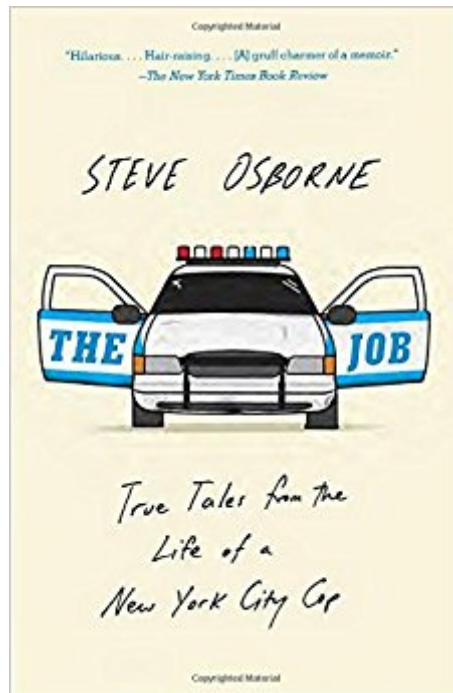




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# The Job: True Tales From The Life Of A New York City Cop



## Synopsis

“A nice quiet night.” During his two decades on the force, if you asked NYPD officer Steve Osborne how things were going, that’s what he’d tell you. On a stakeout? Nice quiet night. Drive by shooting? Nice quiet night. Now, with *The Job* he’s ready to talk, and does he have some stories to tell. Most civilians get their information about police work from television shows, which are pure fantasy. Here, Osborne takes us into his world, the gritty and not so glamorous life of real street cops. And along the way he finds humor and soul searching humanity in the most unlikely places. For anyone interested in knowing what a cop’s life is all about, this is a must read.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Hilarious. . . . Hair-raising. . . . [A] gruff charmer of a memoir.” *The New York Times Book Review* “Osborne is a sly and humorous storyteller.” *The New Yorker* “Riveting” like the best night hanging out at a bar with an engaging storyteller. *The Kansas City Star* “Osborne is a born storyteller, and anyone expecting a cop book to be filled with action and adventure won’t be disappointed with *The Job*. But what makes this story so powerful is its compassion and bittersweet comedy.” *Edward Conlon*, author of *Blue Blood* “An enjoyable read. It’s real life, and it’s told by a gifted storyteller who also happened to be a gifted cop. . . . Osborne writes with passion about his work. . . . For a job that usually deals with the dregs

of society, an unlikely strain creeps into Osborne's tales — compassion. Osborne balanced toughness with empathy as he sought to ferret out wrongdoing while on duty. — The Buffalo News — "Nobody tells a cop story better than a cop, and Osborne tells them as well as I've ever heard (and I've heard a lot of them). . . . For every bad cop there are twenty heroic ones — and Steve Osborne was one of them. — Brian McDonald, author of *My Father's Gun: One Family, Three Badges, One Hundred Years in the NYPD* — "Wonderful. . . . Not only was Osborne an excellent policeman (he retired as a lieutenant and the commanding officer of the Manhattan Gang Squad), he's a fabulous storyteller, crafting his memories into well-honed tales filled with drama, humor and heart. — Bookpage — "[An] engaging memoir. . . . [Osborne's] frank and intimate voice . . . suffuses his prose. — Publishers Weekly — "Raucous recollections. . . . [Osborne] comes off as an avuncular, world-weary tough guy. . . . Yet he elevates his perspective by displaying empathy for the civilians, victims and even criminals he has encountered. — Kirkus — "Cops are innately good storytellers, and Osborne must be one of the best. — Booklist — "Often funny, occasionally sobering and always entertaining. — Shelf-Awareness

Steve Osborne was a New York City police officer for twenty years, retiring in 2003 as a lieutenant and commanding officer of the Manhattan Gang Squad, with numerous citations for his police work. He has told his stories before packed audiences at The Moth storytelling venues across the United States. He has written for The New York Times and USA Today. Now a consultant for television and film productions, Osborne lives in upstate New York with his wife and their two dogs, Jingles and Duke.

Anyone worried about policing in America today should take the time to read this moving and funny book. Osborne is doubtlessly one of the best who have worn the badge; but in other ways, he gives you a realistic account of what everyday policing is like in one of the most challenging urban settings in America. He also conveys the mindset of those who do this work: why they are committed to "The Job," how they view the range of criminals they encounter (many of them small-time crooks who Osborne can view with a degree of compassion, even as he's slamming them against the pavement), how they maintain their cool and their sanity, and how they find humor in the strange situations they find themselves in. Osborne does not expect his superiors or the public he works among to understand why he does what he does in the way he does, but he knows what he has to

do, and throughout his career he manages to take down bad guys without shooting any of them. In this he shows humility, focus, and great resourcefulness. Many of his stories are hilarious, and others are heartbreaking, but on the whole he gives us an optimistic account not only of policing in America but also of human nature.

This was a great book! What a great story this man has to tell and he tells it well. His writing voice is very strong. You can hear that NYC voice loud and clear. Each chapter is a story in itself so you could go to whatever story you wanted to but why not start at the beginning and flow to the end. If I had one word of advice for the author (if he's reading) it would be to put the stories in context and chronologically. It was a story about a 20 year career as a NYC cop from 1982 to 2002. If he had put a date at the beginning of the chapters and the place he was at in his career, (Sargent, detective, lieutenant etc.), and personal life, (married etc.) it would have been even better. But it was a great read. I have 18 year old twin boys who have not ruled out a career in law enforcement. I am going to make sure they both read this book to help them decide. BTW- The chapter on his dog was heartbreaking. I hate the author for writing this chapter and almost made him pay for it by taking a star away, ha! Most people would describe me as a 6' 200lb no nonsense man. I'm often mistaken for a cop. I'm an Umpire. This story about his dog was just not fair. My allergies happened to kick in during that story. Your not alone my friend, your not alone...

I came across this book quite by accident and talk about serendipitous good fortune! The wife had C-Span's Book TV on the tube. They were broadcasting from a Methodist church in Savannah as part of the city's annual book festival. When Steve Osborne stepped to the pulpit, er podium, I wasn't sure what to expect, and I was blown away. He's the real deal -- from his Noo Yawk accent to his beat cop intensity -- but you can't judge a book by its cover or an author by his. Osborne is engaging, articulate, and funny as hell. The man speaks from the heart and, as you might expect, he has seen more than his fair share of serious s\*\*\*, but here's the deal. You would think that constantly seeing people at their worst and in the worst of situations would suck your soul right out of your body, but Osborne writes with a humanity and empathy that is compelling and moving. To be our "best selves" on our "worst days" is a high bar to which many of us aspire, and a standard that Steve Osborne has cleared many times. The book is a fun read. It's like having a cop giving you the skinny over a couple of beers in a bar. I'd love to tell you it's the next best thing to being there, but that's not really true. Being able to vicariously experience some of the stuff that Osborne so skillfully describes is, in my estimation, actually preferable to being there. Osborne strikes me as an example

worthy of emulation among those who wear the badge as well as the rest of us in terms of how we treat people. Borne out of his stories, Osborne shows us how to make a difference if we only have the willingness to look for the opportunities around us every day, and the courage to act on what we see.

I'm a 26 year and still going veteran of a police department much smaller than the NYPD at around 450 sworn, but like other cops have said in these reviews, police work is police work no matter where you do it. Lt. Osborne definitely has had more than his fair share of dangerous, strange, funny and to put it mildly, interesting shifts. In this book he does a great job describing some of those that is sure to interest cops, former cops and civilians alike. Where I work we don't use some of the terminologies he references such as "collar" for arrest and "bus" for ambulances, but the NYPD is rich in law enforcement history and it wouldn't surprise me if they still use those terms and still operate out of those old dingy buildings he describes with similar layouts with the typical grouchy lieutenant or sergeant at the elevated desk orchestrating the goings on in his precinct. A very entertaining book that I couldn't put down (and I'm not a typical book reader).

This was an amazing read and allowed for a colorful insight into the life of a NYC cop. Osborne's writing was raw and original, evoking emotions that made me feel like I was right there with him in action. It is an interesting read for pro-law enforcement civilians, but it is an eye opening read for those who are skeptical of the police. It opens up eyes and hearts to the story of a man who represents so many. I couldn't put the book down & read it over the time span of a week. Definitely 5 star material.

This book was the best cop book I have read in years and I read 15 or 20 per year. It is great first because the author was a great cop - enthusiastic and anxious to get the bad guys throughout a long career. It is great secondly because his career was in New York City, the ultimate place to fight crime. Most importantly, it is great because the author is an absolutely gifted writer. His descriptions are vivid word pictures. His words will also make you laugh, cry, get mad and rejoice as you read his true life stories. I wish I could read more books by him, but this is his whole story. Everyone who respects cops should read it. Everyone who reads it will respect cops.

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