



Come Twilight

Tyler Dilts

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For the first time in years, things are going well for Long Beach homicide detective Danny Beckett. He's closing cases with his partner, Jennifer Tanaka, and keeping a spare suit at the condo of his girlfriend, Julia Rice. But Danny's peace is shattered when he's called to investigate an apparent suicide—one that quickly reveals itself to be murder.

Just as Danny begins to investigate, a bomb detonates in his car while it's parked in a mechanic's lot, sidelining him from both the murder case and the hunt for his own assassin. Placed in protective custody at the home of his partner, the headstrong investigator must resist the temptation to break protocol—and find the willpower to stop his own self-destructive behavior before it threatens his two most important relationships. But what happens when Danny must choose between following the rules and saving a life?

Come Twilight Details

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Jim A says

Another very good police procedural from Tyler Dilts. Not really a breath taking paced novel, but it moves right along without getting bogged down.

I don't normally compare authors as each has their own style. But to those who are not familiar with Dilts' work, he compares quite well with Michael Connelly (Harry Bosch), John Sandford (Lucas Davenport), or Robert Crais (Elvis Cole).

Because of the references to Danny's pain, new readers should really start the series at the beginning to build the foundation. You won't be disappointed, as the four books in the series are all very well written and quite good.

Janet says

Really good series by author Tyler Dilts that I'm happy to have discovered. (Thank you, Book Carnival, for the recommendation.) This series features Danny Becket, a believable and flawed-but-likeable character who is good at his job as a Long Beach Homicide Detective while battling his own demons. Come Twilight is the fourth title in this series of four. The plot is strong and the writing solid. And, of course, the local setting is always fun to read. I hope we can expect a fifth Danny Becket book. I'd like to find out how Danny is faring these days.

Tom Swift says

This is a really good police series featuring a homicide detective in Long Beach, CA.

Ed says

Long Beach PD detectives Becket and Tanaka experience a falling out of sorts when Danny is kidnapped and beaten while under police protection which sidelines him on a murder investigation. The unique chemistry between the partners gets frayed as Danny struggles to physically recover and remain somewhat relevant to the investigation. His forced inaction gives the author room to explore Danny's quite interesting views on life in Southern California from replacing his bomb destroyed Camry with a Subaru Legacy to Downton Abbey. It's character driven crime fiction that elevate this series above other police procedurals and keep you turning the pages. I recommend reading the previous three books in the series first for context and sincerely hope the series continues.

Ross Cumming says

This is the fourth novel in the Long Beach Homicide series featuring Detective Danny Beckett, all of which I've now read in fairly quick succession. In this latest instalment, Danny catches an apparent suicide which may in fact be a murder and when a bomb is detonated in his car he is pulled off the case, with his boss fearing that the incidents may be connected. Danny still has his demons to contend with but his relationship with photographer Julia Rose, whom he met in the previous novel, is now blossoming. However his growing frustration at being sidelined from the case threatens to derail his partnership with long time colleague Jen Tanaka and also his relationship with Julia.

I felt this was a bit of a return to form following on from the third novel, which I thought was a bit weaker than the first two books in the series. *Come Twilight* explores Danny's feelings of frustration, guilt and depression and how his behaviour ultimately impacts on those closest to him. This is all done subtly within the context of a criminal investigation but by exploring these avenues Dilts offers us a richer, deeper story. There are the usual musical references and the dark humour, shared among the fellow cops that we've come to expect from the series and there are also the recurring characters too, which all add a feeling of familiarity to the novel. Another thoroughly enjoyable novel from Dilts and I hope there is more in the series to come in the future.

Jay Williams says

This is one of the better police procedural novels I have read. The detective is a real-life character, developed in depth, and the plot offers many wrinkles that make the reader think and want to understand more. The Long Beach area provides a good backdrop for the multiple cases of murder that comes together as Detective Beckett recognizes that an apparent suicide is actually a murder. He becomes a target himself as the investigation slowly reveals the motive behind the murder of a man who was well-liked by all who knew him. The action is realistic without being gory, and the style of writing is clear and direct. I want to read more in the Long Beach homicide series.

Larry H says

I'd rate this 4.5 stars.

"I'm only really good at two things—investigating homicides and denial."

While a bit of an oversimplification, that statement describes Long Beach homicide detective Danny Beckett fairly well. He's excellent at his job, but his life has been plagued by tragedies and misfortune, not to mention a serious injury which causes him a great deal of pain from time to time.

A new relationship has suddenly brightened his outlook on life a bit, making him realize he's not quite as bitter and resistant to change as he thought he was. He finds himself enjoying new restaurants in Long Beach's hipster neighborhood, keeping a spare suit in his girlfriend's apartment, and even he is surprised to discover he likes watching *Downton Abbey*. All of this is tremendously gratifying to those who care about Beckett, especially his longtime partner, Jen Tanaka.

One night Danny and Jen get a call for what appears to be a suicide. But some quick detective work on

Danny's part reveals that this was actually a murder, and the pair must identify the perpetrator. And while they seem to be on the right track, everything is derailed when one night, a bomb hidden in Danny's car detonates while it sits in a mechanic's shop. Suddenly there must be an investigation on who tried to kill Danny as well, and whether the two cases are related.

This new development leaves Danny paralyzed by fear, and eventually sidelines him from the murder investigation. Holed up in Jen's house for protection, he is at once both fearful and frustrated, wanting to solve the murder case while desperately trying to understand who would want him dead. His need for independence puts him in further danger and threatens to jeopardize his relationship with his colleagues, particularly Jen. But what happens when he has to decide between breaking the rules and saving a life, a life which might lead to answers?

I've commented before that Tyler Dilts really should be a household name. He's an excellent crime writer, but what makes his work stand out above so many others in this genre is his rich characterization and attention to plot, in addition to weaving mysteries Danny and Jen must solve. *Come Twilight* is the fourth book featuring Danny and Jen, and each time I read one of Dilts' books it feels like reuniting with old friends. (This being said, you don't have to read the books in order, although they do briefly mention things that happened in earlier books.)

I really enjoyed this book, and like Dilts' previous ones, I found myself emotionally invested in the plot and interested in seeing where things would lead. And if one major plot point wasn't a surprise to me, it didn't affect my enjoyment—if anything, the mystery is secondary to the plot and characters themselves.

If you like crime novels with complex, well-drawn characters, pick up *Come Twilight* or any of Dilts' three earlier books. Like me, you'll wonder why more people don't know who Tyler Dilts is, and perhaps you can help me figure out how we can change that.

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com>....

Tara Scherner de la fuente says

I love the Long Beach Homicide series. The characters are vibrant, the place is an additional character, and some of the phrases come out of nowhere and make this an extra special book. Plus, Dilts started narrating his own books (I'm all audio all the time) and he's great!

This particular book allows Dilts to play with the unreliability of a narrator--but not in the usual way. In this case, it allows for the main character to feel and express new things, forming his ideas in new ways. It's pretty cool, frankly.

Carol Bro says

Dilts has four books out now featuring Danny Beckett, a conscientious, if sometimes conflicted, homicide detective. Dilts's style reminds me of the late, great Robert B. Parker and his Spenser series, one of my favorites. Both authors tell simple but intriguing tales with just enough humor interspersed to lighten the tension and let the reader know their protagonist is a 'good guy.' I especially enjoy Dilts's periodic Long

Beach (California) references as I and my husband lived there for years and have many fond memories of the place. I look forward to Tyler Dilts's next Danny Beckett who-done-it. They always keep me entertained.

Donna says

3.5 stars. Homicide detective Danny Beckett and his partner Jennifer Tanaka are called to the scene of an apparent suicide in an apartment building. The landlord is dead of a gunshot wound but Danny quickly realizes the gun is in the man's left hand and he's not left-handed. Soon after, a bomb blows up in Danny's car. He's put in protective custody at his partner's house and given desk duty which doesn't fit his investigative style at all. As they question neighbors about the landlord's murder, one of the renters is missing and his body is later found in a dumpster. They learn the landlord has loaned quite a bit of money to his son-in-law's failed restaurant. Are any of these incidents related to the murders or to the bomb?

I enjoyed the way the investigation led to clues about the murderer. The descriptions of Long Beach, California were very good. I received a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Jim says

Come Twilight is the fourth novel in Tyler Dilts's Long Beach Homicide Series. And, along with its predecessor, **A Cold and Broken Hallelujah**, it's the best. Homicide Detective Danny Beckett and his partner Jennifer Tanaka are, to my mind, probably the most interesting police procedural characters in the whole genre.

What looked at first to be a murder (it would have been taken as a suicide, except that left-handed victims don't shoot themselves with their right hand) turns out to be two unrelated cases. While the Long Beach police run themselves ragged trying to find all the connections, Danny himself almost becomes a victim of a car bombing and a kidnapping. At that point, he is taken off the case and looked after by his colleagues. This drives Beckett to the brink of distraction, but things come out all right in the end.

Ever since I went on an Arnaldur Indriðason binge several years ago, no mystery writer has engaged my attention to the same extent. I begin reading Dilts while on vacation in Cusco, Peru, and never looked back. I hope that Dilts has a long and fruitful career.

Tracey says

Aarrghh! I enjoyed this book and the character developments to the main character, but didn't enjoy one of the plot twists which a good detective wouldn't have missed even if they had been distracted.... I found myself practically yelling at the book in frustration.

Linda Strong says

Homicide Detective Danny Beckett is having a good life. He and his partner, Detective Jennifer Tanaka are closing cases, and on a personal level, Danny has a new girlfriend, Julia Rice.

But then things seem to spiral out of control when he's called to investigate a probable suicide, which turns out to be murder.

Shortly after, a bomb is planted in his car and luckily, his car was sitting at the mechanic's and no one was hurt.

Danny is immediately taken off the murder case, and when the headstrong detective disobeys and takes off by himself, he winds up in the back of a van, hands handcuffed and a pillow case over his head. He is given a warning .. Stay Away From Her!

Her, who? The witness in his murder case? His partner? His girlfriend?

The story is well written with splashes of humor here and there. The characters are clearly defined. This is 4th in a series, but does quite well as a stand-alone. There are literally no references to previous books. It's a fast-paced read, a wonderful mix of personal and professional.

My thanks to the author / Thomas & Mercer / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Mark Stevens says

Long Beach homicide detective Danny Beckett is in touch with his own mortality. Danny's hand was nearly severed in a previous case. He came very close to bleeding to death. In the year following that incident, "hardly a day" passed when he didn't contemplate his own mortality. Says Danny, "I learned what the muzzle of a gun tasted like and made a list of songs to play at my funeral."

That list of tunes yields the chapter titles for "Come Twilight," from "Cadillac Ranch" to "Whither Must I Wander" to "Seat at the Table." The idea of the list also generates the title of the novel (and it's fairly slick how Dilts works that in.) Music informs and infuses Danny's life and, therefore, many of the pages here. George Pelecanos (whose stories take place about 3,000 miles away) and Tyler Dilts would make for a fine pair of DJ's at your next party. They both have a fondness for the occasional obscure track or artist, but both are such music champions that their stories, well, hum along. Literally.

Danny Beckett is prone to go off on thoughts about the music. He apparently had some different views on bands with his late wife. He ruminates quite a bit about the songs to be played at his funeral, which ideally would include every song Bruce Springsteen ever wrote. (If he ever dies, it's going to be one long service). If that's enough music to imbue this solid mystery, Danny Beckett is also learning banjo.

Danny Beckett is also focused on a puzzling murder investigation that appears to be a suicide but is not. And then Beckett's worries about death are given a fresh jolt when a bomb turns his car into a "jagged mess of

metal and plastic" while it's at the repair shop. The moment makes Beckett realize that he could have been killed and also gives him a chance to think about what it's like to be a victim. So Beckett is ordered to lay low while his would-be assassin is hunted down, hampering his style. Beckett doesn't do well with limits of any kind. More misery awaits Beckett and, well, along come more opportunities to contemplate that list of tunes.

Dilts' writing is so smooth you could skip a stone across its surface. "My eyes were locked on the water glass on the table in front of me. I should have told her about the bomb as soon as I found out. Instead, I'd kept it to myself, wanting to believe that if I pretended hard enough, I could make it go away. Or that it would turn out to be a false alarm or somehow easily resolved and I'd be able to laugh it off. The truth was that if I acknowledged the reality of the situation to her, I'd have to acknowledge it to myself, too."

We are thoroughly grounded in Beckett's three-dimensional world, both the case itself and the weight of his personal issues as he rebuilds a new life with Julia, an artsy photographer.

"Come Twilight" offers up solid clue-finding and plenty of Long Beach atmosphere, down to Beckett's choice for various edibles from carne asada to omelets to calzones. (Getting hungry? Me, too.) There are pop culture references from "Downtown Abbey" to "Game of Thrones" and "The Bachelor." There are podcasts, too, and the all the aforementioned music. The point is that Danny Beckett may be overly focused on the songs for his funeral but he is taking in the world and he is very much alive.

Danny Beckett may not know he's enjoying life, because he's so good at denial, but we do.

Chris says

I did not enjoy the fourth entry in this series as much as the first three, I thought the main character was not as well defined and that there were a couple of very obvious clues that went undetected by the detective.
