associates, with profitable connections to the Italian families in the area, as well as the Russian Mob. All of Jakub's sons were now working in

the organization as well at this time, and learning the ropes to be able to one day take the Crew over from their father. However, in 1982, all of this changed. A newer and smaller Polish group from a different area in Brooklyn, the Golabki Posse seeking to encroach on the market for heroin in the Greenpoint area and establish a permanent presence there, decided to make a

statement. On July 7th, 1984 a man from Golabki gunned down Jakub as he was walking home with his wife, sons, daughter in-law, and his two grandchildren. In the crossfire the man killed his son Richard's wife. The three Kowalski brothers, with Richard now at the top of the food chain following their father's death, as well as the death of Richard's wife Catherine, vowed the complete and utter destruction of the rival group. Over a period of eight months, the Golabki/Greenpoint war claimed thirty-three lives, turning "Little-Poland" into a literal war zone, culminating with the deaths of all but three men from Golabki whom seemingly fled following the destruction of their organization at the hands of the Kowalski brothers. However, this came at a great cost, as most of the members of the Greenpoint Crew had perished as well leaving just the Kowalski brothers and a few lower ranking members in its wake. Richard, during this period had sent his two children to live with their grandmother, Anna for an indefinite period of time, as now the Crew is weak and susceptible to follow on attacks by different groups in the Brooklyn area vying for the control the Greenpoint Crew once had on the different rackets and markets. The Kowalski brothers, being left to rebuild from the ground up, are trying to once again make the Greenpoint Crew a feared organization worthy of their fathers sacrifices, as well as providing for the family of Richard, and their mother Anna.