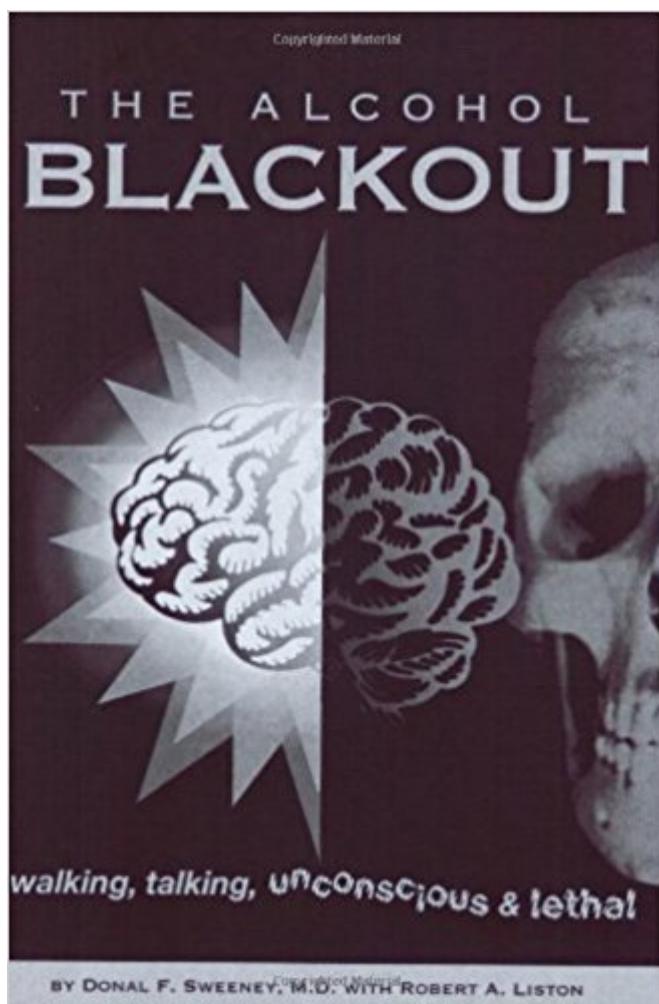


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# The Alcohol Blackout: Walking, Talking, Unconscious & Lethal



## **Synopsis**

The first book ever published on the subject, Dr. Donal F. Sweeney reveals what an alcohol blackout is. The alcohol has blocked memory formation, reducing the victim to an unconscious state in which he does not know who he is or what he's doing. Yet, his pre-blackout memory remains, allowing him to walk, talk and appear to function while in an unconscious state. He is thus a menace to himself and others. Dr. Sweeney tells how to recognize the unconscious state, what to do about it and how to prevent blackouts.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Any lawyer doing DUI work should read this book..... -- Charles L. Sifers, LL.D. This book is filled with case histories ... (of) people... unable to remember what they did. But they do a lot -- Ron Simon, Mansfield, OH, News-Journal This is nothing less than a revolution in criminal justice -- Lee A. McCoy, LL.D. When I finished reading this book I had the delightful feeling of having learned something worthwhile. -- Kimberly C. Baumbaugh LL.D.

This is an important book on a neglected and misunderstood subject. It offers a whole new way of thinking about alcohol blackouts, a common condition, affecting millions around the world. The person did not forget what happened during the blackout, he never formed any memories, a vastly more serious condition. The blacked out person is unable to learn, think or plan, yet he functions mindlessly on pre-blackout memories. The ramifications of this for the law and medicine are immense.

It was very informative...I didn't know the difference between just forgetting "bits and pieces" from the night before and was really surprised to find out you, actually, cannot retain memory after a certain point. It sure helped me!!!! I was scared when I realized I absolutely could not remember anything after a certain point. My husband said I seemed just fine...so, that was a wake-up call! Anyone that wonders about it, should read this book. I read it in two hours. Thanks

There were a couple of interesting concepts in the book, but there was also gender bias and other stupid stuff.

There is precious little out there on this legally controversial subject. I have not finished it yet, but it gives my legal background something to think about for my clients. It is clear and not loaded down with medical jargon. More later.

I bought this book for my dad. He said he liked it but the end of the book got a little repetitive.

this book is a must read for anyone who is a drinker or lives with a drinker or knows a drinker. It is a nasty habit and cruel to those who have it and live with those who have it.

Bought this book after I started experiencing blackouts. Gave some good insight to help me understand exactly what was going on.

product was in good condition, recomend to anyone, size of book and size of print were good for my eye sight.

This book deserves reading by a wide audience. Dr. Sweeney is rightly astounded that we live in a culture that tolerates and tends to dismiss alcohol induced violence as a given, unpleasant reality of life, without really understanding what makes a mild-mannered, more or less pleasant fellow go beserk and kill people when in a black out. If you read accounts from real-life drinkers who describe the blackout, they commonly use words like "demon" and "devil" to describe the utterly senseless and destructive behavior that possesses them. I cannot imagine what it would feel like to wake up one morning without any memory of some crime you committed the night before, only to learn the details later from outsiders who witnessed or investigated your behavior. Yet, thousands of people undergo that experience every morning. While most of them will not end up murdering others, a few

people will. Thus, it is imperative that anyone who exhibits violence while drunk (this includes thousands of people) be treated immediately for alcoholism, because they are a walking, talking, living menace to everyone around them, even their friends. The writer has taken pains to explain in a simple way how the blackout works, and how you can use a simple test of memory, asking the drunk to remember three random words after an interval of five minutes, to determine if that person is in a blackout. If the person remembers only one word, he's in a blackout. If she doesn't remember the test at all, that's definitely a blackout. Dr. Sweeney then describes how to handle the black out drunk so that he is not allowed to wander off on his own and pose a threat to society (the most common being, of course, drunk drivers). One oddity about the book is the extended discussion of the Cox murders in New York. The author goes on at length in an attempt to show that Cox probably could not have committed the murders given his blacked out state, but this seems very extraneous to the overall discussion and mars an otherwise fairly straightforward presentation of the problem. If you have a family member who drinks to blackout, or if you yourself suffer blackouts, you owe it to yourself to read this book. The public must be made aware that the best term to describe such a person is a "zombie," (this is my term, not Dr. Sweeney's), and if we are literally coexisting every night with people who turn into zombies with no working, short-term memory, it is a public health emergency of the highest order. The author makes the passionate case for more scientific research, but then goes on to say that giving alcohol to alcoholics is unethical. I disagree. Many alcoholics would welcome a chance to drink at someone else's expense in a controlled environment. You cannot make an alcoholic quit drinking. The drinker must want to stop drinking. For those who will not stop and have no interest in quitting, what is the harm in allowing them to drink in a controlled scientific environment so we can better understand the effects of alcohol intoxication? Doing so will allow us to better help those people who are willing to undergo treatment. More largely, it will help all of us to be better protected from these mindless and senseless crimes committed by the blackout drunk. Coddling hard-core drunks with the codependent illusion that we can control their intake is counterproductive and prevents real research into this vitally needed public health problem.

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