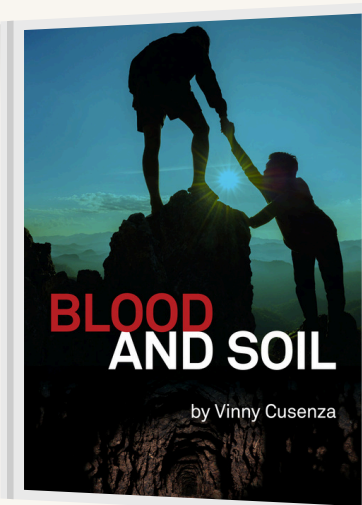




Blood and Soil

Vinny Cusenza

Unbury the Past. Unearth the Truth.

Blood and Soil is a historical gay suspense novel that follows an unlikely bond between a privileged student and a reclusive local, set against a backdrop of buried secrets, forbidden romance, and racial injustice in mid-century Appalachia.

Thriller, Gay Fiction, LGBTQ, Romance, Historical

Advance Praise for *Blood and Soil*

“A tale of two vastly dissimilar young men struggling for acceptance, love, and justice in a time of intolerance...a page-turner packed with suspense, murder, heartbreak, and healing, and an allegory of the search for our authentic selves.” –Getty Ambau, author of the award-winning *Desta* adventure series

“Cusenza’s novel makes for an admirably ambitious debut, blending choice facets of American and regional history with a star-crossed romance. Both blood, in this often violent action-adventure, and soil, in vivid descriptions of a certain corner of New York State, can be found in abundance – and the title’s allusion to an infamous Nazi slogan proves far from coincidental.” –Lance Ringel, award-winning author of *Flower of Iowa* and *Floridian Nights*

“*Blood and Soil* is a twisty, atmospheric murder mystery that pulses with violence and shimmers with tenderness.” –Beth Ann Bauman, author of *Rosie and Skate* and *Jersey Angel*

About the Book

Blood and Soil is a gripping literary thriller about two young men—one a privileged Columbia student, the other a reclusive Appalachian local—who form an unlikely bond in a town steeped in generational secrets and racial tension. When three violent deaths and a cover-up threaten to destroy what they’ve built, they must confront a corrupt sheriff, a fearful community, and the truth about their own inherited biases. Set against the haunting backdrop of the Appalachian hills, Cusenza’s debut explores justice, identity, and the moral weight of silence with lyrical precision and emotional depth.

About Vinny Cusenza



Vinny Cusenza is a Brooklyn-based writer whose work spans literary fiction, memoir, and personal essays. His debut novel, *Blood and Soil*, blends historical fiction, gay romance, and suspense against the backdrop of mid-century Appalachia. A former editor at a major publishing house, Vinny has also been a travel photographer, innkeeper, and reluctant theme park mascot. He lives in Park Slope with his husband and their transsexual Russian Blue cat, Neko.

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Marketing Information

- ARCS for booksellers /ARCS for media/Digital Review Copies/Paperback Review Copy Mailing
- Web marketing: blogs, social media outlets, reading groups, Goodreads, and Bookclubs
- Dedicated LGBTQ publicity initiatives, with expert placement
- Targeted advertising, both online and print
- Ebook promotions, publisher and author website promotion
- Outreach to local media
- Outreach to mainstream, progressive, literary, and LGBTQ media
- Excerpt Placement, Essay and Fiction Placements, Art/Text Newsletter, Interview Placement, Book Reviews, Podcasts, Media Interviews, Readings, Conferences
- Dedicated Author website: www.VinnyCusenza.com

250-Word Teaser

He steered out of the woods to the county road and scanned the rearview mirror obsessively, as if desperate to outrun this disastrous day.

Familiar signposts shot by; the turnoff for town, the bend where the road skirted the Old Rhineland cove. In the blur of bungalows and tackle shops, images flickered from the backwoods with Jake.

Tony's eyes left the road as he approached a shirtless, well-built man in dungarees and work boots on the right shoulder, leaning on a shovel. His wide-open stare captured Tony's gaze at the moment a big panel truck crested the pavement ahead.

Almost too late, he saw that he'd strayed over the yellow line, and cut the wheel hard right. The truck narrowly missed him, the angry blast of its horn bending around the Falcon as he grappled the wheel for control, still straining for one last glimpse of the shirtless man in his rearview mirror.

Tony's chest thudded at his recklessness. Jake had set loose a wild force in him that he couldn't control, and now he'd ruined his chances with him. Tony clamped a palm over his mouth and let out a strangled cry.

Jake had thrown down the gauntlet. We can't be anything until you know what you want. Camping hadn't helped; if anything, it had exposed Tony's bone-deep ambivalence about Jake. And himself. Where did that leave him? Them? Who was he? Columbia man, his parents' pride? A perv on a police blotter? What was the way forward, when all of his choices meant exiling a piece of his heart? (Ch 1, p.1)

Book Details

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