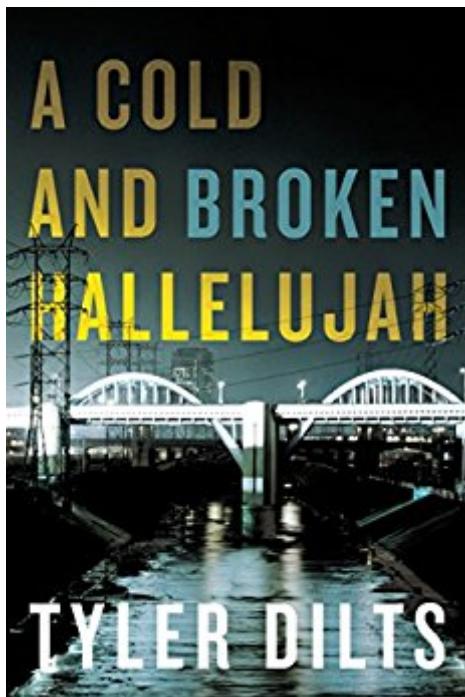


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# A Cold And Broken Hallelujah (Long Beach Homicide)



## **Synopsis**

On a sweltering September night, Long Beach Homicide Detective Danny Beckett is called to a grisly crime scene at the mouth of the Los Angeles River. A defenseless homeless man has been burned to death by three teenagers with gang ties. The suspects are already in custody, and the evidence is overwhelmingâ "but when one suspectâ ™s brother is targeted for murder, Danny starts to think there may be more to this seemingly clear-cut case. Obsessed with discovering the true identity of the victim, a gentle vagrant who may have been hiding a tortured past, Danny and his team start to uncover a high-reaching conspiracy that puts them all at riskâ "and threatens to open new wounds that could cut even deeper than Dannyâ ™s old ones.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

To start, Dilts is a very captivating author. The book begins with a superbly detailed image of where the novel is taking place. He does a good job of introducing the main characters, including the detective Danny and his partner Jen. The book is a classic mystery novel, where you're never sure of the outcome until the very end. However, the book makes you think it's a clear cut case, but obviously the book would be too short if it was that easy! It's full of plot twists that keep it exciting

but remains understandable and easy to follow. I won't give any spoilers, but I enjoyed the last 10% of the novel, especially the lessons it can teach all of us. I would highly recommend this book to any friend. Feel free to leave any questions/discussion and I will attempt to answer promptly.

Tyler Dilts has taken us to a place in the streets and in our hearts where we must find the humanity in others to understand our own. *A Cold and Broken Hallelujah* is a clear example of a police procedural breaking the genre barrier. I have been homeless, addicted and marginalized in the past and now work helping others change for better lives. The author has done an excellent job of portraying the homeless and those in the helping professions. Mr. Dilts' empathy is authentic and not preachy. This novel has everything a book ought to have, a great plot, solidly developed characters, it's well written and it leaves me wanting more. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting not only a great read but to make friends with an author with two other great novels and a very bright future. One last thing. Regarding James Lee Burke and Tyler Dilts: I don't think Tyler Dilts is trying to be the James Lee Burke of Long Beach. I do think he IS the Tyler Dilts of Long Beach. Dilts and Burke are very different writers. They do however have one thing in common. They are both great authors that entertain us while making us think.

Danny Beckett's job took him to a grisly crime scene that would have ended most hardened careers. A homeless man had been set afire, burned to death, and charred beyond recognition. Danny had to set aside memories of his wife's fiery death. He had to swallow a sickening lump of bile, to clear his mind, and refocus his skilled eyes. Danny had to organize all the jig-saw pieces. The shopping cart filled with odds and ends would be a start. The dregs and debris of the victim's life were like sticky glue holding him together, even though, family and community had given up and turned away. This deep chasm needed to be scaled. Did he have a wife, sister, brother, or children to mourn for him? Why were the shoes and pants in different sizes? Had the homeless man seen something he shouldn't have seen? Who was this man who had suffered a fiery hell on earth? Something didn't set right. The teens had been apprehended immediately. How could youth be so callous, so cruel? Why not a gun, or a knife? Were they trying for more than met the eye? Follow along. This is a mesmerizing, well written mystery. The story line will hold your attention to the end, and quite possibly, even beyond. Thanks for the read.

I knew this book had potential when I saw the Leonard Cohen inspired title. I ended up ordering all three books in this series and read them over a long weekend. I enjoyed the variety of plots and the

descriptions of all the homicide detectives, particularly the principal players. I think many of the negative reviews are harsh for I find it perfectly conceivable that a homicide detective can listen to both National Public Radio and the BBC and that an author can offer a fresh perspective on a well worn genre. I downgraded to four stars because the author needs to develop a consistent narrative for Beckett 's wife (it changes on a major point from one book to the next.) I also agree that the ending for this book was a little far-fetched. I would recommend this series and look forward to further books by this author.

Tyler Dilts has written a good police procedural with well developed characters. The main characters, Danny Beckett, and his partner, Jen, are smart, likeable, and complement each other well. The secondary characters are all nice likeable people, too. I don't like reading books where the main characters are jerks. The story line was well written and interesting. I gave the book four stars because Beckett's thoughts rambled on too long occasionally. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes mysteries or police procedurals. I am planning to read the first two in this series. In fact, my husband read "A Cold and Broken Hallelujah" and enjoyed it as much as I have and has already read the first two books. He felt it didn't matter in which order they are read. This book would also be fine as a stand alone book.

I had to post a review for this novel, if only to balance out some of the others. I am astonished at the number of glowing, 5-star reviews posted about this book. (My writing talent is nothing to brag about either, and I encourage anyone reading this review to peruse the other 1-star reviews as well, most of them are far superior to mine. Now, back to the book-) The plot is unoriginal, the protagonist is shallow, boring, self-absorbed and unconvincing as a veteran police officer. None of the supporting characters are fleshed out, the pace is slow and there is very little tension or suspense. This story could (should) have been half as long; it's way over-padded with the grating descriptions of each walk and car ride these people take ( like the Saturday Night Live skit 'The Californians', each and every street, store and landmark is given, every time) and what & where they eat, and with seemingly endless repetitions of "every good homicide detective knows ...", "I felt like ...", "I knew that probably ...", and some of the clumsiest attempts at foreshadowing I've seen in a novel. Without the drivel, the story could have moved at a quicker pace. I didn't know until after I finished that this is the 3rd book in a series. Perhaps the author gave solid backstories for the characters in the previous 2 novels. There was precious little in this installment. When past events were mentioned, it was in offhand fashion, without depth or feeling. I got no real sense of urgency or need as the story

built and no sense of resolution when it ended. This book was a huge disappointment. I can't recommend it and I don't care to read anything else by this author.

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