

# Book Nook

## ABOUT BOOK NOOK



Book Nook provides readers with insights into the world of books. Vick Mickunas takes you into the center of the publishing world with the latest book buzz, book reviews, and exclusive chats with authors.. Vick Mickunas reviews books for the Dayton Daily News.

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## do you know someone who is truly evil?

By Vick Mickunas | Monday, October 8, 2007, 09:09 PM

Have you ever known someone who seemed truly evil? The kid who enjoys inflicting pain on other kids. The killer that kills for the pleasure of killing. The boss who is a pathological liar.

What happened to them? How did they get that way? Were they born evil? Or, did they become evil?

Barbara Oakley's selfish sister inspired her to write a book. **EVIL GENES—Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother's Boyfriend** (Prometheus Books) looks at Oakley's own personal family experience as well as historical figures and the evil that seemed to possess them.

It's historical, scientific, autobiographical, and utterly fascinating. After her sister's unusual death, Oakley got her hands on her sister's diary.

She began to wonder, is evil genetic? Is there something different about the brains of these sadistic, manipulative, deceitful people?

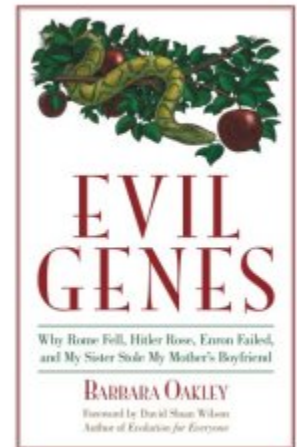
This book delves into the results of some amazing molecular research. Oakley looked at the "careers" of some evil individuals who caused the deaths of many people; Adolph Hitler, Mao Zedong, and Slobodan Milosevic. And she pondered her horrible sister.

Why are some people so evil? Oakley tries to piece together this puzzle. Nurture, or nature? Environment, or genes?

This is a compelling book. And, what a wonderful title!

Have you ever known someone who you felt was truly evil? How could you tell? What did they do? What became of them?

*Vick Mickunas*



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