



# A Bright and Guilty Place: Murder, Corruption, and L.A.'s Scandalous Coming of Age

*Richard Rayner*

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**A Bright and Guilty Place: Murder, Corruption, and L.A.'s Scandalous Coming of Age** Richard Rayner  
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Los Angeles was the fastest growing city in the world, mad with oil fever, get-rich-quick schemes, and celebrity scandals. It was also rife with organized crime, with a mayor in the pocket of the syndicates and a DA taking bribes to throw trials. In *A Bright and Guilty Place*, Richard Rayner narrates the entwined lives of two men, Dave Clark and Leslie White, who were caught up in the crimes, murders, and swindles of the day. Over a few transformative years, as the boom times shaded into the Depression, the adventures of Clark and White would inspire pulp fiction and replace L.A.'s reckless optimism with a new cynicism. Together, theirs is the tale of how the city of sunshine went noir.



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