

Eddie Beneti

Eddie Beneti is an Ecuadorian millionaire. He has several ranches and a variety of tropical fruit plantations that export bananas, mangoes and papayas. He is a respected person in the Ecuadorian society because of his assistance to poor communities. He constructs schools and educational centres with his own capital in the Ecuadorian Amazon.



However, he is not a millionaire solely for his ranches and plantations, or for the enormous hotel he has in Guayaquil. He also has an organization that commercializes Bamboo, Ebony and Guaiacum from the Amazon jungle. The incredible resistance of these tree species is excellent as construction material for luxurious mansions in Europe and Asia. But there is a problem. 'Vegetal Corp' is a secret company that Eddie created with a false identity and the exotic species he exports are in danger of extinction. To obtain them, Eddie destroys millions of hectares of the Ecuadorian Amazon region.

The illicit deforestation of the jungle is additionally causing the extermination of unique animal species. These rare birds, reptiles and primates also generate millions of dollars for him; Arabs adore collecting exotic animals and they acquire them for his private collections and mini zoos.

Eddie Beneti is responsible for the extermination of great part of the flora and fauna of the continent; and in part, he is responsible for the global warming. The Amazon jungle is the largest natural area in the planet that helps reduce contamination by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air, and producing oxygen. The severe reduction of the Amazon's vegetation represents a severe reduction in oxygen for humans, too.

Scientists, biologists, and protectionist groups in general usually protest and accuse Vegetal Corp. for its illegal activities and negative impact on nature, but everybody ignores the real identity of the company's proprietor. Eddie's economic power and political influence make him invisible and invincible.

To obtain the authorizations he requires exporting his 'products' with legal documentation, he has the cooperation of corrupt politicians. Unfortunately, the ecological disaster of the Amazon region is not significant for radio and television programs. The jungle is so distant and does not represent relevant information for a report or for an acceptable rating.

Eddie resides in the penthouse of his hotel. He has private airplanes and apartments in Paris, Dubai and Hong Kong. These are strategic locations for the operations of his organization.

Today, he has a reunion with J. Paulo Trocas, a famous Italian architect who is interested in Eddie's products. He is planning to construct a mansion in The Emirates for an Arab millionaire in the petrol business. Eddie invites his client to visit Ecuador. He usually negotiates in his 'territory', his hotel Crystal Palace.

They go to the terrace. Eddie is claustrophobic and prefers open spaces. J. Paulo orders a whisky on the rocks; Eddie prefers a cappuccino. "Caffeine is the perfect drug; my spirit is always content and alert." He says, "Alcohol produces cirrhosis and car accidents, too." Eddie has a terrible sense of humour. He generally pretends to project an absurd moral image in his conversations. Eddie is never direct. First, he usually prefers to converse about Italian football or International politics...

"Well, look; I have 100 tons of Guaiacum, pure vegetable metal, just \$10,000 per ton." says Eddie.

"\$10,000? Will you pay the transport?", asks J. Paulo.

"If I receive the cargo in the Persian Gulf by October 9th, I'll pay \$10,000 per ton." adds J. Paulo.

"I generally have problems with the authorities in all those ports; the full service will cost \$11,500 per ton, it is excellent quality Guaiacum." says Eddie.

"I don't know; I will have to consult it with my client, I will telephone him tonight." J. Paulo knows that is an exceptional price; he can multiply it 10 times in Asia.

At that moment, Rosette arrives. Rosette is Eddie's personal assistant and future spouse. Eddie controls all the operations in the jungle and the international negotiations. Rosette is the administrator of the office in the capital. She is the contact with all the local authorities and obtains all types of permissions, authorizations, and all imaginable documentation. She seduces everybody with her elegance and attractiveness.

"Mr. Trocas, this is Rosette, my inspiration; Rosette, this is Mr. J. Paulo Trocas, my Italian friend."
 "It is a pleasure, madam", J. Paulo kisses her hand.
 "The pleasure is mine." she says with her coquette tone of voice.
 "It is 6:30, Eddie. The anniversary of the Martinez...", says Rosette.
 "No problem, I have good memory and I got a nice present for them", says Eddie.
 "Mr. Trocas, I invite you to a cocktail with important Ecuadorian people at the hotel casino. My friend Rafael Martinez will announce his presidential candidature! I promise you will adore the Martinez, they are so entertaining." says Eddie.
 "Accept my excuses, I'm exhausted. It was a 12-hour trip Rome-Madrid-Guayaquil." says J. Paulo.
 "It's OK. We will talk tomorrow, Mr. Trocas. Good night"
 "Good Night, Mr. Beneti. Good night Madam."



Eddie's friend, Rafael Martinez, just founded a new political movement 'Modern Nation'. Rafael is an economist and a University professor with a modern socialist tendency. Rafael's charismatic image contributes to his popularity and political campaign. It is 9:30 pm. Rafael and Karen Martinez are celebrating their anniversary; but at the same time, Rafael will take the opportunity to proclaim his presidential candidature for the next elections in February. National and international reporters are at the conference.

Rafael is describing his presidential plan at the moment: education, employment, public services, security, etc. He promises he possesses the necessary magic formulas to resolve all the complicated social-economic problems of this nation.

"...Politicians are not the solution. We, the honest persons of this nation who do not have a curriculum of accusations and scandals of corruption, will form a social coalition with fresh, human, coherent ideas to re-activate the economy of our nation; to re-activate the economy of our families; to resurrect our Ecuador." Rafael is an excellent orator, an expert in rhetoric. The audience applauds.

"... For the agricultural sector, I have an excellent contingency plan to protect our natural resources. Deforestation is a serious problem for this planet and for our territory. We will be responsible with nature and we will eradicate this cancer; the illegal exploitation of the Ecuadorian Amazon Jungle is history! I propose my friend Mr. Eddie Beneti as my future Minister of Agriculture." Everybody applauds Eddie; this is a surprise for him.

"The agricultural, ecological and conservationist revolution of this continent will be initiated in this Modern Responsible Nation, Ecuador." The audience is euphoric and continues applauding.

Eddie is in shock. He is the principal contributor for his friend's political adventure and the principal contributor for the Amazon jungle's devastation. Eddie's claustrophobia is affecting him. National and international radio and television are in the conference.

"Describe your plan, please. Describe your plan" insists a reporter.
 Rafael continues, "My friend Eddie studied in Israel and he is not only an expert in agricultural exports but also in anti-delinquency methods. His ranches in the Amazon are perfect operation bases to detect all illegal activities in the zone".

At that moment, Eddie has a nervous collapse; everybody helps him.

"He is claustrophobic! He is claustrophobic!" exclaims Rosette.