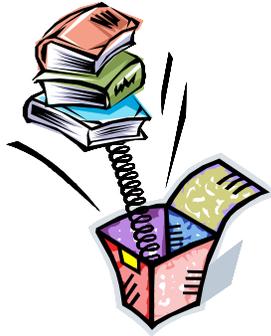




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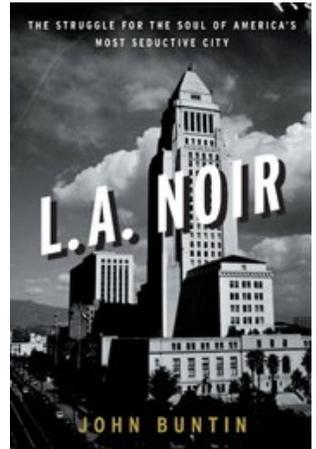


**Book Club in a Box**

# L. A. NOIR

## About the Book

Midcentury Los Angeles. A city sold to the world as "the white spot of America," a land of sunshine and orange groves, wholesome Midwestern values and Hollywood stars, protected by the world's most famous police force, the *Dragnet*-era LAPD. Behind this public image lies a hidden world of "pleasure girls" and crooked cops, ruthless newspaper tycoons, corrupt politicians, and East Coast gangsters on the make. Into this underworld came two men—one L.A.'s most notorious gangster, the other its most famous police chief—each prepared to battle the other for the soul of the city.



### Contents

About the Book	1
About the Author	1
Discussion Questions	2
Further Reading	2

## About the Author



John Buntin is a staff writer at *Governing* magazine, where he covers crime and urban affairs. A native of Mississippi, Buntin graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and has worked as a case writer for Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. A former resident of Southern California, he now lives in Washington, D.C., with his family.

# Discussion Questions

1. What was your perception of the book? Was your initial perspective of the book changed the more you read through the book?
2. What do you think about historical Los Angeles and how the police force evolved?
3. Do you feel that the historical Los Angeles genre of movies like L.A. Confidential and books like L.A. Noir captures the essence of the city?
4. Do you feel that the author was correct in his argument that the struggle between William Parker and Mickey Cohen changed the shape of the city to the Los Angeles we now know today? Why or why not?
5. If you do not agree that the struggle between Parker and Cohen changed the shape of the city, what historical factors do you believe changed Los Angeles and how the police force is now run?
6. Why do you think famous people such as Frank Sinatra, Robert Mitchum, and Billy Graham were drawn to notorious gangsters such as Cohen and Bugsy Siegel during this era? Do you think that is the case today?
7. Do you feel historical L.A is glamorized in film & novels? If you do, why do you think it is?
8. Do certain parts of the book make you feel uncomfortable? If so why?
9. Were you surprised by some of the events that took place in Los Angeles history?
10. After reading this book are you more interested in this subject?

## Further Reading

### **If you liked *L. A. Noir*, you might like:**

*The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler

*The Black Dahlia* by James Ellroy

*Headline Happy* by Florabel Muir

*In My Own Words* by Mickey Cohen

*L. A. Confidential* by James Ellroy