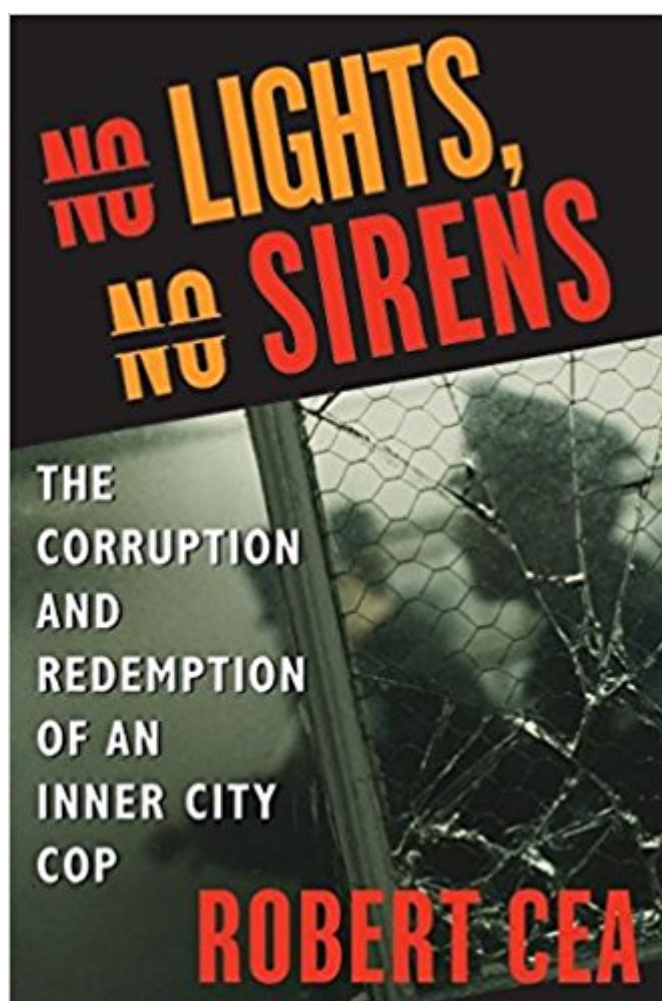


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# No Lights, No Sirens: The Corruption And Redemption Of An Inner City Cop



## Synopsis

A New York Police Officer's relentless journey into the criminal netherworld, told with brutal truth and honesty. Perhaps Nietzsche described Rob Cea's life best, way before he was born: "You can only take so much care when chasing the animals; for you can very well become the animal you are chasing." No Lights, No Sirens is a sojourn so dirty and nasty it defies belief. Rob Cea starts off as an idealistic young cop, a true believer in the system for which he works tirelessly. He is sadly mistaken. The system he tried so hard to appease ultimately led to his downfall and the ruination of his life. What separates this from other cop-and-robber stories is the brutal authenticity from the cop himself. We will see and hear exactly what is discussed in a patrol car. We will see how the law was routinely bent to make collars stick any way possible. And we will see how Cea slowly spirals to depths of hell. No Lights, No Sirens is simplistic in its scope: A young idealistic boy becomes a man through fire, and then becomes exactly what he has been chasing for so long, a hardened man possessed by demons. With rapid fire and gritty narrative, Cea writes about his fall to the depths, and his salvation. We see the dark side of detective work in New York's most crime-riddled neighbourhoods from a firsthand view never before seen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Virtually every cliché in every noirish police melodrama ever filmed by Hollywood turns out to be the God's-honest truth, to judge by this pulpy memoir. Cea, a television writer who recently sold three network pilots, chronicles his former career as a NYPD officer during the 1980s, from his

bushy-tailed academy stint to his soul-destroying ordeal in the "Badlands" of Brooklyn. His beat is a Dantean landscape populated by-in order of decreasing humanity-whores, crackheads, junkyard dogs, "scumbag" defense attorneys and Internal Affairs desk-jockeys who don't understand that you can't play by the rules when you're on the street. Cea soon finds himself "test-i-lying" to prevent perps from being sprung on technicalities and plying snitches with stolen heroin in exchange for information. The oft-scripted existential dilemma of law enforcement-"to fight them, you have to BECOME THEM!"-duly wrecks his marriage and sends him into a funk of paranoia and rage. Cea apparently has an exact recall of events and conversations from decades ago, but the lavish detail piles up more stereotype than gritty verisimilitude. He faithfully quotes every "yo" and "bitch" uttered by the trash-talking ghetto poets he encounters and arrests, and his reconstructions of his own lurid arias to the nihilistic honor of cops-"a filthy toilet bowl full of maggots is what this city is....and the only ones who stand between the babies and the furnace are saps like me! ME!"-go on for pages. Somewhere in here there's an intriguing account of gradual corruption and the weird psychological dynamic between cops and criminals, but it's buried beneath a hackneyed, overwrought screenplay-in-waiting. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

When he retired from the NYPD, the author was the fifth-most-decorated officer in the department's history. And he was still only in his early thirties. So why would an ambitious, aggressive, highly respected detective end his career so early? Because, like others before him, Cea had fought bitter battles with his own conscience over the way he did his job. The book explores one of a police officer's toughest dilemmas: When and how much is it necessary to bend the rules in order to catch the bad guys? This isn't a story of police corruption in the manner of *Serpico* or *Prince of the City*. This one is about moral corruption, about one man's personal descent into dishonesty. There is much to learn from Cea's frank and sometimes shocking memoir, which is written in honest, gritty prose. This may gather the kind of off-the-book-pages coverage necessary to reach a mass audience, but its strongest appeal will be to aficionados of true-crime and cop nonfiction. David PittCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Great reading, the author takes you on his life in the NYPD which is a rollercoaster ride to the bowls of hell with so much reality you think you are with him every step of the way. Unfortunately, his addiction to the action of the job destroys his personal life which is typical when it comes to what time on the job does to a lot of officers everywhere. I have seen good men like Robert Cea's lives

go down the same path a time or two with my own eyes having spent 31 years on the job myself, (not in the NYPD), but with a small town department. Great reading the kind that once you open the cover, you don't want to close it until the epilogue!

Wow. What a great interesting, brutally honest true story on the part of the author. I like the fact that he had the guts to put this out there and tell his story regardless on how it would make him appear to others. Thanks for cleaning up things before I worked the 6-7.

This book makes you realize that the job of a street cop is a thankless job. Too many dedicated cops have been jammed up by a system that allows slick defense attorneys to set bad guys free. A certain amount of "street corner justice" -- but not to the extent to which the author went -- keeps us all safer.

Sad story of a man who should never have been a police officer. He shows he had no respect for people, himself nor fellow officers not only in his own department but anywhere. However, he did recognize this in his own way and came to terms with it. Being a police officer is about others not oneself. I think he came to that realization after he destroyed so many lives. I think that brought him peace.

If this is based on a real cop's life it was a terrifying experience for anyone to have escaped from. I didn't like the explicit language but I imagine it went with the filth and degradation of the streets.

Well written, good read. Author does a good job of creating a sympathetic bad cop who convinces himself that the crimes he's committing are necessary to protect the community, but actually becomes addicted to the action and danger. The story reads like a fictional action movie, but the details and the emotions make it totally believable.

As a NYC Cop working in the Bronx in the early 90's , many of Ceas stories are very familiar to me. More importantly as a reader , he had me on the edge of my seat , my legs shaking nervously , and the anticipation of " what's next". CeaPuts you in the driver's seat of this amazing but honest tale. I highly recommend this to all !

Interesting read but it was hard understanding summer of the street slang used. It is a shame that

the people in blue have to be tortured over doing this work.

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