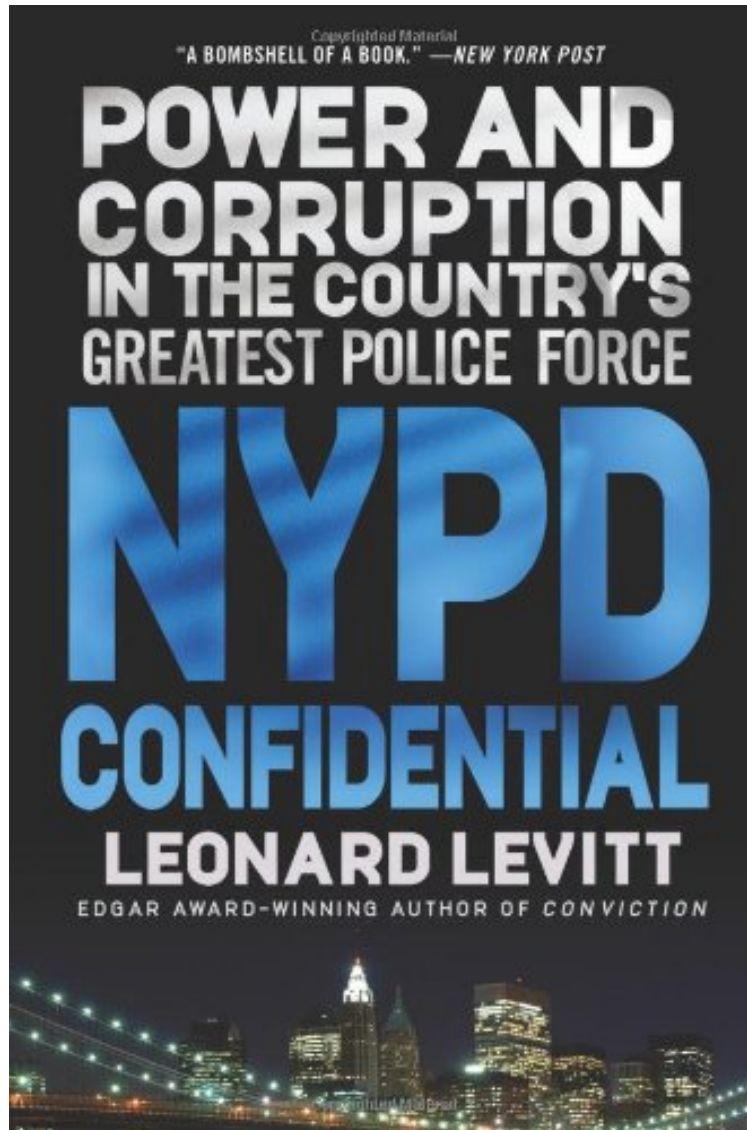


NYPD Confidential: Power and Corruption in the Country's Greatest Police Force

Leonard Levitt

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Leonard Levitt : NYPD Confidential: Power and Corruption in the Country's Greatest Police Force before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised NYPD Confidential: Power and Corruption in the Country's Greatest Police Force:

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Geberth NYPD CONFIDENTIAL: Power and Corruption in the Country's Greatest Police Force NYPD Confidential by Leonard Levitt certainly didn't spare any criticisms of the "Brass" at One Police Plaza or even City Hall for that matter. So, Levitt shouldn't have been surprised that the Police Commissioner, Ray Kelly and the other two major subjects of his book, Mayors Giuliani and Bloomberg didn't respond to his request for interviews. Levitt was already on record as having criticized them in his news editorials. Commissioner Kelly even had previously revoked his press credentials after a negative article that Levitt wrote about Kelly. Welcome to the New York City Police Department. "When your in you're a Guest when your out you're a Pest." I spent twenty-two and a half years in the NYPD in a number of special assignments from the elite Tactical Patrol Force making my way up the ladder through the Detective Division and retiring as the Commander of Bronx Homicide. I can personally attest to what happens to anyone who criticizes the "High Command." I was there during many of the scandals that Lenny describes in his book. Although I thought that I knew most of what had taken place and some of the inside stories behind the news, I was amazed at how much I didn't know after I read Lenny's book. There are certainly some eye-opening details in this book that reveal the naked ambitions of some of the most powerful people I served under during my career with the NYPD. However, one thing I did notice is that Lenny didn't get everything right. That was probably because he was looking at the event through the eyes of a reporter and not a cop. Needless to say, as a dedicated law enforcement professional I found some of the revelations embarrassing. Yet, despite the revelations in NYPD Confidential, I can state unequivocally that there are more good cops than bad cops in the NYPD. As a student of human behavior I can comprehend how some of the folks that Lenny personally identified in NYPD Confidential chose to use political expediency to combat the truth. But is it any different in the federal government or private industry? Thankfully, I was lucky enough to be assigned to the outer Borough of the Bronx for most of my career and had little interaction with the Headquarters. I found the "Headquarters Mentality" to be treacherous not to mention how devastating it was to people's careers. I think that Lenny did get it right regarding the egos, attitudes and rivalries, which permeate One Police Plaza. But, sadly, the duplicity of these folks will continue to be played out each and every day. Even in his introduction Lenny admits that most of the police officials who did talk to him did so anonymously and that included high ranking members of the department. You have to read this book to understand how and why people like Commissioner Ray Kelly, who has been described as a megalomaniac in NYPD blogs, as well as others mentioned in this book can be dangerous adversaries and will go to any lengths to destroy the careers of anyone whom they suspect as disloyal or a threat to their ambitions. It's a testimony to Leonard Levitt that the police officials who did speak to him actually trusted him to keep them nameless. Ask yourself a question. Why? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important, Dense, Gossipy By Gregory Paul Adkins This is an important and interesting book. It is densely written, full of names and dates. Future historians will use this as a resource for their work. That being said, it is not for beginners. There is a lot here, the text requires your full attention, and like a Russian novel I kept a list of names in a notebook to help me follow it all. There is gossip here not only about New York's police, but also its politicians and journalists. The author seems to be settling a few scores here and there. It seems a shame that people interested in New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani or David Dinkins might not be drawn to this work, as it is a silver, if not gold mine. I am glad I read it, but it was a workout. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. NYPD news, warts and all!! By Joe Bruno Sr. Great book on the inner working of the NY City police department. I always knew the prime objection of the NYPD brass was to minimize crime rates, by whatever methods available, shady, or not so shady, and brush any possible police corruption, which meant bad publicity, under the rug. But Levitt spells it all out, which, in the long run, did not endear him to the powers that be at One Police Plaza. Such is the life of an honest reporter. Crazy Joe Gallo: The Mafia's Greatest Hits - Volume 2

For years, the police commissioner and the mayor of New York City have duked it out for publicity, credit, and power. Some have translated their stardom into success after leaving office, while others have been hung out to dry. In the battle for control of the country's most powerful police force, these high-status government officials have often chosen political expediency over public honesty. The result is a legacy of systemic corruption and cover-ups that is nothing less than shocking. Respected journalist Leonard Levitt has covered the NYPD for New York Newsday, and the New York Post among other papers. His columns have made him persona non grata in police headquarters. In NYPD Confidential, he reveals everything he's discovered throughout his decades-long career. With amazing details of backroom deals and larger-than-life powerbrokers, Levitt lays bare the backstabbing, power-grabs, and chaotic internal investigations that have run the NYPD's reputation into the ground in the past and the forces conspiring to do so once again.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . When he covered the NYPD for Newsday, Levitt had access to all levels of the country's largest law enforcement agency, and now the Edgar winner (Conviction) catalogues dirty cops and departmental scandals. While he doesn't withhold credit where it's due (such as in the World Trade Center attacks), Levitt is most interested in the corrupt underbelly of America's largest police department. [S]acrificing truth for image while acting in secrecy is the department's M.O., he says. Both the 1970s Knapp Commission corruption hearings and

the Mollen Commission in the 1990s underscored that dirty cops weren't confined to the lower ranks the dishonesty reached all the way to the highest echelons. Examining some of the department's most notorious acts of violence e.g., the torturing of Abner Louima, the shooting death of the unarmed Amadou Diallo he has little praise for supposedly tough-on-crime mayor Giuliani. Some readers' eyes may cross at the sheer abundance of names and dates (a time line offers some help), but Levitt's account is an engrossing in-depth look at scandal inside the NYPD. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "This is a veteran reporter's inside story about the New York City Police Department. It's a fascinating read. I couldn't put it down. Leonard Levitt delves into the murky backroom deals of City Hall, and the missing pieces to the NYPD's corruption fall skillfully into place."