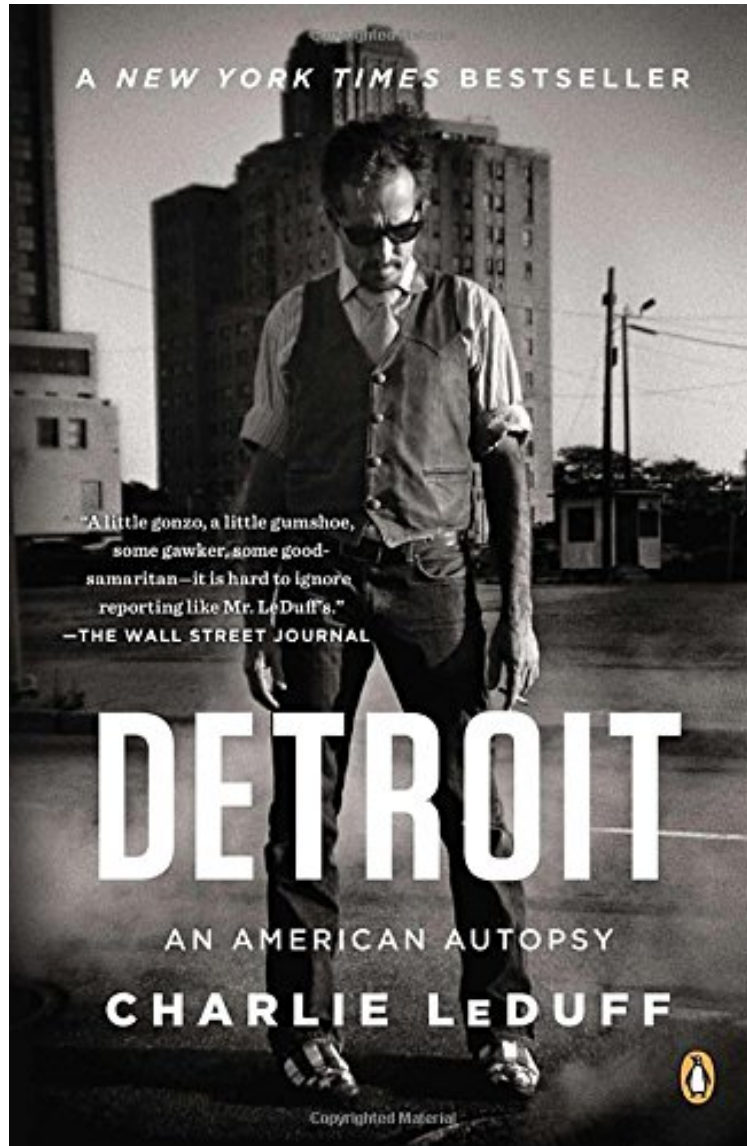


(Ebook free) Detroit: An American Autopsy

## Detroit: An American Autopsy

Charlie LeDuff

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**Charlie LeDuff : Detroit: An American Autopsy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Detroit: An American Autopsy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A riveting cautionary tale By Mozer P An amazing book. It's a cliché, but I couldn't put it down. In the best tradition of journalists who use fiction techniques to bring their stories alive, Charlie LeDuff makes you feel as if you are right there, on these streets, meeting these people and getting a vivid sense of what they're experiencing. Make no mistake: LeDuff is not interested in covering the positive things that are

happening in Detroit right now (and yes, there are many positive developments). That's not his beat. I'm guessing that it doesn't inspire him the way the down-and-outers do. LeDuff introduces you to people you wouldn't want to meet outside of the pages of a book: dangerous criminals, crooked politicians and people so caught in the grip of poverty, violent crime and hopelessness that their pain is hard to think about. LeDuff is no objective journalist; he inserts himself into his stories, interacting with the people he's supposed to be covering, giving himself a role. There is an ego at work here, but it's what gives his writing such a strong, distinctive voice. He mercilessly turns his attention on his own family's troubles as well, letting us in on broken relationships, substance abusers and a surprise bit of genealogy. You don't have to be a Detroit native to find this book compelling. It's riveting. It's also a cautionary tale. The circumstances that have brought Detroit to its present condition exist in other cities. The outsourcing of industrial jobs, shifting demographics and government corruption have altered great swaths of the American landscape. Detroit holds an uncomfortable mirror up to America - and Charlie LeDuff, with this book, brings that mirror even closer.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **Finest Piece of Journalism** By Glen Chern Charlie Leduff has written what I consider one of the finest works of journalism I've ever read. Leduff returned home to Detroit, taking a reporting gig as a reporter for the Detroit News. He shares both personal trauma and loss as significant as that experienced by many of the firefighters, police and regular citizens. Lexus earned the respect and appreciation of the countless people he interviewed and wrote about. I was equally of the things he wrote about his brothers. The epilogue is truly remarkable and was a very appropriate way to close the story.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you really want to know what went on in Detroit (and still is to some degree), this is the book. By Mick It is clear that LaDuff has the facts right, having lived the experience as a reporter who knows how to find the facts. It is clearly written, and he spares no unpleasant facts about the characters. Suspicions confirmed about many of these corrupt people. My only "problem" with the book is that he seems to be trying to write it as if he was Mickey Spillane. Gritty, snarky, shocking. But, having just written this, it occurs to me that that is probably right for this subject and adds credibility.

An explosive exposé of America's lost prosperity—from Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Charlie LeDuff Back in his broken hometown, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Charlie LeDuff searches the ruins of Detroit for clues to his family's troubled past. Having led us on the way up, Detroit now seems to be leading us on the way down. Once the richest city in America, Detroit is now the nation's poorest. Once the vanguard of America's machine age—mass-production, blue-collar jobs, and automobiles—Detroit is now America's capital for unemployment, illiteracy, dropouts, and foreclosures. With the steel-eyed reportage that has become his trademark, and the righteous indignation only a native son possesses, LeDuff sets out to uncover what destroyed his city. He beats on the doors of union bosses and homeless squatters, powerful businessmen and struggling homeowners and the ordinary people holding the city together by sheer determination. *Detroit: An American Autopsy* is an unbelievable story of a hard town in a rough time filled with some of the strangest and strongest people our country has to offer.

From Booklist After a career as a Pulitzer Prize–winning reporter with the New York Times, LeDuff answered the longing to return to his roots in Detroit, a city that was once at the forefront of American industry and growth. What he returned to was a city now more famous for its corruption and decay. LeDuff reprises the shenanigans of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and city councilwoman Monica Conyers and others before the slow-moving justice process caught up with them. Among the other signs of decay: a police department so broke that cops take the bus to crime scenes and a fire department so bereft it sells its brass poles as scrap. He reports on surreptitious meetings with police officers to counter rosy reports of declining crime rates. He also reports on the personal toll the city's decline has taken on its citizens, including his own family, with grim stories of his brothers' chronic unemployment and his sister's and niece's deaths from drug overdoses. With the emotions of personal connection and the clear-eyed detachment of a reporter, LeDuff examines what Detroit's decline means for other American cities. --Vanessa Bush "LeDuff returns, by the book's end, to the bar where his sister was last seen, only to find it unrecognizable. A black man outside explains the changes. 'they trying to put something nice up' in this hellhole he says, speaking of the bar specifically, though his words spread across the city and pay tribute, in equal measure, to its dreamers, its pessimists and to those, resigned and wrung out, who love it despite all. 'Can't say it's working. But what you gonna do? You ain't gonna be reincarnated, so you got to do the best you can with the moment you got. Do the best you can and try to be good.' LeDuff has done his best, and his book is better than good." —Paul Clemens, *New York Times Book* "One cannot read Mr. LeDuff's amalgam of memoir and reportage and not be shaken by the cold eye he casts on hard truths... A little gonzo, a little gumshoe, some gawker, some good-Samaritan—it is hard to ignore reporting like Mr. LeDuff's." —*The Wall Street Journal* "Pultizer-Prize-winning journalist LeDuff (*Work and Other Sins*) delivers an edgy portrait of the decline, destruction, and possible redemption of his hometown... LeDuff writes with honesty and compassion about a city that's destroying itself—and breaking his heart." —*Publishers Weekly*, **STARRED REVIEW** "A book full of both literary grace and hard-won world-weariness.... Iggy Pop meets Jim Carroll and Charles Bukowski" —*Kirkus* "This is our pick for a sleeper nonfiction hit next year. Charlie LeDuff is a remarkable journalist, and this book is filled with incredible writing as he witnesses his home city crumble through neglect and corruption." —*Huffington*

Post “What to do when you’re a reporter and your native city is rotting away? If you’re LeDuff, you leave The New York Times and head into the wreckage to ride with firemen, hang with the corrupt pols, and retrace your own family’s sad steps through drugs. Others have written well about the city, but none with the visceral anger, the hair-tearing frustration, and the hungry humanity of LeDuff.” —Newsweek "You wouldn't think a book about the stinking decay of the American dream could be this engaging, this irreverent, this laugh-at-loud funny. But not everyone can write like Charlie LeDuff. I'm tempted to say he's the writer for our desperate times the way Steinbeck and Orwell were for other people's desperate times, except he's such an original he's like no one but himself." —Alexandra Fuller, author of *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness* and *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* "Charlie LeDuff is a drunkard, a blowhard, a Fox News Reporter -- and a brilliant writer. Detroit is full of righteous anger and heartbreaking details. It's also funny as hell. Hunter S. Thompson would've loved every page of this book." —Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation* and *Reefer Madness* "In *Detroit: An American Autopsy*, Charlie LeDuff brings alive the reality of our beloved city. The city where I was shot at eight times during my twenty six year police career. Yet, Detroit has survived in spite of corruption, political ineptness, poor education, and decades of unemployment. *Detroit: An American Autopsy* is a must read for all of America." —Detroit Police Chief Ike McKinnon (retired); Associate Professor of Education, University of Detroit Mercy

About the Author Charlie LeDuff is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, formerly at the New York Times and the Detroit News, and currently on Detroit’s Fox 2 News. He is the author of *US Guys* and *Work and Other Sins*. He lives near Detroit.