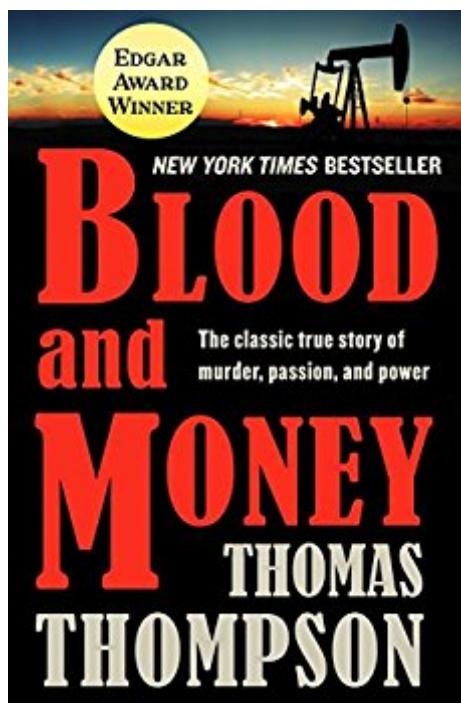


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# Blood And Money: The Classic True Story Of Murder, Passion, And Power



## Synopsis

Edgar Award Winner: The “gripping” true story of a beautiful Texas socialite, her ambitious husband, and a string of mysterious deaths (Los Angeles Times). Joan Robinson Hill was a world-class equestrian, a glamorous member of Houston high society, and the wife of Dr. John Hill, a handsome and successful plastic surgeon. Her father, Ash Robinson, was a charismatic oil tycoon obsessed with making his daughter’s every dream come true. Rich, attractive, and reckless, Joan was one of the most celebrated women in a town infatuated with money, power, and fame. Then one morning in 1969, she fell mysteriously ill. The sordid events that followed comprise “what may be the most compelling and complex case in crime annals” (Ann Rule, bestselling author of *The Stranger Beside Me*). From the elegant mansions of River Oaks, one of America’s most exclusive neighborhoods, to a seedy underworld of prostitution and murder-for-hire, *New York Times* bestselling author Thomas Thompson tracks down every bizarre motive and enigmatic clue to weave a fascinating tale of lust and vengeance. Full of colorful characters, shocking twists, and deadly secrets, *Blood and Money* is “an absolute spellbinder” and true crime masterpiece (Newsweek).

## Book Information

File Size: 2682 KB

Print Length: 484 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0786709472

Publisher: Open Road Media (December 13, 2016)

Publication Date: December 13, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01NBJYHPW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #18,199 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > State & Local >

## Customer Reviews

One of the benefits of the e-book publishing boom is the reissuing of old, out-of-print books. Several books by the late author Thomas Thompson have been published in e-form and I just reread two of his classics, "Richie", and "Blood and Money". I had read both books when they were originally published in the 1970's and I found they have both stood the test of time. I'm going to review them together; both are true crime books but they differ in scope. One, "Richie", is a very personal story of one family, which is torn apart by one son's use of drugs and his death at the hand of his father in a final horrific scene. The other, "Blood and Money", is a sprawling tale, set in Houston, and is the story of many people who are touched by a woman's death and the murder of her husband a couple of years later. I've read three classic true-crime books. They are Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood", Norman Mailer's "The Executioner's Song", and Tommy Thompson's "Blood and Money". All three books feature the crime in the first part, and the after-events in the second part. In "Blood", the first part is the life and death of Joan Robinson Hill, a legendary Houston society beauty and equestrian. Adopted as an infant by oilman Ash Robinson and his wife, Joan had been through two short marriages before meeting and marrying Dr John Hill, a young plastic surgeon just establishing a practice in Houston. Rarely has there been a more mismatched couple and the marriage soon soured after the birth of their only child, Robert. Joan Robinson Hill died in very murky circumstances - possibly abetted by her estranged husband - and her father, who adored her more than anything else in his life, vowed revenge on Dr John Hill. The book's second part is about the murder of John Hill, in front of his third wife, his son, and his mother, and the cast of characters involved in that murder. It is this part that Thompson's writing shines. The plot and execution of the Hill's murder involved some of the strangest "characters" you'll ever read about. From Marcia McKittrick - the proverbial prostitute with a heart of gold -, to her sometime boyfriend, Bobby Vandiver, who carried out the murder, to Lilla Paulus, the Houston matron with the bad, bad past who set up the assassination, and to the lawmen who worked the case and the lawyers that defended and prosecuted McKittrick and Paulus, Tommy Thompson brings the characters to life. The reader feels as if he's there, with Dr Orrin Staves, who loses his pistol to Marcia McKittrick in a funny scene and then tries to walk off with the weapon when he's testifying in court. The man just wants his gun back...even if it now evidence in a murder trial! But if Thompson's characters are beautifully written, so is his writing about the city and society - high and low - of Houston, which

almost becomes a character. Thompson's book is about people - good and bad, high and low, moral and immoral - who find themselves bound together in the death of a woman and the aftermath of that death.

I can believe anything now; what people are capable of doing one to another, until there is nothing left. Horrors.

I first read an excerpt of this story that was featured in the December 1976 issue of Cosmopolitan - it was riveting and I purchased the book soon thereafter. Thompson was an exceptional writer who had the capacity to draw the reader directly into the scenario. It is a true spellbinder in every sense of the word.

One of the classics from the 70's. I read it probably 10 times when I had it then. I either lost it or loaned it to someone who didn't give it back, so I was delighted to find it on late last year. Have read it 3 more times since then. Another classic by this author this author is Serpentine, a high action true story of intrigue all over Asia and Europe. Blood and Money is also a true story.

This is a SUPER book if you are interested in a "page turner" that is based on "true facts". Tommy Thompson was a wonderful story teller that passed away - way, way too soon. I have read this book four or five times and still find it unbelievable that such incidents occurred, especially in our Great State of TEXAS!!!

Great read!

This book is great & a must read for true crime story fans like me. I couldn't put it down! Well worthy of a 5 star rating

Truly a spellbinding well told tale of an incredible series of mysterious deaths among the rich horsey set in Houston during the late 60's, early 70's. The Blood of the title is not about gore but about the strange family goings on, with venomous old coots, cool as can be madams, drug addicts, liars, and gossips. Money is all over the place in this, impacting family relationships and infecting the court system in ways so bizarre you find yourself saying "They couldn't have!" like some shocked old Victorian. Very, very good.

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