

The Hypnagogue



Buddy thought he was the ideal candidate to take over the Narcotics Division of Louie Lamotta's Chicago crime syndicate because he was an honest to goodness narcoleptic. He could fall asleep almost anytime, any place. But since the job paid well and offered superior benefits, competition for it was fierce. A dozen men plus one woman had applied for the position, and if their résumés were to be believed, they were all highly qualified. The choice finally came down to the two men who claimed to be hypnagogues: Buddy, and a stranger who simply called himself "K." The Lamotta H.R. Department orchestrated an on-the-job demonstration to determine the winner. Buddy and K were sent downtown to collect overdue drug money from two different establishments. Precisely at five o'clock, the two candidates got out of Louie's Duesenberg and headed for their respective targets. At precisely 5:01, K fell asleep and tumbled to the pavement. Buddy collapsed a few seconds later, likewise dead to the world. Both fell on trolley tracks, stopping traffic. Unfortunately for K, *his* trolley didn't stop until it was several car lengths past him. Shrieks from the horrified onlookers roused Buddy in time for him to avoid a similar fate. So by default, Buddy got the job. Congratulations, Buddy!