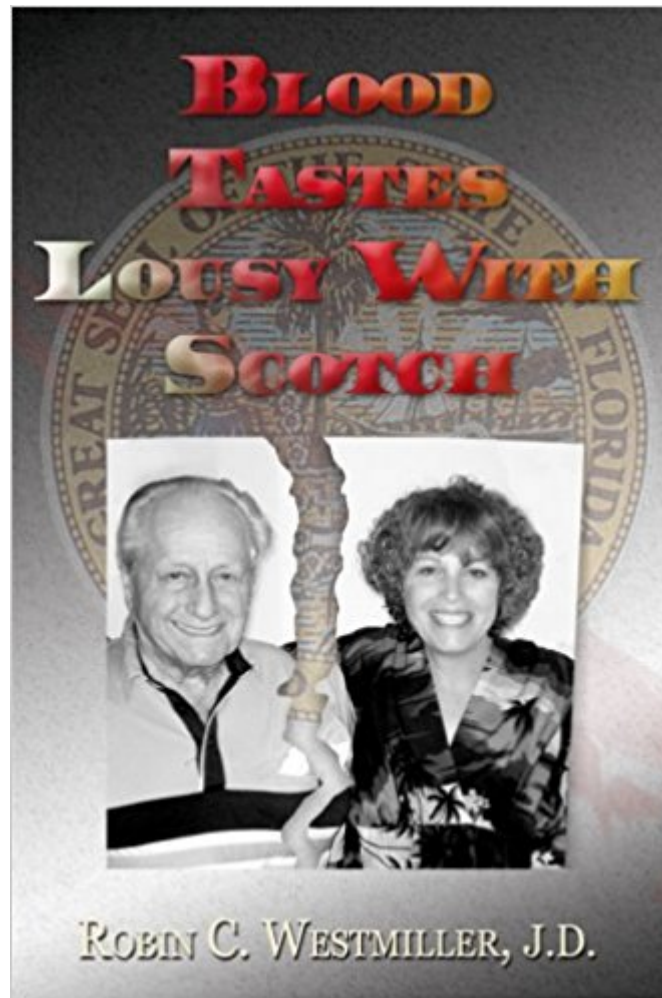




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Blood Tastes Lousy With Scotch



Synopsis

Anyone who has vacationed in the beautiful Catskill Mountains, knows the Village of Ellenville, and no visit to Ellenville was complete without a stop in Cohen's Quality Bakery; "Home of the World Famous Raisin Pumpernickel". Cohen's Bakery owners Ruby and Regina Cohen struggled together for over fifty years to build a lasting legacy for their grandchildren and financial security for themselves in their retirement years, yet it took only a handful of outsiders less than eighteen months to destroy everything they worked their entire lives to acquire. This is the true account of the events that lead to the near destruction of our family at the hands of my cousins, a court appointed guardian, and one of the most powerful Elder Law attorneys in South Florida. It is a story of determination, fortitude and of the victory which inspired the creation of the National Association To Stop Guardian Abuse. They say blood is thicker than water, but you can't bath in it, you can't cook with it, and Blood Tastes Lousy with Scotch

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Customer Reviews

This was a terrific read. Robin opens the door on America's nasty little secret. Our vulnerable citizens are being hunted and incarcerated by court supported and encouraged predators whose only interest is in how much they can steal from those too helpless to stop them. Robin shares the story of her struggle with her father's "guardian." She struggled mightily to free him while the guardians and their loathsome attorney struggled to keep him so they could continue to loot and plunder the assets he spent a lifetime working to acquire. These were assets he sacrificed to save for his old age and for his grandchildren. With great difficulty, Robin got him out of their insatiable

jaws, but they got away with most of his assets. This is a cautionary tale of greed, deceit, and the probate court's inability or unwillingness to prevent it. Robin exposes a problem that if we don't fix it, will put us all at risk of being held hostage by predatory "guardians." --Sharan Denny

I read to escape reality and to assure myself that there will be a "happily ever after" ending. I let other reviewers tackle the non-fiction novels. However, on rare occasions, a non-fiction book captures my attention. Such is the case with "Blood Tastes Lousy With Scotch". What can one person do when the justice system is set up in such a way that distant relatives, lawyers, and state approved organizations can LEGALLY STEAL your parents' entire life savings and financial assets? The answer is nothing, unless that one person is ready to step up to the plate, chance losing everything they own, and happen to have a miracle or two occur. If your parents live over 3,000 miles away, the chances are worse. This is exactly what Robin Cohen Westmiller faced and won. Ruby and Reginia Cohen grew up during the Depression Era. They worked hard all their lives tending their bakery business in Ellenville, New York. Robin Cohen Westmiller was their only child. Robin, her husband Bill, and their daughters lived in California; totally across country. As the events in this book were happening, the daughters were in school. Robin, herself, was enrolled in college, as a law student. In the spring of 2002, Robin's mother called to inform her that Ruby had suffered a minor stroke while working at the bakery. Seventy-nine-year-old Reginia was able to take care of her husband though and did not want Robin to fly all the way to New York. The stroke forced them to sell the family business. Ruby had little or no damage physically, but his memory and mental faculties were severely impaired. Robin had no idea how badly her father was impaired though. The beginning of the end occurred in March 2004 when Ruby flew to Florida, against Reginia's urgent pleas, to visit his niece, Gail. Gail immediately began using Florida's weak justice system to imprison Ruby within the state of Florida, begin stealing all of Ruby and Reginia's financial assets, keep Ruby hidden from his immediate family, get h

--Huntress Book Reviews

As the population ages the issues of the elderly become more widespread and crucial. Robin Cohen Westmiller has written a factual, detailed story of her family's struggle with guardianship abuse. She has courageously told the story of what she, her children and, most importantly, her parents suffered from a system not prepared to face the realities of this theft and mistreatment. Ruby and Regina Cohen worked hard all their lives taking care of their business, their daughter and their extended family of nieces and nephews. Retirement should have been a time of relaxing together to enjoy the security of family and financial stability. A small stroke changes all that. Ruby suffers a stroke that mildly seems to alter his thought process. For many years he had spent a few weeks in Florida on vacation while Regina stayed home. His health seems to preclude another visit but calls from his niece convince

him to go. Nothing his wife or daughter say can convince him that he is not in shape for the journey, not mentally or physically . In March 2004 he got a friend to drive him to the airport and flew to Florida. That was the last his wife would see him for close to 2 years. What follows is an eye opening tale of the difficulties of fighting a system that is not set up to protect the well being of the elderly. Ms Westmiller's cousins were able to convince Ruby to file for divorce from his wife, refuse to see or speak with his daughter and granddaughters, attempt to empty his bank account and not return home. . As his health becomes worse and worse, Ruby is confined to nursing homes and hospitals. Even the court appointed guardian, the hope to change the situation, continues to drain his bank account, continues the divorce proceedings and let the cousins have a say in his life. Ms Westmiller must battle for her parents future in New York while her father is trapped in Florida from her home in California. The inclusion of copies of all of the documents that support Ms We --Front Street Reviews

Robin C. Westmiller received her Juris Doctorate degree in 2007 from the Southern California Institute of Law, in Ventura California. Under her pen name Raven West, she is the author of Red Wine for Breakfast and First Class Male and Journey to Dimension Nine tales of erotica by FireBird. Her short story Lilith in the Garden is included in the anthology The Shortcut, 20 Stories to Get You from Here to There . In June of 2006, she published her non-fiction memoir Blood Tastes Lousy With Scotch How I rescued my father from greedy cousins, thieving attorneys and the Florida Guardianship System. She is the President and founder of the National Association to Stop Guardian Abuse and a member of the Ventura County Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Author s Guild, Ventura County Writers Club, Small Publishers, Authors and Writers Network, Southern California Book Publicists Assn, and an officer of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477.

I found Ms. Westmiller's account of the terrifying capture of her ailing and elderly father, along with his life savings, to be almost unbelievable. I said almost, because I have recently been through a similar experience in which only the wrongdoers triumphed. In my case, a stranger came into my father's life, stole nearly his entire life savings, committed many crimes, and then had him secretly placed in a hospice in another state where he was drugged to death within a day and a half. No happy endings for me. This book is a nightmarish journey through the legal system that makes no sense and has no concern for justice or for the truth. That lawyers stole vast amounts of money by draining a trust is no surprise. That the court permitted it to continue for many months after the final

adjudication is sickening. I understand the fear and confusion one feels when their father is hidden away by someone with evil intent. The author's many trips around the country and her preoccupation with the well-being of both parents only hints at the devastation this can take on a family and a marriage. Finally, the failure of the legal system to hold accountable those responsible for inflicting the harm is as shocking as it is common. I think the larger issues sparked by this book must be addressed. Elder abuse laws are almost entirely unenforced or are unenforceable. This current Congress passed a federal law against elder abuse so as to equalize the disparities in the states. Yet this same Congress has refused to fund a single dollar for this new law, making it moot. I can't wait to see the first lawsuit defending the abuser under the doctrine of federal preemption. Our country is a collection of millions of sad and unnecessary stories of elder abuse, estate fraud, and overreaching by the legal establishment. Yet it will continue indefinitely. There is a law already, a law without any meaning. It is just one more example of those in power who are illegally emptying the bank accounts of the innocent but who will face no consequences. A pox on every lawyer and non-profit and law enforcement agency that commits these crimes.

It was an amazing true story about an only child who fights for her parents' lives and struggles to help others do the same for their parents. As well as, the author tells what happens to her & her family in a fight over the greed and dishonesty of crucial others who played big roles in this story.

A romance writer turned law student moves away from her family and loses control to her cousins. It's sad, but it happens a lot and you don't hear the other side of the story in this book. The book is written like a bodice ripper, and there's no sign of any editing ("undue" the damage). The author admits to thinking about hiring a hit man (!) before hiring an attorney, and she seems overly focused on the money. But it's a useful read for anyone involved in guardianship.

As the population ages the issues of the elderly become more widespread and crucial. Robin Cohen Westmiller has written a factual, detailed story of her family's struggle with guardianship abuse. She has courageously told the story of what she, her children and, most importantly, her parents suffered from a system not prepared to face the realities of this theft and mistreatment. Ruby and Regina Cohen worked hard all their lives taking care of their business, their daughter and their extended family of nieces and nephews. Retirement should have been a time of relaxing together to enjoy the security of family and financial stability. A small stroke changes all that. Ruby suffers a stroke that mildly seems to alter his thought process. For many years he had spent a few weeks in

Florida on vacation while Regina stayed home. His health seems to preclude another visit but calls from his niece convince him to go. Nothing his wife or daughter say can convince him that he is not in shape for the journey, not mentally or physically. In March 2004 he got a friend to drive him to the airport and flew to Florida. That was the last his wife would see him for close to 2 years. What follows is an eye opening tale of the difficulties of fighting a system that is not set up to protect the well being of the elderly. Ms Westmiller's cousins were able to convince Ruby to file for divorce from his wife, refuse to see or speak with his daughter and granddaughters, attempt to empty his bank account and not return home. As his health becomes worse and worse, Ruby is confined to nursing homes and hospitals. Even the court appointed guardian, the hope to change the situation, continues to drain his bank account, continues the divorce proceedings and let the cousins have a say in his life. Ms Westmiller must battle for her parents future in New York while her father is trapped in Florida from her home in California. The inclusion of copies of all of the documents that support Ms Westmiller's experiences are a well chosen addition. While she is able to tell her story with minimal emotional slants, it is the inclusion of the actual court records, comparisons of signatures attributed to her father and financial records that make this book so powerful. It would be wonderful to be able to announce that the book has a perfect, happy ending. While Ms Westmiller is able to rescue her father from the Florida relatives, guardians and court system, the toll, financially, emotionally and physically on her parents is monumental. In less than 2 years they lose everything they have worked for their entire lives- their house, their bank accounts and, sadly, their chance to live together. This book is a personal attempt by the author to educate others to this danger and raise the awareness of this potential tragedy.

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