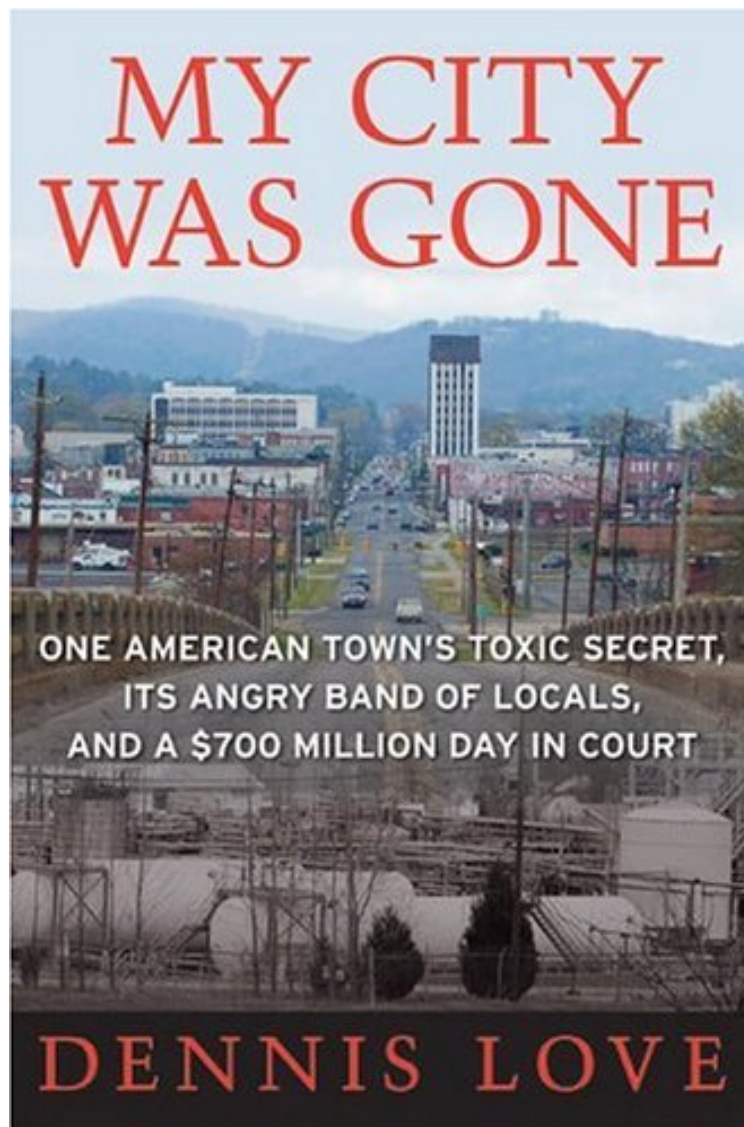


(Get free) My City Was Gone: One American Town's Toxic Secret, Its Angry Band of Locals, and a \$700 Million Day in Court

## **My City Was Gone: One American Town's Toxic Secret, Its Angry Band of Locals, and a \$700 Million Day in Court**

*Dennis Love*

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**Dennis Love : My City Was Gone: One American Town's Toxic Secret, Its Angry Band of Locals, and a \$700 Million Day in Court** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My City Was Gone: One American Town's Toxic Secret, Its Angry Band of Locals, and a \$700 Million Day in Court:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Victim of this catastropheBy PaulBThis book is written with astonishing accuracy. I too, am a victim of Monsanto while stationed at Fort McClellan Army post in Anniston. I was going through the Military Police school from May-Sept 1978. We were totally unaware of the surrounding dangers of these toxins, radiation and nerve agents. Many years later, I have been diagnosed with numerous illnesses, all that can be linked to my exposure while in Anniston. Both Monsanto and the U.S. Government have tried to cover this exposure up and as of today, we veterans have not been officially notified of our exposure, neither by Monsanto, nor the government. A lot of us have died and many others are dying. We are fighting to be evaluated, treated and compensated for our numerous illnesses and diseases. It has been a long battle. HR411 was drafted by Congressman Paul Tonko (NY) to get us help. It has sat for 7 years and still has not been passed. We veterans ask that all of you might sign the HR411 petition to assist us all in getting help. Thanks. Paul.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What a well written but sad story about the corruption of a corporation over decadesBy MWFWhat a well written but sad story about the corruption of a corporation over decades. Being a citizen of Alabama I have often thought we're a third world country.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Where Has My City Gone?By CustomerI grew up in Anniston for part of my life and I'm just older than the author. I remember so much of what he has written from first-hand experience. It is very sad to see a thriving town and community (even with all its struggles) deteriorate so badly.He has written the material in a way that reminds me of John Grisham. It is written so that it is easily readable and understandable and not overly technical. It should open the eyes of those ignorant of what goes on in the background of events.

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From Publishers WeeklyAnniston, Ala., where decades of PCB contamination from a Monsanto chemical plant led to a massive lawsuit and a \$700 million settlementtwice the celebrated "Erin Brockovich" payoutis also where journalist Love grew up. Love's retelling of this toxic tort sagaand an unrelated battle between environmentalists and the Pentagon over a plan to incinerate chemical weapons at a local army depotalso tries to outdo the movie Erin Brockovich in drama, flamboyant characterizations and feisty populism. Almost every participant in the tussle gets an overdrawn profile"David Baker was back, baby"and almost every development gets ominously foreshadowed ("there was something out there on the edge of town that had scared these Monsanto folks half to death"). Thrown in are lengthy musings on the town's history and troubled race relationsmost of the Monsanto plaintiffs were from Anniston's poor, mostly black West Sideand the author's idyllic childhood there. The space given to extraneous human interest would have been better used filling out the author's sketchy, inadequate exposition of the science behind the competing environmental, medical and legal claims. (Aug. 15) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistAward-winning reporter Love grew up in Anniston, Alabama, the home of a Monsanto chemical plant and a military depot for chemical weapons. That combination proved lethal to the residents of the once--thriving industrial town, as dangerous levels of chemicals dumped in nearby waterways and on land produced alarming levels of cancer and death, eventually creating a ghost town. Love explores the economic and social forces that led to lawsuit settlements that exceeded those in the Erin Brockovich case, attracting legal heavyweights, including Johnnie Cochran, and highlighting modern corporate and military environmental villainy. To tell his compelling story, Love focuses on three townspeople: David Baker, a black man with union-organizing experience who led the charge against the polluters; Chip Howell, the white mayor who tried desperately to weigh environmental against economic interests of the town; and Love himself, the native son whose early memories of the town he could never forget provide compelling background to a dramatic story of the vulnerability of small towns to economic enticements that put their residents' health and lives at risk. Vanessa BushCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorDennis Love began his writing career at the Anniston Star. He has also worked as a reporter for numerous publications, including the Los Angeles Daily News, Buzz, the Sacramento Bee, and the Arizona Republic. He has won the national prize for commentary from the American Association of Sunday Newspaper Editors as well as seven Associated Press News Writing awards and two Best of the West awards. The coauthor of the book Blind Faith, he lives in Sacramento, California.