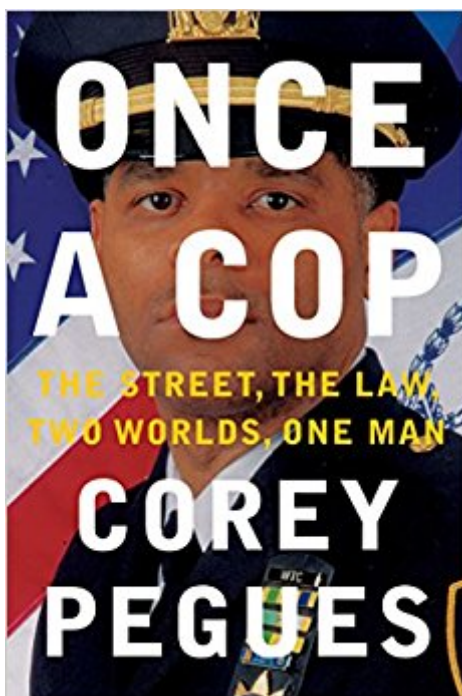


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# Once A Cop: The Street, The Law, Two Worlds, One Man



## Synopsis

New York City Book Awards Hornblower Award Winner African American Literary Award Winner for Best Biography/Memoir As a youth, Corey Pegues was a criminal. As an adult, he became a high-ranking police officer. In this fascinating look at life on both sides of the law, Corey Pegues opens up about why he joined the New York Police Department after years as a drug dealer. Pegues speaks honestly about the poor choices he made while coming of age in New York City during the height of the crack epidemic. He's equally candid about why he turned his life around, and takes you inside the NYPD, where he becomes a decorated officer despite bureaucratic pitfalls and discriminatory practices. Written with the voice and panache of someone who knows the streets, *Once a Cop* is a credible and informative look at the forces that lead some into a life of crime and what it means to make good on a second chance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As the spotlight on law enforcement grows ever harsher, the perspective of a top cop as a black cop makes one sit up and take notice. [Corey Pegues] gives us an incisive look at life on both sides of the blue line . . . a nuanced perspective of the often-fractionious relationship between communities of color and law enforcement." (USA Today) "This edgy, yet captivating memoir is a page-turner, which demonstrably gives insight into the headspace of how and why poor choices are made by inner city youth, how negative energy or untapped talent steered correctly can make a world of difference, as well as what can

happen if [you are] given a second chance in life." (Judge Greg Mathis, author and TV personality) "A rollicking, no-holds-barred account of life on the streets, seen from both sides . . . . This insider account of street and squad-room life is riveting, and Pegues's writing style is assured and polished." (Booklist (starred review)) "New York City experienced a wave of crack-related violence in the 1980s and early 1990s, followed by a dramatic decline in crime. In his compelling memoir *Once a Cop*, Corey Pegues describes his life as a young hustler, slinging drugs and battling rival gangsters -- and how he turned his life around by joining the military and then the NYPD, where he became one of the highest-ranking blacks in the department. Pegues holds nothing back in recounting the political landmines he navigated -- and the personal price he paid -- for advocating for reforms within the NYPD." (Ruben Castaneda, author of *S Street Rising: Crack, Murder and Redemption in DC*) "A fascinating look at an era of New York City history -- the crack epidemic -- and at how a young, misguided man chose a life of crime, then redemption. This isn't just a good story, it's the quintessential American success story." (Reggie Ossaf, aka Combat Jack, host of the *Combat Jack Show* podcast) "Pegues has an important story to tell." (Library Journal) "Gritty . . . . ornamented with raw street vernacular, lending it authenticity." (Kirkus)

Corey Pegues, a native of Queens, retired from the NYPD as a deputy inspector in 2013, after twenty-one years of service.

Honestly, I am only through the first section of this book, but I'm prepared to give this 5 stars. I saw the author on the Daily Show, and I ordered the book because Corey Pegues seemed like someone who could tell a good story. I taught writing at a two year college for a long time, and I always found that police make excellent writers. Corey Pegues lives up to that standard -- the details are clear, the scenes are remarkably set, and the book even has pictures. Every character in the story, so far, has been real, and I have spent as much time googling the people and events as I have reading the book. I had been looking for a really engaging, gripping story, and I have struggled to find anything that isn't too shallow, but isn't too esoteric. I have put this book down, twice, since I opened it today -- to eat. Honestly, I take it in the bathroom with me. (Is that too much? Whatever.) I love Corey Pegues as a narrator. He is reflective and self aware. He, also, makes for a likable main character, who is sensitive, thoughtful, and flawed. This book is a great read because you feel like you're listening to someone with the heart to understand people and the knack for telling a great story.

I really liked this book. Thank you, Mr. Pegues, for sharing your life story - especially your experience with the NYPD. I had read other articles and books about the "old boys network" in the city of New York. Your book confirmed it's existence for me within the police department. It was especially enlightening to hear how policemen reacted when they did not understand the culture of the areas they patrolled.

Great book. I hope the real message in this book is noticed. A boy grew up in a bad time (rise of crack), and rose to be a man of something and had to fight the entire way. All he needed was someone to believe in him. We need to encourage and support our children. One person can make a world of difference.

Wow! I am impressed. I am an avid reader... Horror, Mystery, Sci-fi, History|descriptive writing is the key aspect. The best stories will remain untold through the lack of this skillset. Needless to say, Corey Pegues's story is seriously being told. It pulls you in like you are right there|hearing the music|watching the people and living the life. Initially, I was a bit disappointed and feeling that "they" were going to soil his name and erase all the good in his career. "Life" is hard|you know how hard it is for us|why would you do this? However, this story speaks to an entire population of young men that need know that life is about choices and making the right choice can change your entire life, as well as your children and their children. Hard work pays and where you come from should never inhibit you from making a "good" life happen. Although this depicts his generation, it applies to the generation of today in Anytown, USA. The streets are a struggle and apparently, NYPD is a struggle. This can also be said about any career and industry|when you are from "around the way". The book is a story about something much bigger than the author. The story is entertaining and the lessons are multifaceted. Read the book, as it is true that the book is always better than the movie, which is sure to come. This is a good read!

Good book simple read and very honest take on Mr. Pegues personal life. I enjoyed the book and it's a good example of how it's not where you start but how you finish. Also this is a timely book given the current state of law enforcement in this country.

This book started out as an inspiring life story of a wayward inner-city youth who made undeniably bad choices, basically going along to get along. His true triumph was making the decision to do better before it was too late. Corey turned his life around without the "assistance of correctional facilities," not only pulling himself out of the abyss of street-life, but by pulling himself up, standing tall, and showing that you don't have to be a "throw-away from society" because of the dismal circumstances that make-up your reality. Corey also revealed so much insider information regarding the inner workings behind the 'wayward blue wall of silence.' A definite MUST READ.

This page turner will definitely keep your interest. It's the story of a young boy who found himself lost in a world of fast money; where avoiding the cops, was mandatory. The story of a young MAN who had the foresight to get out before it was too late and actually become a cop himself. Not only changing his own life, but tirelessly working to make a change in the communities he grew up in, and to assuage the relationship between inner city youths and the cops who patrol their neighbourhoods.

This book was most inspiring.. Being from Queens, while reading the book I would imagine every place he spoke about. O'Connell Park, Baisley Park etc. I would read the book out loud to my husband, and just when I thought he wasn't listening, when I'd start reading to myself he'd say "What happened" lol. When he got in the car with the Army recruiter I felt like I was there. When he graduated from the academy I felt like I was there too. I also felt like I was waiting with him for his promotions... It was nice to see he stayed true to himself his entire career. That he didn't join in to be accepted, selling his soul; he made it regardless. When I got to the end of the book when he was speaking with Ray Kelly I did want to read that he had gotten that final promotion he wanted, however, GOD had other plans for Corey. God felt like his work was done inside of the department and it was time to take his show on the road, to touch the lives of our youth who are completely lost. I am so happy that the book is doing well and I wish Corey much success in his future endeavors.

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