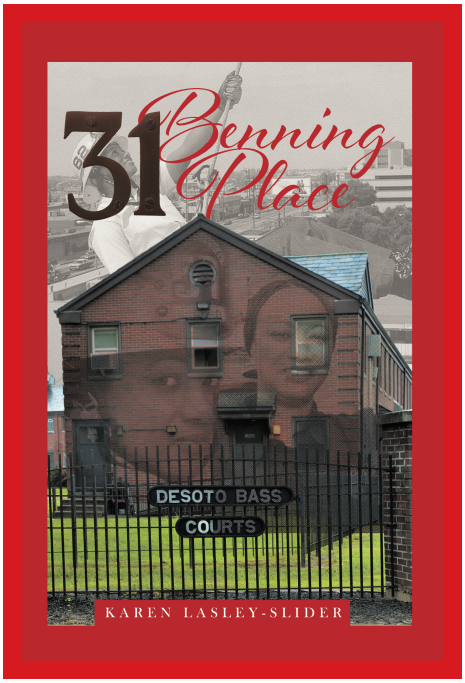
31 Benning Place



Stories became light.

31 Benning Place is Karen Lasley-Slider's memoir of South Los Angeles family life, breaking barriers in the LAFD, serving as a firefighter-paramedic and holding fast to faith through grief and the pursuit of justice.

AUTHOR	Karen Lasley-Slider
CATEGORY	Memoir / autobiography
PUBLISHER	31 Benning Place LLC
FIRST PRINTING	2019
ISBN	978-1-7338569-0-4
LENGTH	242 pages / 53 chapters
WEBSITE	www.31benningplacethebook

SYNOPSIS

31 Benning Place is Karen Lasley-Slider's candid memoir of growing up in South Los Angeles in a household led by her mother, Ramona, who raised six children with faith, humor, resourcefulness and stories. The book follows Karen into the Los Angeles Fire Department, where she built a career as a firefighter-paramedic while confronting barriers faced by women and Black firefighters. Her account moves through emergency service, the 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest, family bonds, institutional failures and the murder of her sister Pamala Lark. Through grief, court proceedings and the long search for justice, Karen returns to the practices that shaped her earliest years: family, testimony, duty and faith. Across 53 chapters, 31 Benning Place presents public service and private endurance as parts of the same life.

STORY ARC

HOME
South L.A. childhood and family stories

SERVICE
LAFD career and paramedic duty

JUSTICE
Loss, institutions and court proceedings

FAITH
Endurance, testimony and legacy

KEY THEMES AND AUDIENCES

- Family history and memoir
- Black Los Angeles
- Women in public service
- First responders and EMS
- Race, gender and institutions
- Grief and justice
- Faith communities
- Book clubs and educators

Interview-ready essentials



KAREN LASLEY-SLIDER

Karen Lasley-Slider is a Los Angeles author and former LAFD firefighter-paramedic. Beginning her fire-service career in 1985, she served communities across Los Angeles while navigating the physical and institutional demands placed on women and Black firefighters. In 31 Benning Place, she connects that public life with the private history of her South Los Angeles family: childhood scarcity, her mother Ramona's fierce resourcefulness, emergency work, civil unrest, family tragedy, justice and faith. Her voice is candid, specific and grounded in lived experience.

OFFICIAL PORTRAIT CREDIT

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INTERVIEW ANGLES

- **A Childhood of Poverty and Resilience in South Central LA**
  The welfare years, the blackouts and her mother's stories.
- **Breaking Barriers as a Female Firefighter-Paramedic**
  The drill tower, earning her crew's respect and being on duty for Obama's election.
- **Losing Pamala: Grief, Justice and a Broken System**
  The murder, three trials, witness-protection failure and De'Channe's chapter. Handle carefully.
- **Faith as an Anchor**
  Scripture, prayer and the book as a calling.
- **Family as Wealth: Soul Food Sunday**
  The tradition her sister started and why the family stayed close through repeated loss.
- **Why Write This Book Now**
  The author's process, intent and legacy.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- Why do you call your hard childhood 'not a sad story'?
- What did the battalion chief's surprise test teach you?
- What was election night like, surrounded by unsupportive coworkers?
- What happened to Pamala, and why did protection fail her?
- Why include granddaughter De'Channe's own account of the murder?
- How does 'we're wealthy together' show up in your family?
- What do you want future generations to learn from this?
- Which chapter was hardest to write, and which came easiest?

READY-TO-USE BOILERPLATE

MEDIA COPY

Published by 31 Benning Place LLC, 31 Benning Place traces Karen Lasley-Slider's journey from a childhood shaped by scarcity, storytelling and a fiercely loving mother to a long career in the Los Angeles Fire Department. Across 53 chapters, she writes about race, gender, emergency service, the 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest, family tragedy, justice and the faith that carried her forward.

MEDIA AND ASSET NOTES

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MEDIA: info@31benningplace.com | 213-282-7181 **www.31benningplacethebook**