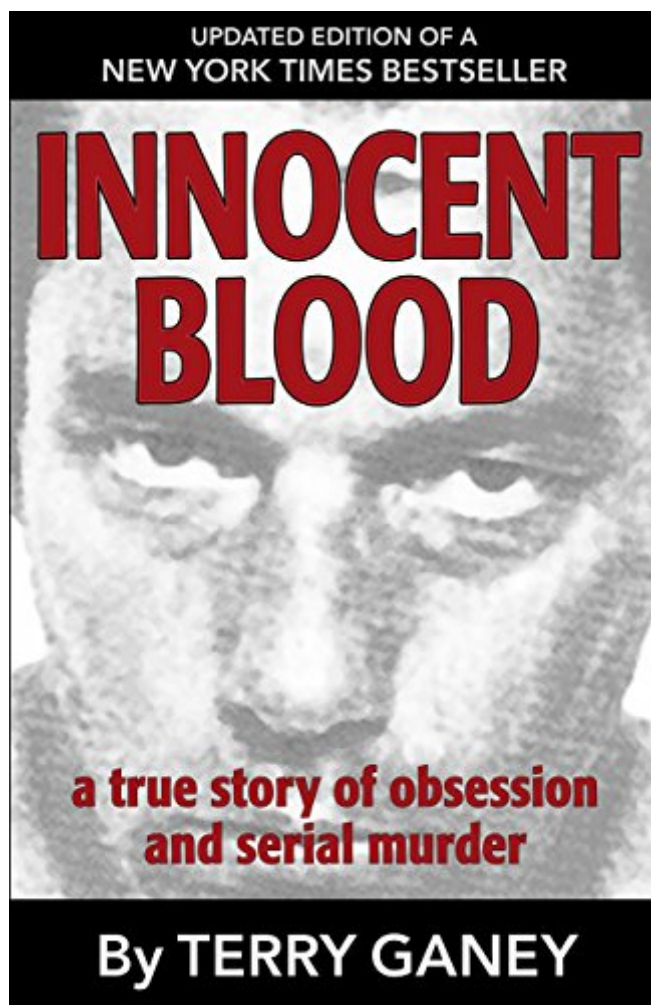


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# Innocent Blood: A True Story Of Obsession And Serial Murder



## Synopsis

Like a real-life Hannibal Lecter--the psychopathic murderer from Thomas Harris' "Silence of the Lambs"--Charles Hatcher was cunning, sadistic and totally remorseless. He was a man with no conscience. He killed sixteen people, three of them children. Hatcher was also responsible for a different kind of tragedy--the conviction and imprisonment of an innocent man who was mercilessly hounded by the police, the prosecutor and the community for a brutal murder that Hatcher himself committed. A nomadic Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde who manipulated the legal system with gruesome skill, Charles Hatcher was the embodiment of evil, the devil's emissary on Earth. His nemesis was the lone FBI-man in St. Joseph, Missouri who risked his career to end Hatcher's reign of terror. "Innocent Blood" is the true story of Charles Hatcher and his life of crime--a powerful, and blood-chilling glimpse into the darkness between sanity and madness. It also chronicles a justice system gone wrong. Throughout his criminal career Hatcher was able to fool dozens of psychiatrists, who repeatedly failed to identify him as a multiple murderer. Hatcher's astonishing skill was not just in his ability to murder and escape imprisonment. He became an expert at manipulating the criminal justice system; overall, he outwitted police, prosecutors, psychiatrists and judges in twelve cities and eight states. Terry Ganey first covered this story as a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Later, he spent four years researching the material for this book, interviewing over seventy-five people and reviewing thousands of documents, court transcripts, prison files, police reports and mental health records. What emerges is a fascinating and horrifying portrait of a mass murderer at large in America--a murderer who could have stalked his victims in any of our towns and cities, whether urban or rural, large or small. This is an updated edition of the New York Times bestseller that was originally published in hardback under the title "St. Joseph's Children." The New York Times called the book, "a powerfully affecting story...every parent's nightmare." Kirkus Reviews said it was "an effective cautionary tale of crime and too-late punishment." The Library Journal described the book as "a gripping tale of murder, pursuit, and justice." And Publishers Weekly's conclusion was: "Disturbing...Justice is shown to triumph--ultimately--in this engaging, instructive true crime study." Customer reviews of the hardback edition "St. Joseph's Children" had this to say about it on the book website:--"My favorite book of ALL TIME!"--"I can hardly put this book down..."--"I highly recommend this book to all."--"What a wonderful book on a horrible miscarriage of justice."--"Book was very well written." This "Innocent Blood" eBook edition contains additional material that editors had discarded for the first print edition. Some events and background relating to Charles Hatcher's early life have been added, as well as context, description and background. The epilogue has also been updated. The revised eBook recounts the original, shocking narrative, which one reviewer

wrote "penetrates the murky darkness of a soul in torment and of a town caught in despair, a town that witnessed both the unremarkable beginning and savage end of Charles Hatcher's criminal career."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book was riveting and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Terry Ganey's retelling of a tragic crime was presented to the reader as it unfolded before the justice system. After setting the stage, Ganey then began weaving in the details surrounding Charles Hatch's nasty trail of nefarious deeds. As fascinating (in a horrifying sense) as this method was, one was still stunned at the obtuse and often self-serving attitudes of those involved in punishing this criminal. It is amazing and disappointing to see how clumsily and easily evidence and criminals can be handled. Often, justice hinges on just one or two experts/authority figures and if they get it wrong, the results can be unspeakable. I read so many books that I rarely take the time to review them. I thoroughly enjoyed Ganey's book, however, and appreciated the care he took to deliver factual details in such an engrossing way. Buy this book--you won't want to put it down.

One sicko caused so much misery and played the system for so long that it took his own admission of guilt to bring about the sad justice that finally took place. The author researched this monster and his long path of crime from car theft to child murder, from juvenile detention to jail then asylum and back to prison. A murderer's odyssey. The innocent suffered not only at his hands but at the hands of our legal system and the assembly line style law enforcement used to close the case, forcing a confession regardless of the facts. I shook my head often while reading this book. It was an engrossing read, true crime fans win love.

So this is a great rating from me :) Wonderful book that kept my interest from beginning to end! The only thing I thought was lacking was better trial coverage, and better coverage of the actual crimes. I am one of the oddballs who likes to hear what each witness said, and this book only told how many were called by each and not even what was said - and it's an updated version? Hmm... As for the crimes that WERE covered, the author didn't spend much time on telling us who they were as people, so I didn't "feel" for them. This is something the late, great Ann Rule was so good at, and what made her such a fabulous author. I felt such are emotions for the victims in her books, and NOBODY else can seem to pull that off. She's like the Danielle Steele of True Crime. If authors of THIS genre could just make us care that much about the victims, they'd make it to number one every single time! This book, like most others, fall flat in that area.

This true crime book is based on the life of a man and his string of crimes that began in the 1940's when he was a young man and then continued for two decades. Some of his crimes were horrendous including the molestation and death of children. The crimes were terrible but the book lacked that "got to read" element. It failed to grab the reader and pull them into the stories. There were quite a few errors in the book. The main murder presented in the book was told in a rather brief, "ho hum" way. There was little about the investigation of this crime which led to the conviction of the wrong man. The court proceedings and trial were very brief when compared to other books and it left me wanting more. Would I recommend the book to others? Probably not.

This was a very good read, chronological and well paced. Unbelievable suffering for the victims, their families and the wrongly accused. The justice system failed as it oftentimes does, but was at least finally corrected. Hatcher was a monster, leaves one with questions as to which was worse, his dysfunctional life or the legal/medical establishment. Or rather, who bears the brunt of

responsibility more. He should have been stopped much sooner. Recommended read for true crime enthusiasts. Lorie S.

Story flowed great. Was easy to read. Held interest. I lived in St Joe most of my life was in high school when Eric was killed and I remembered some of this but did not know the full story. So sorry for the families that had to live through this and are still dealing with it all

Very well written. It held my interest throughout. I would recommend this book. Would like to read more books from this author.

...and once again we are being told to sympathize with criminals, it is instructive to look back on this most evil man who was repeatedly caught & turned loose to rape & murder children the last time our justice system listened to academics. It is an infuriating but brilliantly direct story.

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