



**Title:** In Cold Blood

**Author:** Truman Capote

**Imprint:** Modern Library

**Publisher:** Random House Publishing Group

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**ISBN:** 9780812994384

**Format:** Hardcover

**Grade Range:** Classic

## BOOK RESUME: IN COLD BLOOD

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, created a sensation when it was first published, serially, in *The New Yorker* in 1965. The intensively researched, atmospheric narrative of the lives of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and of the two men, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, who brutally killed them on the night of November 15, 1959, is the seminal work of the "new journalism." Perry Smith is one of the great dark characters of American literature, full of contradictory emotions. "I thought he was a very nice gentleman," he says of Herb Clutter. "Soft-spoken. I thought so right up to the moment I cut his throat." Told in chapters that alternate between the Clutter household and the approach of Smith and Hickock in their black Chevrolet, then between the investigation of the case and the killers' flight, Capote's account is so detailed that the reader comes to feel almost like a participant in the events.

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"The best documentary account of an American crime ever written. . . . The book chills the blood and exercises the intelligence." —*The New York Review of Books*

"A remarkable, tensely exciting, superbly written 'true account.'" —*The New York Times*

"A masterpiece . . . a spellbinding work." —*Life*

### MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- From PEN America: [In Cold Blood: Practicing Our Humanity on the Page](#)

### RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- ["In Cold Blood" Approved by Glendale School Board](#) (2011)

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