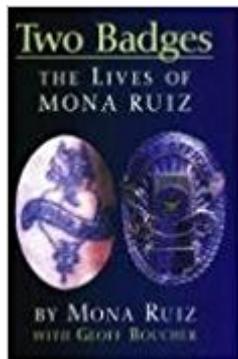


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# Two Badges: The Lives Of Mona Ruiz



## **Synopsis**

With this riveting autobiography, Mona Ruiz and co-author Geoff Boucher spin a gripping tale of one woman's private war to escape the tentacles of the street gangs that have carved her barrio into turfs where one misstep leads to violence. This engrossing memoir charts Ruiz's journey toward self-identity, tracing the tortuous path of her life—a life in which Ruiz assumed contradictory roles: gang chola, high school drop-out, disowned daughter, battered wife, welfare mother, student, and policewoman. At each step in the journey, Ruiz faced violence, ridicule, and skepticism. She nevertheless prevailed in exchanging her badge of social defiance for one of protecting her community. This eloquent monument to courage and triumph against all odds will inspire every reader who has at some time felt overwhelmed by the daunting challenges life brandishes.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Never forgetting the words of her father, who said that police are Christ's soldiers on the rough city streets, Mona Ruiz spent her youth with gangs, married an abusive husband, then went from collecting welfare to preserving the welfare of others as a police officer in her hometown of Santa Ana. Ruiz tells her story with the objective eye of a detective who sees both the issues of necessity in joining a gang and the gang system's fatal vision of drugs and war. Informative and inspiring, Ruiz is one who made it out of the gangs, but never abandoned the streets. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Fascinating--alternately gruesome, tragic and funny," --The Women's Review of Books

A former street chola writes her memoirs and her struggle to become a Santa Ana police officer. A fascinating look at the emptiness faced by young Latinos in the Los Angeles area. Devoid of direction, ignorant and unguided young people are prey for bad influences; here lies the timeless threat to every young girl. After a surreal marriage to a drug addict and a pregnancy, Ruiz does the impossible and becomes a cop. This book has the qualities of becoming an urban classic because not much has changed since Ruiz was a girl. That's a bittersweet commentary when a Latino can be the mayor of Los Angeles (Villaraigosa) and yet Latino youth can still be utterly lost to the street. I'd like to see the retired Mona Ruiz write her memoirs and tell us where her life finally led her. Hopefully she's at peace with her identity and her role in life.

I teach at a high school that is mostly minorities, so I chose this book because the book can really connect to the students' lives. The book actually was selected as a part of the curriculum at the school, but as I have gone through the book I have seen a lot of curse words being used. The overall message of the book is great, but the number of inappropriate terms is difficult to work around.

the story in the book was great the book itself came bent and not so brand new looking just like my past order of a different book i ordered...i think ill just save buying books for barnes and nobles instead

Excellent product and on time

Incredible book.

Was really good enjoyed it and couldn't put it down.kept me entertained a true underdog story recommend for all women

This book is a real page turner! The story of this woman is compelling as well as inspirational. It is appealing to teen as well as adult readers.

My top 5 book I have read in my live because it talks about something that happen to too many young kids and no one seems to care.

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