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Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans

By *Ethan Brown*



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By Ethan Brown

A charismatic young soldier meets a tragic end in this moving and mesmerizing account of the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, and no-safety-net America

Zackery Bowen was thrust into two of America's largest recent debacles. He was one of the first soldiers to encounter the fledgling insurgency in Iraq. After years of military service he returned to New Orleans to tend bar and deliver groceries. In the weeks before Hurricane Katrina made landfall, he met Addie Hall, a pretty and high-spirited bartender. Their improvised, hard-partying endurance during and after the storm had news outlets around the world featuring the couple as the personification of what so many want to believe is the indomitable spirit of New Orleans.

But in October 2006, Bowen leaped from the rooftop bar of a French Quarter hotel. A note in his pocket directed the police to the body of Addie Hall. It was, according to NOPD veterans, one of the most gruesome crimes in the city's history. How had this popular, handsome father of two done this horrible thing?

Journalist Ethan Brown moved from New York City to the French Quarter in order to investigate this question. Among the newsworthy elements in the book is Brown's discovery that this tragedy?like so many others?could have been avoided if the military had simply not, in the words of Paul Sullivan, executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, "absolutely and completely failed this soldier." *Shake the Devil Off* is a mesmerizing tribute to these lives lost.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. On October 17, 2006, 28-year-old Iraq war veteran Zackery Bowen leapt to his death from a New Orleans hotel roof, leaving a suicide note directing police to the dismembered body of his girlfriend, Addie Hall. In journalist Brown's (*Snitch*) account of Bowen's life, the deterioration of the vet suffering from PTSD parallels that of Katrina-whipped New Orleans, its residents left as stranded as unsupported veterans like Bowen. A high school dropout, New Orleans bartender and a father at age 18, Bowen was determined to improve himself and do well by his child and Lana, his wife, and enlisted in the army, serving as an MP in Kosovo and Iraq. Granted what Brown says was an unfair general (under honorable conditions) discharge, Bowen returned to New Orleans in late 2004, where, abandoned by Lana, he began a turbulent relationship with Hall, culminating in Bowen methodically dismembering and cooking her remains. After covering the murder-suicide for *Penthouse* in 2007, Brown moved to New Orleans, and his detailed reconstruction of both Bowen's life and the city's deterioration make heartbreaking reading. Perhaps most poignant is the message painted on Bowen's apartment wall: please help me stop the pain. 14 b&w photos. (*Sept. 1*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Heartbreaking."—"Publishers Weekly

"Brown creates a riveting portrait of a gruesome crime while detailing the heart of a city in distress. A grim ... story delivered with skill and verve."—"Kirkus Reviews

"A nicely crafted shocker."—"Booklist

"Ethan Brown examines a notorious murder case, rescues it from the talons of tabloid journalists, and comes up with something much more than a true crime book. "Shake the Devil Off" is a gripping suspense story, an indictment of the military's treatment of our soldiers in and out of war, and a celebration of the resilience and worth of a great American city."—George Pelecanos, "New York Times" bestselling author of "The Turnaround" and "Hell to Pay

"Ethan Brown establishes himself as a prodigious reporter and masterful storyteller in "Shake the Devil Off," a chilling portrait of a broken hero failed by the system."

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"A 'coming home' story that rivals any written about veterans of the war in Iraq, and a true crime account that raises the bar for the genre. Measured, thoroughly reported, and written with true empathy."--Nate Blakeslee, author of "Tulia

"Looking more deeply at that from which the rest of us turned in horror, Ethan Brown has transformed an ugly and disturbing shard of the post-Katrina anguish. In this book, that which was lurid and sensational becomes, chapter by chapter, something genuinely sad and reflective, something that now has true meaning for New Orleans and for all of us."--David Simon, author of "Homicide "and "The Corner"

From the Back Cover

A "WASHINGTON" POST "BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

HE LEFT THE WAR A HERO

After Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Zackery Bowen became the face of hope in the local news. A handsome veteran of the Iraq War, Bowen was all smiles and high spirits when he appeared on live television--partying on Bourbon Street, or raising a glass with his beautiful bartender girlfriend, Addie Hall. But Bowen's happy-go-lucky persona in the Big Easy concealed a tortured mind...

AT HOME HE BECAME A KILLER

In October 2006, Bowen leapt from the rooftop bar of a French Quarter hotel--instantly killing himself. Later, it was discovered that he had also killed Addie...and left a note directing police to her dismembered body. Why did Bowen do it? What made him snap? This is the true story of a war-torn veteran driven to commit the most heinous of crimes.

"shake the devil off""

"Ethan Brown has transformed post-Katrina anguish [into] something genuinely sad and reflective...that now has true meaning for New Orleans and for all of us."--David Simon, creator of "The Wire" and "Treme"

Includes 8 pages of dramatic photos

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Kline:

Here thing why that Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans are different and trusted to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your method home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans in e-book can be your choice.

Curtis Tyson:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the headline Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans suitable to you? The actual book was written by renowned writer in this era. The actual book untitled Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleansis the main of several books which everyone read now. This book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new shape that you ever know previous to. The author explained their plan in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to recognise the core of this book. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world in this book.

Julio Rico:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , once we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans.

Merle Poteet:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our understanding for everything. By a guide we can know everything we would like. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This reserve Shake the Devil Off: A True Story of the Murder that Rocked New Orleans was filled about science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading a book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can sense enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways

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