

# HUNTING EL CHAPO

**The Inside Story of the  
American Lawman Who Captured  
the World's Most-Wanted Drug Lord**

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HARPER

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coming to life. This was the same modus operandi I'd seen among the traffickers I targeted in the United States. Diego and I would joke about "doper time"—drug dealers, whatever their level in the organization, are creatures of the night, waking up and conducting business whenever they're good and ready.

Brady and I were now witnessing firsthand the extent of Chapo's exploitation of new markets. Guzmán was eager to find refrigerated warehouses and place his operators in England, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and even Australia.

We knew, too, about Chapo's vast distribution network throughout the United States, but we were caught off guard by his deep infiltration of Canada. In terms of profit, Chapo was doing more cocaine business in Canada than in the United States. It was a straightforward price-point issue: retail cocaine on the streets of Los Angeles or Chicago sold for \$25,000 per kilo, while in major Canadian cities it sold for upwards of \$35,000 per kilo.

His key cartel lieutenants could exploit weaknesses in the Canadian system: the top-heavy structure of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police hampered law enforcement efforts for even the most routine drug arrest and prosecution.\*

It was a perfect match for Chapo: hindered law enforcement and an insatiable Canadian appetite for high-grade coke. Over the years, the Sinaloa Cartel had built a formidable distribution structure, smuggling loads of cocaine across the Arizona border and hauling them to stash pads and warehouses in Tucson or Phoenix, before they were driven by car to the Washington border, where the loads would be thrown into private helicopters. The birds would

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\* Unlike the United States, whose federal law enforcement system comprises many specialized agencies—DEA, HSI, ATF, and FBI—Canada has only the RCMP, also known as Mounties.