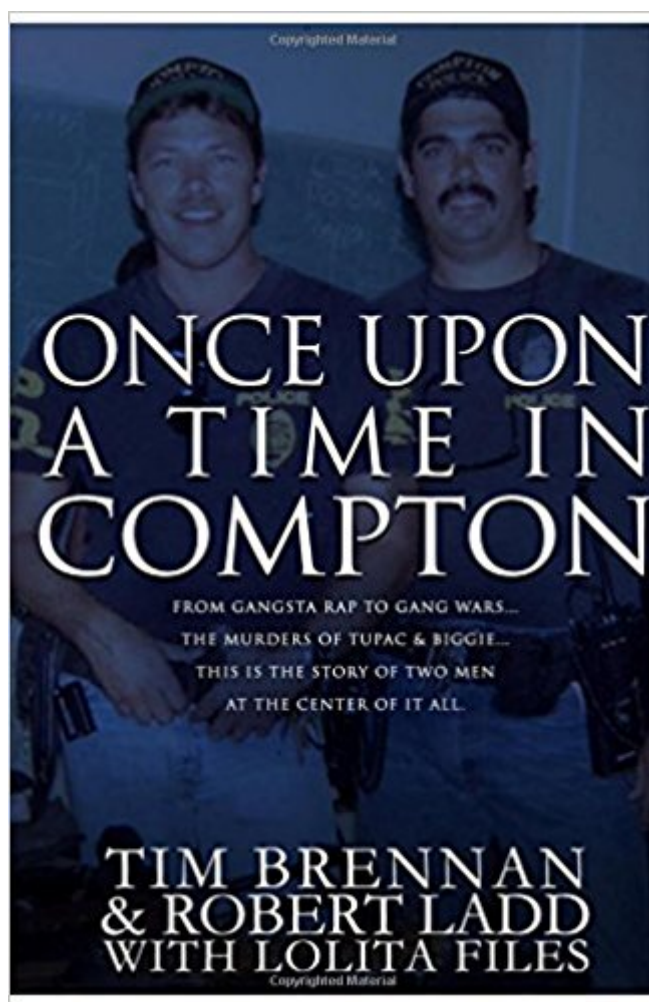


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# Once Upon A Time In Compton: From Gangsta Rap To Gang Wars...The Murders Of Tupac & Biggie...This Is The Story Of Two Men At The Center Of It All





## Synopsis

From Gangsta rap to gang wars and everything in between. Former Compton police officers Tim Brennan and Robert Ladd have seen it all. And now, they're telling all. For twenty years, gang unit detectives Tim Brennan and Robert Ladd patrolled the streets of Compton. They witnessed the birth and rise of gangsta rap with acts they knew personally, such as N.W.A and D.J. Quik; dealt firsthand with the chaos of the L.A. riots, its aftermath, and the gang truce that followed; were involved in the investigations of the murders of hip-hop stars Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G., and were major players in an all-out tug-of-war with City Hall that ultimately resulted in the permanent shut-down of the Compton Police Department. Through it all, they developed an intricate knowledge of gangs and the streets and a methodology that has been implemented by local law enforcement agencies across the country. Their compassionate and fair approach to community policing earned them the respect of citizens and gangbangers alike. This story - told with bestselling author Lolita Files, whose research with Brennan and Ladd has spanned over four years - is a firsthand glimpse into a world during an era many have heard about in song and legend, but have rarely had the opportunity to witness at ground level, from the inside out, through the eyes of two men who witnessed and experienced it all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Let me say first that I had the privilege to know and work with Bob Ladd at Garden Grove PD in the early 80's when he was a Reserve Police Officer like me, then again when he returned to GGPD

after his Compton PD and L.A.S.D. time. Bob was pretty much a legend when he came back to "The Grove" due to his outstanding work in Compton, so I was excited to read about Bob and Tim Brennan's experiences. Because I wasn't familiar with the city or police department in Compton, this book was a huge eye opener when it came to life as a Compton gang cop. It made the rise of "gangsta rap" and the whole inner city gang lifestyle a riveting story line. Anyone in law enforcement, or those who enjoy a good non-fiction police tale, need to buy and read this book. Even after being a reserve officer for 30 years I just couldn't believe the death and mayhem these officers went through, especially the heartbreak of the innocent bystanders caught in the cross fire. I also believe that Bob and Tim could have made a major impact by actually solving the Tupac and Biggie homicides, if the city of Compton hadn't collapsed from the rot of the city council. I can't give it more than 5 stars, but it sure rates them. Thank you Bob and Tim for all of your hard work upholding the law under extremely difficult circumstances and times... To Lolita Files: Fantastic job of putting it all together for those of us who read it! Thank you!

A friend recommended this book to me and I didn't know what to expect. I was worried it might just be a "look at me, I'm a badass" book. I was dead wrong. I started reading and was instantly hooked. The human side of these accounts was intriguing. It was great getting a real life glimpse into what was going on from the police perspective of a life we've seen in so many gangster movies. The honesty by the two authors was refreshing and kept me wanting more. Then the stuff about the Tupac and Biggie murders is absolutely must-read. I'm surprised a tv network hasn't grabbed onto these guys. You could easily make a mini-series just based on a couple chapters of the book. Overall a great read and I highly recommend it to people from any walk of life.

This book is the real deal. I worked with Tim and Bob for many years. So many years later I try to explain to young officers what the 80's in Compton was like and they react like I am from outer space. It was a strange time with strange things going on. Hopefully we will never see a decade like that again (violence wise). While I worked patrol and motors during this time frame, the importance of the work of the CPD gang unit can not be over stated. What little control we were able to maintain, we did so mostly through relationship building (and the fact that even crooks needed the cops in Compton never hurt either). As they say, one minute your the windshield, the next your the bug! Even if your a hard core gang banger. That was gang life in Compton and Tim and Bob have the expertise to tell the story. A great read and brought back many memories for me. I am proud that 11 of my 28+ years were with the "real police", the CPD.

First and foremost, I fancy myself as a pretty avid reader with an affinity towards non-fiction crime novels. With that said, I read this utterly enthralling book in two days flat; I simply couldn't put it down. Having had the opportunity to work as a gang investigator and patrol supervisor in the City of Compton after Compton PD was defunct, I must say this book offered a true and accurate depiction of the "Hub" city. The authors illustrated an insightful, raw, unbiased and historical aspect of the city, the plethora of gangs and of Compton PD. For all of the crime novel enthusiasts, this is a MUST READ. Well done Tim and Bobby. Thank you.

If I could give more than a 5 star rating I would! The rawness in this book is absolutely amazing. Being that I was very young during the LA riots and Tupac murder I wasn't very educated on what went on at that time. It's fascinating to understand what was going on at that time from a cop's point of view. And not just any cop's but two gang unit cops that were probably the most hands on and well respected by the most dangerous and notorious gangs ever, the Bloods and the Crips. There is no holding back in this story. Hands down must read, you won't be disappointed.

Having read several books about the history of gangs and "gangster" lifestyle I happen to come across this book. This was the first book I read from the cops perspective. This is an excellent book and an easy read. When I got into the Tupac and Biggie murders I could not put it down. The insight the authors gave and the storytelling was excellent. The detail in the investigation and the history of why these crimes occurred is all brought together very well. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in true crime drama or the history of hip-hop music. Very good book and very well written.

This book is a great read for people who are/were in the "business" or just people who want to take a ride into Compton during its most violent times in the 80s and 90s. From the high profile investigations to the day to day gang warfare, the book was hard to put down. I have read many non-fiction, personal LE accounts ( "Under and Alone" / "The Black Hand"). Ladd and Brennan's story during these crazy times rates amongst the best of them. An easy, well written read. Give it a shot...You will not be disappointed

On the streets story of gang interdiction by a small group of law enforcement officers and detectives. It is a honest narrative of the sad, mad, and crazy times in Compton as told primarily by two

detectives, Tim Brennan and Bob Ladd. A very worthwhile read that depicts the tragedy, comedy, and local politics of the period.

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