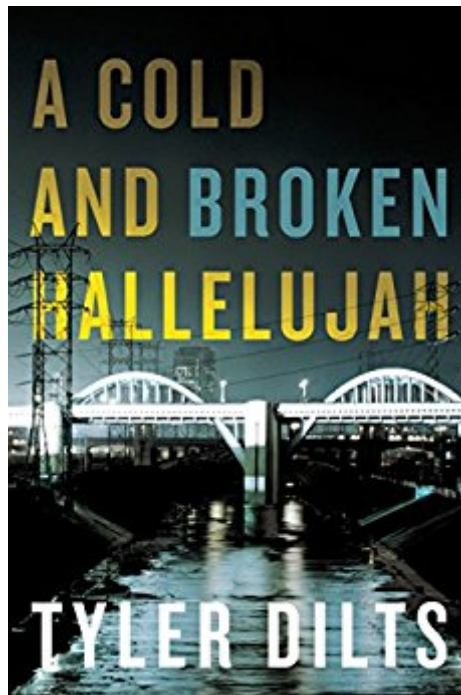




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# A Cold And Broken Hallelujah (Long Beach Homicide)



## 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 overwhelming—but when one suspect'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 risk—and threatens to open new wounds that could cut even deeper than Danny'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.

I read this a few years ago as a Kindle First Selection and then reread it recently. It's a good solid police drama, with twists and turns one would expect from a police investigation. A homeless man is burned alive by three teens. Initially it is seen simply as some sort of show to gain acceptance into a local gang (one of the teens has relatives in the gang). Detective Danny Beckett however, is determined to put a name to the unidentified man. Along with his partner, Detective Jennifer Tanaka, his search to uncover the man's identity, opens up new theories about what exactly happened that night as well as the real motive of the three teens. Along the way, he forms a close bond the brother of one of the teens, who initially was supposed to participate in the burning, but refused to be a part of it and bailed. Now the young man has a target on his back and Detective Beckett must protect him. This is a good story, though I wish the end had a little more to it (it seemed to end too easily, wrapped up nicely in a pretty box).

This was my first Tyler Dilts novel and I was very impressed. His hero, Danny Beckett, is the quintessential 'wounded hero'. Injured to the point of recurring pain, and thoughts of mixing pills with his vodka to ease some of it, Danny is a sweet man who needs to know the victims that he investigates. In *A Cold and Broken Hallelujah*, which is a line from the great Leonard Cohen song, *Hallelujah*, Danny is investigating the murder of a homeless man by a gang of Latin teenage gang-bangers (or at least wanna-bes). Danny assures everyone that he's not bothered by the burning death of the victim, though his wife and unborn child burned to death in an auto accident five years ago. Danny is also the kind of man who assures everyone he's okay even though he's far from okay in reality. He's carrying the pain of his wife's death, and the literal pain of some wound that he carries through his arm and shoulder, though the cause wasn't mentioned in this novel, I would like to read another Tyler Dilts' book to see how Danny's pain came to be. Danny has a wonderful woman partner, Jen Tanaka, who is the rock he steadies himself on most days. She's strong, wise and compassionate, and while there don't seem to be any romantic sparks between the two, she's a character I really learned to love and I hope to see more of her. There are so many highlighted passages in this book, because it speaks to a deep part in us all. Dilts understands what

it means to be human and his characters are breathtakingly flawed and yet perfect, as they fight their way through their own darkness. I love authors who can give me a glimpse into some of the pain we all share. Dilts lets his authors experience it all and then use to solve murders-find love-or just learn to live through it.I'm glad I discovered this wonderful writer. He had me at the title, and I was not disappointed.

I really wanted to give this book 2 stars, but decided on 3 because I did finish it. The book was written in a very leisurely style, interspersed with philosophical comments and allusions to other authors that I think were meant to impress readers. Then, all of a sudden, it wrapped up. The ending was so compressed that I was startled. And it didn't make sense to me. It might have if I had gone back and reread it, but I wasn't interested enough to do that. It was as if Mr. Dilts had gotten tired of writing and just decided to finish it.This could have been a good book If Mr. Dilts had left out the philosophy and had focused on telling the story at an even pace.I guess I would recommend this book to someone who likes police investigation novels so much that he or she could overlook the problems I saw.

This is the 3rd in the Long Beach Homicide. I thoroughly enjoyed the first two and was sure I would enjoy this one just as much. Since I've been reading mostly thrillers recently, I think I had unreasonable expectations, since this is not a thriller. However, it is a highly enjoyable police procedural - murder mystery. Well, it's first a character study, it's about character and character development. If you were reading this book only because of the murder and the pursuit of the killer, then you wouldn't be staying up all night to get to the end. However, if you are more interested in the characters (as I certainly ended up being), then this is a book for you. The author has such a fantastic way of setting up his characters, how they interact with each other, how they impact each other. That impact is pretty phenomenal. I highly recommend this author, this series, and this book.

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