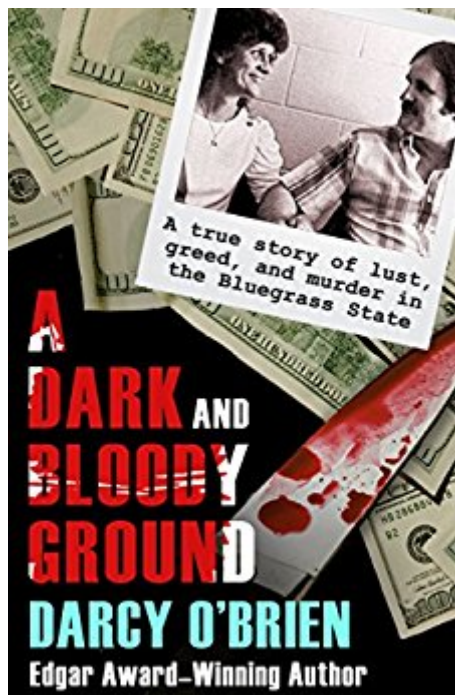




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# A Dark And Bloody Ground: A True Story Of Lust, Greed, And Murder In The Bluegrass State



## Synopsis

An Edgar Award-winning author's true crime account of a grisly string of killings in Kentucky and the shocking spectacle of greed that followed. Kentucky never more deserved its Indian appellation "A Dark and Bloody Ground" than when a small-town physician, seventy-seven-year-old Roscoe Acker, called in an emergency on a sweltering evening in August 1985. Acker's own life hung in the balance, but it was already too late for his college-age daughter, Tammy, savagely stabbed eleven times and pinned by a kitchen knife to her bedroom floor in Fleming-Neon. Three men had somehow managed to breach Dr. Acker's alarm and security systems and made off with a substantial amount of the cash he had stashed away in a safe over his lifetime. The killers' part of a three-man, two-woman gang of the sort not seen since the Bakers' stopped counting the moldy bills when they reached \$1.9 million. They found that all the cash came in handy shortly afterwards, when they were caught and needed to lure Kentucky's most flamboyant lawyer, the celebrated Lester Burns, into representing them. The acclaimed author of *The Hillside Stranglers* and *Murder in Little Egypt* provides an arresting look into the troubled psyches of these criminals and into the depressed Kentucky economy that became fertile territory for narcotics dealers, theft rings and bootleggers. (Publishers Weekly).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an attorney having been involved in post-conviction proceedings, this book (albeit mostly presented from the viewpoint of a convicted defendant's wife) offers the development of the plans for and the horror of the rampage murders. This is as clear of outline of what occurred bar reading the court transcripts.

Not as absorbing as *The Hillside Strangers*, but it definitely held my attention to the end. I loved the introductory portion of the book, where he gets into the history of Kentucky and describes the character of the people who have lived there. Later, he gets deep into the behavior and motives of the individuals who committed the criminal acts that are the subject of the book. I appreciate his perspective into this type of person. At times, the book seems a bit lengthy and could have used some editing, but there was no point at which I thought about stopping! There was always some question to keep me reading. Overall, great book about a disgusting crime and the mentally deranged people who do those dirty deeds.

I truly like Mr. O'Brien's writing. He understands the people and their lives, and is able to help the reader "see" the story from beginning to end. I only gave this book three stars because while I felt his writing was faultless, I felt he had a bit of admiration for Sherry Sheets who chose a convicted felon over being a mother, and never truly showed remorse for knowing her boyfriend was a thief and possible killer. At times, I felt the story was more about her than about people losing their life and life's earnings so she could live a lie with her boyfriend. At times, I wondered where Mr. O'Brien's empathy lies.

This true crime book was a good one that I enjoyed reading but not a great one. The thing I disliked most about the book was the excessive background information that really had nothing to do with the crime. I did a lot of skimming! The actual crime that the book was written about was not really mentioned until about halfway through the book. At that point my interest in the book increased. At times it was slow and a bit redundant. There is a large cast of characters to remember and keep straight. I was fascinated by the relationship between the two main characters, Benny and Sherry. No matter what he did she stood by her man, and he did do a lot! An epilogue would have been nice.

so the reader could know where this cast of characters are today or whatever happened to them. The ending was kind of abrupt and left the reader hanging a bit. At the time the book ended it was the early 1990's so an update would have been very interesting!

Even though I consider this story very good. Once I started reading I couldn't put it down . I like reading the true crime genre and this author gave just enough background information of the people involved in the story. Some authors I think get too involved in painting a back story of characters and end up taking the reader too far from the original story.

This book was written well and left very few to the imagination. The facts were told with little left to dispute in a case of tragedy in many families lives. Many sources were used to substantiate the facts. A book well worth reading.

This book was written about the brutal and violent murders of one of my cousins. I grew up with Tammy Dee and Tawny Rose and it was years before I could read the story. By the time I was ready to read the details, the book was out of print. Thankfully this vendor had a copy. While it is gruesome and horrible and my heart broke while reading it, I am glad to finally know the story. Thanks so very much to this vendor for having out of print books such as this.

GOOD READ IF U CAN HANDLE THE SUBJECT [SENSELESS KILLING]. LOTS OF DETAIL AND THE PLOT MOVES ALONG EVEN IF THERE ARE SOME LOOSE ENDS. RECOMMENDED.

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