Official Negligence: How Rodney King And The Riots Changed Los Angeles And The LAPD

Lou Cannon

In March 1991, the month of King’s arrest, the Los Angeles Police Department's job-approval rating cratered at 34%. When the officers involved in King’s beating were acquitted on April 29, 1992, the city exploded in rioting ignited by the belief that its police force was abusive, racist and unaccountable. "That's an entirely different scenario than the one we faced in the Rodney King days," Rice said. "This is not your grandfather's LAPD." After the riots, the city's mayor commissioned an investigation into what caused them and what could be done to prevent the city from erupting again. "You have a tense, tense situation," said Lou Cannon, journalist and author of "Official Negligence: How Rodney King and the Riots Changed Los Angeles and the LAPD." Lou Cannon, who covered Los Angeles for The Washington Post before, during, and after the violence, has exhaustively interviewed the survivors and learned the definitive story of just what happened and why. Official Negligence takes us behind the scenes at City Hall and at police headquarters, inside jury rooms, onto the front lines of the violence in the streets, and into the hearts and minds of unknown heroes and tells, for the first time, a riveting tale of multiple injustices, mismanagements, and misjudgments." "Official Negligence illuminates all the characters and events surrou