



Shot in the Heart

Mikal Gilmore

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Gary Gilmore, the infamous murderer immortalized by Norman Mailer in **The Executioner's Song**, campaigned for his own death and was executed by firing squad in 1977. Writer Mikal Gilmore is his younger brother. In **Shot in the Heart**, he tells the stunning story of their wildly dysfunctional family: their mother, a blacksheep daughter of unforgiving Mormon farmers; their father, a drunk, thief, and con man. It was a family destroyed by a multigenerational history of child abuse, alcoholism, crime, adultery, and murder. Mikal, burdened with the guilt of being his father's favorite and the shame of being Gary's brother, gracefully and painfully relates a murder tale "from inside the house where murder is born... a house that, in some ways, [he has] never been able to leave." **Shot in the Heart** is the history of an American family inextricably tied up with violence, and the story of how the children of this family committed murder and murdered themselves in payment for a long lineage of ruin. Haunting, harrowing, and profoundly affecting, **Shot in the Heart** exposes and explores a dark vein of American life that most of us would rather ignore. It is a book that will leave no reader unchanged.

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