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Mississippi Mud: Southern Justice and the Dixie Mafia

By Edward Humes



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The riveting true-crime account of the heartbreaking murder that shook a Southern city to its corrupt foundation

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI: After the fatal shooting of one of the city's most prominent couples—Vincent Sherry was a circuit court judge; his wife, Margaret, was running for mayor—their grief-stricken daughter came home to uncover the truth behind the crime that shocked a community and to follow leads that police seemed unable or unwilling to pursue. What Lynne Sposito soon discovered were bizarre connections to the Dixie Mafia, a predatory band of criminals who ran The Strip, Biloxi's beachfront hub of sex, drugs, and sleaze. Armed with a savvy private eye—and a .357 Magnum—Lynne bravely entered a teeming underworld of merciless killers, ruthless con men, and venal politicians in order to bring her parents' assassins to justice.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Biloxi, Mississippi, has a "strip" of nightclubs and casinos where prostitution, drugs, and crooked gambling flourish unchecked. An older couple who thought they were retiring to a quiet seaside town got too deeply involved with local politics and the Dixie Mafia and were murdered. The investigation would've sunk beneath the muddy swirl of graft and business as usual but for the tenacious efforts of the victims' daughter. Despite death threats and indifferent law enforcement officials, she hired a private detective and swore to do whatever it took to bring her parents' killers to trial. Horror/suspense writer Peter Straub finds the story reminiscent of Elmore Leonard and Carl Hiaasen: "Like those writers, Edward Humes can make the wild, amoral, scheming sleazoids he parades before our eyes all but sing and dance on the page. Here is America, fat and happy, both hands crammed into the till." *Mississippi Mud* was a 1995 finalist for the Edgar Award in Fact Crime.

From Publishers Weekly

Vincent Sherry, a circuit court judge in Biloxi, and his wife, Margaret, city council member and a reform mayoral candidate, were fatally shot at their Mississippi home in 1987. The eldest of their four children, Lynne Sposito, hired a private detective. Biloxi had a history as a sin city; some of its cops were corrupt, while others were barely competent, and the police tried to implicate the Sherrys' adopted son in the murder. The individual perceived by Sposito to be most likely to suffer from a reform administration was Mike Gillich, who owned a number of strip joints in Biloxi; he was connected to con man Kirksey Nix, who was subsequently convicted of murder in Louisiana and given a life sentence. Nix's longtime lawyer was Vincent Sherry's law partner, Pete Halat, who may or may not have profited from Nix's many scams. Four years after the slayings, Gillich, Nix and two others were found guilty of conspiracy to commit the Sherrys' murder and given long prison terms. But questions remain, notes the author: "No one has been charged with the actual killings." Humes (*Buried Secrets*) has written an exceptionally fine depiction of a multifaceted case. Photos. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Mississippi Mud tells the story of the shocking 1987 double murder of Biloxi mayoral candidate Margaret Sherry and her husband, Judge Vincent Sherry. Lynn Sposito, their daughter, quickly found out that the Biloxi police seemed more intent on covering up the murder rather than solving it. With supreme courage and the aid of a highly recommended private investigator, she uncovered connections between her father's law firm and partner and the Dixie Mafia—a tight-knit circle of criminals who kept Biloxi's gambling casinos and strip joints running—and particularly to an immensely profitable telephone scam being run directly from the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Sposito discovered a plot to kill her parents because somehow a large portion of the immense profits from the scam was missing and her father had been implicated. Bringing this information to the authorities finally led to the conviction of a number of people for conspiracy to commit murder. This book has been carefully constructed to read like a fast-paced, engrossing suspense novel. The reader is quickly caught up in the richly described world of teeming corruption that is Biloxi, and the characters seem more like the fictional Elmore Leonard types than "real people." Highly recommended. Sandra K. Lindheimer, *Middlesex Law Lib., Cambridge, Mass.*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harley Fabry:

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and also important the book Mississippi Mud: Southern Justice and the Dixie Mafia. All type of book is it possible to see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Anna Lewis:

Why? Because this Mississippi Mud: Southern Justice and the Dixie Mafia is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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