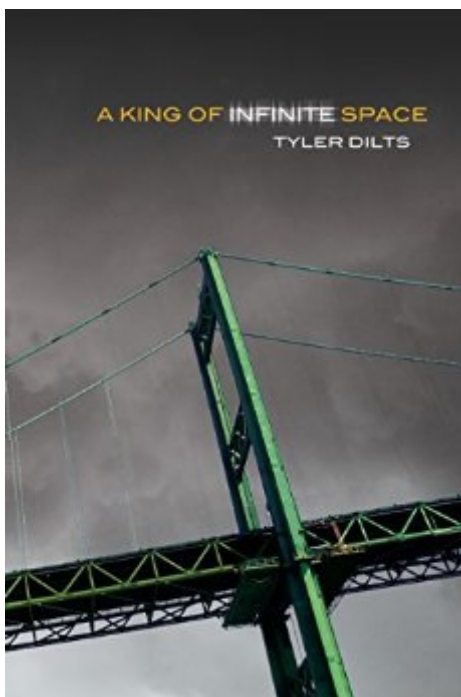


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# A King Of Infinite Space (Long Beach Homicide Book 1)



## Synopsis

Long Beach, California, homicide detective Danny Beckett is pouring the weekend's first shot of vodka when the call comes in: Elizabeth Williams, a teacher at nearby Warren High School, has been brutally murdered in her classroom. When Danny arrives at the school, the blood-spattered crime scene turns even his veteran stomach. What could this young woman have done to make her the target of such a violent attack? And what is the significance of the victim's left hand, taken by the killer as a grisly trophy? Beckett delves into the case with his usual tenacious cool, yet as he pieces together the facts, long-suppressed anguish from his own past rises up with stunning force. His hunt for the murderer soon morphs into a personal quest for atonement as he struggles to come to terms with the loss of his wife and family. *A King of Infinite Space* is a riveting crime novel that serves as a memorable introduction for Danny Beckett to the ranks of fiction's favorite hardened detectives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tyler Dilts has created a masterpiece with his debut detective novel, *A King of Infinite Space*. Set in Long Beach, California, Detective Danny Beckett and Jen Tanaka must solve the case of a

brutally-murdered English teacher. Through painful mastery of image, dream, characterization, and story telling, Tyler Dilts excels at showing the effects that murder cases have on the detectives investigating them. Using sadness as a measure for goodness, Dilts explores characters in a way that is true, whole, and touches deep down into the reality of a person. I highly recommend *A King of Infinite Space* not only to anyone who loves reading mystery novels but to anyone who can empathize with pain, loss, and the haunting quality of dreams.

'*A King of Infinite Space*' may have Shakespearean pretensions in its title, but in actuality it's a pleasant, quick-reading cop thriller set in sunny Long Beach. With a ramshackle cast of quip-happy characters led by a troubled (of course) detective, the author does an efficient job of winding up his story of a murdered, beloved teacher to a nice nail-biting pitch. I rather wish we'd learned more about the LBC underbelly - the city is, after all, a weird balance between wealthy beachfront and the worst gang activity in Los Angeles - but it was good enough to entertain me on a cross-country flight. It was certainly the best Encore book I've read!

*A King of Infinite Space* by Tyler Dilts This is Tyler Dilts' debut novel featuring homicide detectives Danny Beckett and Jen Tanaka. The novel opens with the vicious death of a high school teacher. Not only is there a murder to be solved, but Dilts peels away the layers of his lead protagonist, Danny Beckett. Still tormented by the death of his wife, we get an inside look at Beckett and what motivates him. Not only was the murder mystery engaging but the relationship between the detectives and the whole department was something I hadn't read before and it was refreshing. It was what pulled me into the story and kept me there. Even though I could tell "who done it" before the ending, I enjoyed the ride and was really taken with the characters because Dilts personalizes them and makes them real, interesting and more than what meets the eye. I am looking forward to reading the next book in the Beckett series.

It has been my experience that the mystery genre and all of its corresponding sub-genres, even in what seems to be a relatively progressive present, still suffer from the stigma of being considered somehow less "literary" than other works. I'm hard pressed to say exactly what this means, but whenever the claim is made or even implied I find it is derived, at least partially, from the assumption that genre fiction is more of a distraction from than a response to/direct treatment of the "weightier" issues of the human condition. Tyler Dilts' book effectively discredits such a conviction by presenting us with realistic, compelling characters whose depth and intelligent execution

resonate powerfully with the reader from the first page; later, it is not frilly formulaic convention which carries the story along, but the natural evolution of the characters and situation, which in turn leads to the powerful realization that the world Dilts has created is not so very different from our own--is closer to it, in fact, than the countless epic sagas of the trials and tribulations of wounded upper-middle class family dynamics faux-literary snobbery would have us accept as more accurate treatments of the implications of life in contemporary society.

I really wanted to enjoy this book, I'm a long-time fan of "hard-boiled" detective mysteries and haven't read a great one in a while. Unfortunately this book didn't cut it. Every character is a cardboard stereotype, from the "detective marred by tragedy drinking alone", to the "beautiful Asian martial arts expert partner", and the "loving teacher victim", "angry, jealous lesbian", "cold-blooded Russian hitman", "rich, spoiled teenager", etc., etc. None of the suspects had any real believability, or really any motive. There were no twists and no passion as if the author was simply following an outline of "How to Write a Detective Novel". I guess I'll keep looking and hope Lawrence Sanders comes out with a new one.

Last time I read a great fiction from the Vine was *Daemon*. This book doesn't come anywhere near it. I gave it a chance of reading it almost to the end of the first chapter, but really got bored of it, maybe with the exception of a statement made that among the Texas Rangers there is a "Mexican-American quota". If true, that might have made a more interesting story. In the age of CSI, the TV show, I think we've all come to expect greater sophistication and professionalism in a crime scene than how this story purports that profession to be. But the writing is rather clear and crisp; I'll give the author that. On a more interesting note, I noticed the overwhelming criticism a fellow Vine reviewer has received reviewing this book. His rebuttal against the harsh comments has won my vote. Reviews are important. I make most of my purchasing decisions after having at least looked at first. If there is a movement in falsely increasing the rating of a product like some financial firms seem to do with their cohorts, understand that reviews are reviewed as well.

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