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**Robert J. Peernock**

**Serving Life Sentence Without Parole**

**WINDOW # 3**

**53 Pages**

# The DARK SIDE of the FORCE

A True Story of Corruption and  
Murder in the LAPD

## JAN GOLAB

[LAPD'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACTED A BOOK TO BE WRITTEN TO DECEIVE THE  
PUBLIC INTO THINKING THAT THIS ORGANIZED CRIME ONLY INVOLVED TWO COPS.]



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EXHIBIT "C"

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THE JUDGES CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THAT THIS ONGOING RACKETEERING SCAM INVOLVED USING THE JUDGES' "PROBATE COURTS" TO COLLECT--AND SHARE AMONG THEMSELVES AND THE LAPD DETECTIVES WHO CARRY OUT THE MURDERS--THE MONEY FROM THE LIFE INSURANCES ON THE PEOPLE THE DETECTIVES KILLED.

THE JUDGES CONTROL WHAT IS IN THE PUBLISHED CASES, AND CONSPIRED TO KEEP OUT THAT THEIR PROBATE COURTS, AND JUDGES, WERE PART OF THIS ONGOING RACKETEERING SCAM.

AND INSTEAD OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THIS ONGOING RACKETEERING SCAM--OF KILLING PEOPLE FOR THEIR LIFE INSURANCES--THESE CORRUPT LAPD COPS WERE ONLY GIVEN LIFE SENTENCES. AND THE U.S. NINTH CIRCUIT JUDGE REINHARDT ALSO RECENTLY RULED IN THE CORRUPT LAPD DETECTIVE FORD'S FAVOR. THIS IS WHILE JUDGE REINHARDT REFUSED TO EVEN ADDRESS THE OUTRAGES--ENORMOUS U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL AND DUE PROCESS VIOLATIONS AND THE FALSE IMPRISONMENT (IN VIOLATION OF "DOUBLE JEOPARDY") IN APPELLANT'S CASE (THE PEERNOCK CASE).

NINTH CIRCUIT JUDGE REINHARDT (A FORMER LAPD POLICE COMMISSIONER ALONG WITH THE MENTALLY ILL, ALCOHOLIC LAPD DETECTIVE FISK'S FATHER, WHO WAS ALSO A LAPD COMMISSIONER) AND REINHARDT'S BUDDY NINTH CIRCUIT JUDGES HAVE REFUSED TO ADDRESS THIS ONGOING RACKETEERING BY FISK, HIS BUDDY DETECTIVES AND JUDGES.

TRUE STORY BASED ON COURT RECORDS

By Jan Golab

THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE

## Prologue

# Nightmare for the Chief

CHIEF GATES SAT AT HIS DESK, DUMBFOUNDED, FIDDLING WITH THE tape recorder, replaying portions of the tape over and over. He couldn't believe what he was hearing: an LAPD detective raving like a wild man about burglary and capering and murder for hire, about kidnapping, raping, and torturing a woman to make it look like a sex crime, about "knifing niggers" and "doing whores," about fragging commanding officers and committing atrocities in Vietnam, about how being a supercop was "the perfect cover."

"That's one of our guys?" Gates kept asking.

"Yes, Chief. One of ours."

It was 1:00 P.M. on Friday, July 8, 1983. LAPD chief Daryl F. Gates had spent the morning in his office at Parker Center closeted with IAD brass, federal agents, and the D.A. Apparently, two of his men had just committed the most heinous crime in LAPD history. A noon press conference had been called, and the Parker Center auditorium was packed with reporters and TV cameras. Chief Gates had kept them waiting for an hour. He just couldn't stop listening to the tape.

Gates had weathered a few scandals in his five years as the head of the Los Angeles Police Department, but they paled in comparison to this. And it would be another eight years before Rodney King.

Due to that infamous George Holliday videotape, the March 1991 King beating would gain worldwide attention and have profound impact on the LAPD. The resultant Christopher Commission, with its report of widespread racism and a "culture of brutality" in the LAPD, would serve as a formal indictment and lead

The perfect cover to commit murders and frame others is a LAPD detective. Internal Affairs has been organized with the main purpose of covering-up murders, corruption, and scams by their cops. With all the LAPD's bragging about their enormous investigative capability to investigate and prosecute any citizen, Gates claimed the LAPD was completely ignorant of the fact that his detectives were committing robberies, contract murders, insurance fraud, and framing innocent people and collecting the insurances on the people the detectives killed with impunity for many years. Gates also claimed ignorance of Ford's and VonVillas' buddy detectives, such as detective Fisk who were part of this murder/insurance fraud group, and who had a history of killing people (which was always covered-up by I.A.) and who was being treated for mental illness and alcoholism, and who was another of L.A.'s finest.

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to Chief Gates's early "retirement." And the verdict from the King beating trial would ignite the worst race riots in U.S. history, perhaps changing L.A. forever.

But as in most "excessive force" cases, the actions of the officers involved in the Rodney King incident were not so very puzzling. The questions would lie in whether those actions were justified or inexcusable, legal or criminal, unprejudiced or racist, and whether the "siege mentality" that led to that beating was endemic to the department. Hard questions, but relatively clear questions.

The case sitting before Chief Gates now, however, was something else entirely. No criminal case involving the LAPD had been so hard to fathom, so chilling in its ramifications, as that of Detective Richard Ford and Officer Robert Von Villas.

These two decorated war heroes had served thirteen and fifteen impeccable years with the LAPD. Their records showed uncommon devotion to duty and public service. The stack of commendations the two had received lay inches thick on Gates's desk. These were truly two of L.A.'s finest. And, apparently, cold-blooded killers as well.

How had such exceptional cops fallen from grace? Or was it possible that they had never really been the good men, the heroes their records showed them to be? That those many years of working selflessly to protect and to serve had been nothing but a ruse?

This was not a simple case of greed or disillusionment or police burnout or what Gates's critics called the LAPD "cowboy" mentality. No, this one involved all of the above. It was lurid, complicated, and frightening. It involved that strain of horror that connects My Lai to Rodney King, those frightening dangers attendant on any granting of power and trust. The actions of these officers seemed to provide a startling insight into the Dark Side of the Force.

It was a tough pill for a proud chief to swallow. A pair of respected, award-winning LAPD veterans, pillars of the community, had been killing people and committing armed robbery and doing just about everything else under the sun that was illegal. How could this happen?

When the D.A. finally stood before a jury five years later, pleading for the death penalty to be imposed on two L.A. cops, he would refer to this unprecedented case as "every citizen's worst nightmare."

- But right now it was Chief Gates's nightmare.

This was Los Angeles; this kind of thing didn't happen here. The LAPD had a reputation as the nation's cleanest police department. The home of "Dragnet" and "Adam-12" was the birthplace of the modern-day internal affairs division, created by Gates's mentor, Chief William Parker, back in the 1950s. Chief Parker, who established the hard-charging, paramilitary style of the LAPD, was one of

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For over 15 years Ford, VonVillas, and their buddies Fisk and other detectives, committed murders, set-up innocent people, and were repeatedly being rewarded with commendations. While the LAPD concentrated on their propaganda campaign claiming their Police Force was the nation's cleanest, their detectives were committing murders for profit and collecting life insurances on the people they killed.

Any citizen complaining to Internal Affairs about murders and other crimes by the Police were themselves then targeted for harassment, murder or set-up on false charges. Gates and the former LAPD Chiefs had set-up a full proof system to cover-up crimes by cops and when their cover-up system broke down Gates and the other chiefs claim they were too stupid to know what was going on and had no investigative capability.

The LAPD: super investigators against citizens, but completely incompetent in investigating their own cops. Detectives Ford and VonVillas could openly brag about their murders, torture, and their many criminal acts with complete confidence and without any fear that the LADP would expose them. It took a private citizen and a outside agency, the FBI, to stop Ford and VonVillas from continuing their killings, but the LAPD circled their wagons and stopped the exposure of Fisk, and other Detectives, carrying out the same type murder insurance fraud schemes that Ford and VonVillas engaged in.

And Fisk, like Ford and VonVillas could openly brag to writer Joe Domonick in "TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE" that he could destroy any man's family and get all the back-up he needs.

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