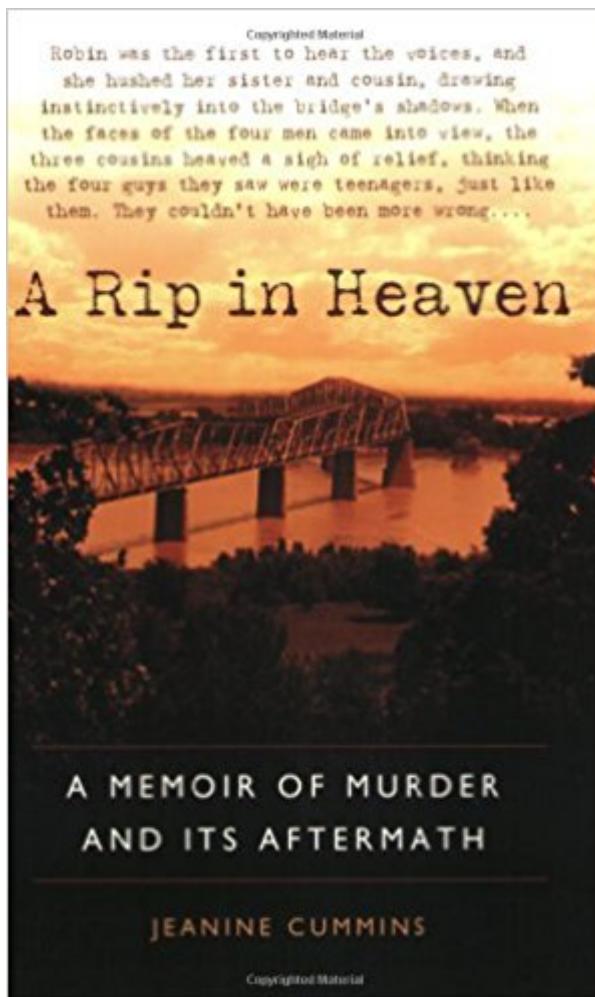


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# A Rip In Heaven: A Memoir Of Murder And Its Aftermath



## **Synopsis**

It was a headline story in the New York Times and USA Today. It was covered by Court TV and profiled on the Ricki Lake Show. Now, here is the intimate memoir of a shocking crime and its aftermath...one family's immediate and unforgettable story of what victims can suffer long after they should be safe.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

On the night of April 4, 1991, during a spring-break family vacation to St. Louis, Cummins's 19-year-old brother, Tom, and his two female cousins were attacked while walking on the abandoned Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. During the attack, the girls were raped; afterward, all three were pushed off the bridge by the four assailants. Tom survived; the girls did not. Cummins presents a mesmerizing, highly balanced memoir of the events, writing in the third person to give readers "an intimate knowledge of each facet of the story." She introduces her own family, referring to herself by her childhood nickname, and then does the same for each of the assailants, thoughtfully painting an in-depth portrait of each character without ever passing judgment. Moreover, she takes what could be cold, dry factual information from "court documents, police records, electronic media" and her own interviews and deftly weaves them into a compelling, novel-like account. She explores the family's initial horror over the police holding Tom as a suspect for this crime that made national headlines. (One of the attackers wound up with a 30-year plea; the others are currently on death row.) For someone so closely related to a crime victim to strike such a fine balance in chronicling it is a highly admirable feat. Cummins's noble account will ultimately draw

readers into all sides of the story. 8 pages of photos not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Cummins presents a mesmerizing, highly balanced memoir of the events, writing in the third person to give readers an intimate knowledge of each facet of the story. Cummins's noble account will ultimately draw readers into all sides of the story." Publishers Weekly

I do agree with several other reviews that this book was one that I just couldn't put down. Written with such true conviction and love for those she lost. The entire way through I was angry with the justice system for failing these families and accusing Tom of such a heinous crime. His true passion was the love of his cousins and what happened that day in 1991 will forever be engrained in his mind, heart and soul. My condolences go out to the Kerry/Cummins families. May you find true peace!

It's time the victims of crime are remembered versus the criminal and I am grateful the author had the courage to write this book honoring her family members. Jeanine Cummins had my full attention from the first page to the last page. Well done and I look forward to reading one of your novels next!

I used to work with one of the sister's related to the Kerry sisters. I don't think she was mentioned in this story, if she was, her name was changed. Anyway, she was the one who told me about this book. It was very well written, and it was nice to read it from the family's point of view. Such a tragedy though! My hearts go out to all of you still...I know you just had another anniversary, and I know they really never get any easier! Just know that they truly made a difference on this earth, and they will live on forever through the hearts of so many that they touched.

This is a true story of how the world lost two wonderful young people in one horrible night and the devastation that their family has endured since. This was beautifully written and you feel that it was a labor of love for the author.

I don't often read books. I wanted to buy a couple before a flight and I kinda dig true crime and this popped up. VERY GOOD! I couldn't put it down!! I spent my whole vacation on the beach reading this book!! It was very touching and I felt "close" with the characters.... I'll never forget this one.

Very first item from . Sad real life story that happened where I live. Remember so much on the news and my friends daughter went to school with the two young girls who were killed. My heart and prayers still go out to the family. Was written by the girls cousin, who is the sister of the accused boy, cousin, released. Real murderers arrested. Very fast read, but again so sad she ever had to write this book.,

I read this book because I was working in the 6th district of the STL police department the night that this tragedy occurred. It was a very difficult nite because it was such a gruesome homicide and hearing things about the possiblity of the cousin being involved made it more hurtfull. Later in the week I also found out that the Kerri girls were neighbors to the sister of my next door neighbor. I personally knew some of the police officers and homicide detectives working the case. My heart went out to the Kerri sisters and to their family and friends. The book was written in good taste and left not much to the imagination. The family of the victims and the suspects were very well described. I am just so sorry that this had to be a true tragedy. I have thought about these girls numerous times over the years and trust that they are now with our Heavenly Father.

Living in St. Louis now, I had an interest to begin reading the book but it kept me intrigued wanting to keep reading. My emotions moved from sadness to anger and back again. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading suspense books or who are familiar with the case. I chose this rating because it reflects how well written and intriguing the book is.

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