

Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz

By Mona Ruiz, Geoff Boucher

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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.

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Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz By Mona Ruiz, Geoff Boucher Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
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.

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

From the Inside Flap
"Beneath the unique story of a gang-banger turned cop was the story that really grabbed my attention: how a young Chicana went beyond all the social pressures to fail—including physical abuse, racism, and sexism—and followed her own dreams. Geoff Boucher has helped transform this experience into a good read." —Luis Rodriguez, author of Always Running: La Vida Loca ". . .Fascinating—alternately gruesome, tragic, and funny." —The Women’s Review of Books

". . . this well-written book is the engrossing autobiographical account of how one woman found her way out of the world of gangs to achieve her dream of being a police officer." —MultiCultural Review

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