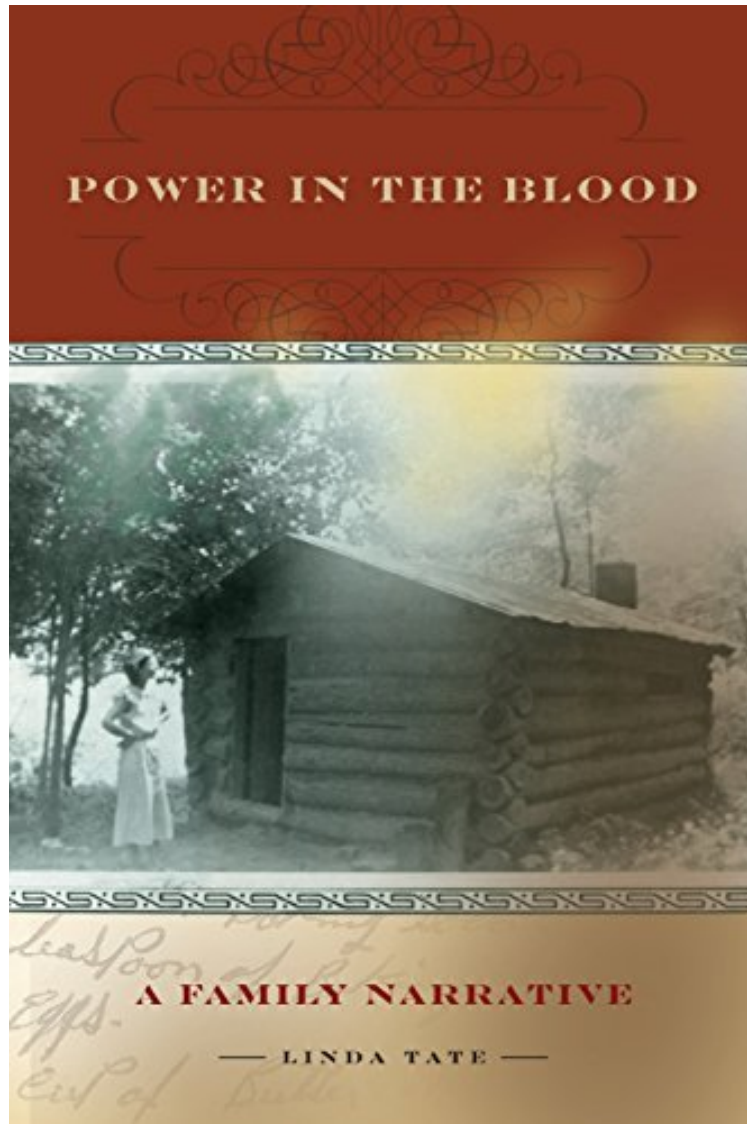


(Ebook pdf) Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative (Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia)

## Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative (Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia)

Linda Tate

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#1870572 in Books Linda Tate 2009-03-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .75 #File Name: 0821418726256 pages Power in the Blood A Family Narrative | File size: 35.Mb

**Linda Tate : Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative (Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative (Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What an education By Nancy Collier This was such a great book. The way it was written, with stories of the past and present juxtaposed, really kept it moving along and held my interest.

And I really appreciated how much effort (and emotional resilience) it must have taken the author to pull this book together - how many difficult conversations with family members, plus all the research about the area (including the interesting Appalachian speech patterns she captures so well). I read it several months ago, but the stories of life in the region keep coming back to me - the tiny cabins, the hard labor, the conservation, the reliance on family. There are a lot of different takeaways one could carry away from this book, but for me the timing of reading it during such difficult economic times is a helpful reminder that there is much I can do without.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Page Turner and a Triumph  
By Julene Bairl  
It's hard to tell your own, or your family's, story in a compelling way. The writer is interested, but how does she draw others in? No problem here. I could sense the emotional urgency from page one. The book opens back in Tate's graduate student days, when she first began to be consumed by the desire to find out about her grandmother and her past. Like many of us, she was coming from an imperfect childhood into adulthood. She had fond memories of her grandmother, who died when she was only four, but her father got grouchy any time she asked about her. That mixture, of both painful and pleasant memories, launches Linda on this amazing trek through the past, through books, library birth records, deeds, old newspapers. Graveyards. Everything. Throughout, that mixture of fond and difficult memories creates a compelling ambivalence that fuels this narrative as Tate tries to reconcile the two. After her exhaustive research had uncovered everything that could be discovered about her Cherokee-Appalachian great-grandmother Lousiana and her grandmother Fannie in the conventional way, she recreated them in her imagination, giving them their own voices and letting them tell their own stories. It's a great literary accomplishment, inhabiting and recreating those individuals, bringing them to life. Tate also brings to life this exotic lost world: "land between the rivers." This area between the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers had since been dammed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. It is now a national recreation area known as Land Between the Lakes. Probably the best thing a memoir or any book can do for us is cause us to reflect on our own lives. Reading about Tate's ancestors, steeped as they were in both nature's harshness and nature's gifts, opened my imagination as I thought about what it must have been like for my own grandmothers and great grandmothers to come west and settle the Kansas prairies. It was really the luck of the draw. Some got kind husbands, some did not. Whatever happened, they were stuck out there, like Tate's ancestors, in the wilderness together.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Power in the Story  
By Sharon Lippincott, Chilehead Adventurer  
Brutal honesty... Paragon of persistence... Blazing versatility... Role model for all family historians... These are a few of the cryptic notes I jotted as I read *Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative*, by Linda Tate. I was struck by the impact of the basic story, and my appreciation deepened as I considered the craft and research involved in writing this gripping six generation tale. Linda's brutal honesty was fascinating. She tip-toed into it, occasionally letting silence speak louder than words. Early in the story she alluded to things that happened with her father in secret places. She never specifically filled in those details, but later disclosures gave more substance to assumptions. Two accounts, written as heavily researched interpretations of the lives of the grandmother she dimly remembered with the greatest affection and that grandmother's grandmother, were even more explicit, based on collective family memories and legends. Linda was brutally honest about her own thoughts and reactions as understanding of her family history unfolded in unexpected ways. A recurring dream of searching for her grandmother and never quite finding her sparked the beginning of her research in 1988. Her book was published in 2009, twenty-one years later. She spent most of those years doing research, both academic and on-site, fitting it piece-meal into a busy academic career. The research paid off in a literary masterpiece rich with layers and facets. Which leads to versatility of both voice and content. When she wrote of her early childhood, she wrote with the voice of a young child. That voice matured as the story progressed. When she wrote in the voices of her grandmothers, their personalities were distinctly evident through the choice of words as well as the dialect she used to good effect as she wrote. I had the sense of sitting on the front stoop listening to these women muse about the past. The fictionalized parts were every bit as vivid and compelling as accounts of her own experience. She has done an amazing job of blending fact and fiction, always making it clear where the boundaries lie without letting those boundaries intrude. In addition to the story content, Linda includes extensive backstory, explaining how she did her research, lending additional credibility and authenticity to inherently powerful stories. The research also served as the framework for weaving in rich detail about the history of relations between white settlers and the native population of Appalachian Tennessee and Kentucky, and the inbred culture of "The Land Between the Rivers" where her forebears settled after being driven out of the family homeland up the Cumberland River farther east in Tennessee. As the book recounts stories of brutal abuse, it gives testimony to the generation-spanning damage this behavior causes as well as the strength of the human spirit and its ability to endure and transcend. It's also a testimony to the shackle-shattering power of shedding light on the past to replace fear and shame with healing, hope and reconciliation for new generations. The story is worth a read for its own sake. Family historians and memoirists will derive added value from the fine example of craft.

Winner of the Colorado Authors League Award for Creative Nonfiction A 2010 Colorado Book Awards Finalist A FEAST Ezine Best of 2009 (Nonfiction)  
*Power in the Blood: A Family Narrative* traces Linda Tate's journey to rediscover the Cherokee-Appalachian branch of her family and provides an unflinching examination of the poverty,

discrimination, and family violence that marked their lives. In her search for the truth of her own past, Tate scoured archives, libraries, and courthouses throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Illinois, and Missouri, visited numerous cemeteries, and combed through census records, marriage records, court cases, local histories, old maps, and photographs. As she began to locate distant relatives fifth, sixth, seventh cousins, all descended from her great-great-grandmother Louisiana they gathered in kitchens and living rooms, held family reunions, and swapped stories. A past that had long been buried slowly came to light as family members shared the pieces of the family's tale that had been passed along to them. *Power in the Blood* is a dramatic family history that reads like a novel, as Tate's compelling narrative reveals one mystery after another. Innovative and groundbreaking in its approach to research and storytelling, *Power in the Blood* shows that exploring a family story can enhance understanding of history, life, and culture and that honest examination of the past can lead to healing and liberation in the present.

I think *Power in the Blood* is a remarkable memoir, honestly and beautifully written despite the painful nature of some of the material. This is a big, human, and entirely revelatory book: it shows us all just how these things can happen, and how they can continue to happen down through generations. Linda Tate doesn't really lay blame or make judgments; she shows real wisdom and compassion throughout. Lee Smith