



## God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi

By John Safran

Download now

Read Online 

**God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi** By John Safran

**An unlikely journalist, a murder case in Mississippi, and a fascinating literary true crime story in the style of Jon Ronson.**

A notorious white supremacist named Richard Barrett was brutally murdered in Mississippi in 2010 by a young black man named Vincent McGee. At first the murder seemed a twist on old Deep South race crimes. But then new revelations and complications came to light. Maybe it was a dispute over money rather than race—or, maybe and intriguingly, over sex.

John Safran, a young white Jewish Australian documentarian, had been in Mississippi and interviewed Barrett for a film on race. When he learned of Barrett's murder, he returned to find out what happened and became caught up in the twists and turns of the case. During his time in Mississippi, Safran got deeper and deeper into this gothic southern world, becoming entwined in the lives of those connected with the murder—white separatist frenemies, black lawyers, police investigators, oddball neighbors, the stunned families, even the killer himself. And the more he talked with them, the less simple the crime—and the people involved—seemed to be. In the end, he discovered how profoundly and indelibly complex the truth about someone's life—and death—can be.

This is a brilliant, haunting, hilarious, unsettling story about race, money, sex, and power in the modern American South from an outsider's point of view.

 [Download God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a Wh ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a ...pdf](#)

# God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi

*By John Safran*

**God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi** By John Safran

**An unlikely journalist, a murder case in Mississippi, and a fascinating literary true crime story in the style of Jon Ronson.**

A notorious white supremacist named Richard Barrett was brutally murdered in Mississippi in 2010 by a young black man named Vincent McGee. At first the murder seemed a twist on old Deep South race crimes. But then new revelations and complications came to light. Maybe it was a dispute over money rather than race—or, maybe and intriguingly, over sex.

John Safran, a young white Jewish Australian documentarian, had been in Mississippi and interviewed Barrett for a film on race. When he learned of Barrett's murder, he returned to find out what happened and became caught up in the twists and turns of the case. During his time in Mississippi, Safran got deeper and deeper into this gothic southern world, becoming entwined in the lives of those connected with the murder—white separatist frenemies, black lawyers, police investigators, oddball neighbors, the stunned families, even the killer himself. And the more he talked with them, the less simple the crime—and the people involved—seemed to be. In the end, he discovered how profoundly and indelibly complex the truth about someone's life—and death—can be.

This is a brilliant, haunting, hilarious, unsettling story about race, money, sex, and power in the modern American South from an outsider's point of view.

**God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi** By John Safran **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #894183 in Books
- Brand: Riverhead Books
- Published on: 2015-09-08
- Released on: 2015-09-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.23" h x .96" w x 5.44" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

 [Download God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a Wh ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi* By John Safran

---

### Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *God'll Cut You Down*

“John Safran’s captivating inquiry into a murder in darkest Mississippi is by turns informative, frightening and hilarious. It is enlivened by a swarm of creepy locals and a torrent of astonishing details--such as hedge clippers put to surgical use in the performance of an official autopsy.”

—John Berendt, bestselling author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

"A hilarious and bizarre story that leads where you least expect it. John Safran has for years been one of my favourite journalists - forever pushing the boundaries, funny, startling, a hurricane." —Jon Ronson, bestselling author of *The Psychopath Test* and *Them*

"Imagine *In Cold Blood* written not by Capote by an Australian, higher-brow Johnny Knoxville." -- Boris Kachka, *New York Magazine*

"If you enjoyed *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, and have been drawn to other true-crime books, then you will probably devour this book.... [Safran's] approach, mixed with a sharp sense of humor, wise pacing, and plain, powerful writing, makes this book into a deeper experience than you suspect... That deeper experience comes from Safran's refusal to quickly analyze according to traditional crime-solving plotlines.... As a more complex picture of the two men's relationships to other people and each other emerges, we follow breathlessly into a kind of mesmerizing psychosocial-cultural drama.... [O]n each reading, it gained a kind of substance--it somehow grew--until I felt it resembled a house of rooms. It gained a personality. In the end, I felt that I knew, personally, Vincent McGee and Richard Barrett... I do not remember a nonfiction book that seemed to bring me so close to its subjects." -- *Garden & Gun* magazine

“Safran’s book will make readers chuckle, fidget, and turn page after page wondering what will happen next as the author looks to find the truth about the murder of a white supremacist by a black man in the deep South.... This true crime book will stick with readers. Safran does a great job of looking at the murder from multiple perspectives and brings in his own experience learning about the culture, which is in itself a character. For fans of true crime, Southern tales, and books similar to Capote’s [*In Cold Blood*] and John Berendt’s *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.” —*Library Journal*, STARRED review

“It’s not often that the retelling of a brutal murder is full of laughs but documentarian and debut author Safran is an entertaining writer... Weaving a tale that is simultaneously about race, failed systems, money, sex, family and simple rage, Safran truly did lose a year in Mississippi, and getting lost with him is a joy.” —*Kirkus*, STARRED review

“[T]his stranger-than-fiction true crime story finds Safran—a white, Jewish documentary filmmaker from Australia—relocating to Rankin County, Miss., to dig deep into the grisly stabbing murder of a 67-year-old white supremacist in April 2010... [A] bizarrely unsettling, yet often witty book that paints a disturbing picture of the deep South today.” —*Publishers Weekly*

"Funny and gripping and wonderfully weird." —Louis Theroux, BBC journalist

About the Author

**John Safran** is an award-winning documentarian and radio storyteller on a wide range of subjects, including the media, religion, and race. He lives in Melbourne, Australia. This is his first book.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

\*\*\*This excerpt is from an advance uncorrected proof\*\*\*

Copyright © 2014 John Safran

1.

## THE BEGINNING

Melbourne

This story begins when I'm ten years old. I'm at a bar mitzvah with my family. And my dad taps me on the shoulder and points to a guy by the buffet, scooping food onto his plate.

"See that man?" my dad whispers.

"Yes," I say.

"See the tie he's wearing?"

"Yes."

"See that little symbol on his tie?"

"Yes," I reply, squinting my eyes.

"That's the Freemason symbol," he says. "They're a secret society. They don't like it when you ask them about it."

"Wow."

"Go up and ask him about it," he tells me.

So I shuffle over to the guy and ask if he's a Freemason.

"Yes, um," he splutters, his eyes darting about. "But, listen, we don't do anything unusual." He then backs away from the buffet and creeps out of the room.

In that moment I learned there are secret worlds out there. We can glance over a landscape and think we're seeing everything, but there are realms operating just out of our lines of sight.

I became hooked on secret worlds. And the clunky encounter with the Freemason taught me you can ask questions even when you're not supposed to. That's why I became what I became, a documentary filmmaker of sorts. I say "of sorts" because mine are not the straightest of documentaries. I often ask dangerous people indelicate questions and try not to get thumped. And I often ask them about race. I'm a bit of a Race Trekkie—like a sci-fi Trekkie, but with race, not space.

So the murder at hand? That part of the story begins—although I didn't know it at the time—about ten years ago. I was filming a segment for a television series called John Safran vs God, in which I tried to join the secret world of the Ku Klux Klan even though I'm a Jew.

### My First Meeting with the Klan

I'm boxed in at the Ku Klux Klan compound in Orange County, California. Swastika flags run along the wall. I sit across the desk from the Grand Dragon, a man called Chris. Jesus Christ eyeballs me from the painting hanging behind the Grand Dragon. Four Klansmen stand at attention along the edge of the room.

"I'm a little confused about who can and can't join the Klan," I tell the Grand Dragon. "Are you allowed to join the Klan if you're not American?"

"Yes, absolutely!" he assures me.

"And what about if you're Catholic?"

"You know, Catholics are every bit as Christian as anyone else," he says. "Sure."

"And what happens," I ask, trying hard not to squirm in my seat, "if you were brought up Jewish but you don't do anything Jewish anymore? Because that's where I'm at."

The Grand Dragon shoots his eyes to his fellow Klansmen.

"Was your mother Jewish?" he asks.

"Yes," I say.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Mary Alexander:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem

as well as exercise. Well, probably you should have this God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi.

**Kim Bogdan:**

As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Lamont Williams:**

Do you have something that you want such as book? The reserve lovers usually prefer to opt for book like comic, limited story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not striving God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi that give your fun preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world much better then how they react towards the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky man or woman but for all of you who wants to become success person. So , for every you who want to start reading through as your good habit, you can pick God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi become your own personal starter.

**Darren Reid:**

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because all this time you only find guide that need more time to be go through. God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi can be your answer as it can be read by a person who have those short time problems.

**Download and Read Online God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran #U0H51DCOFAK**

## **Read God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran for online ebook**

God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran books to read online.

### **Online God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran ebook PDF download**

### **God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran Doc**

**God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran Mobipocket**

**God'll Cut You Down: The Tangled Tale of a White Supremacist, a Black Hustler, a Murder, and How I Lost a Year in Mississippi By John Safran EPub**