

GRANDSON DIES LIKE AUTHOR , OF GUNFIRE DETROIT VIOLENCE SHAKES FAMILY

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Three-year-old Donald Goines III never met the grandfather whose name he bore or read the books the elder Goines wrote about crime and violence on the streets of Detroit.

Early Saturday, the child met death as violently as his grandfather had almost 18 years earlier and as innocently as some of the victims in his grandfather's novels.

Donald died when the car in which he was sitting was riddled with gunfire. The slaying brought to six the number of Detroit children killed in as many days, innocent victims of adult anger, greed or some other passion they were too young to comprehend.

"Nobody expects something **like** this to happen to you," Thelma Powell, the boy's grandmother, said Sunday. "You always think it will happen to other people."

But this is the second time Powell, 46, has lost a loved one to violence.

Donald Goines, the father of five of Powell's children, died in 1974 of multiple gunshots to the head. His body was found near his typewriter in his Highland Park flat.

In his 35 years, Goines had been a thief, a pimp, a bootlegger and a gambler. Those experiences filled the pages of his 16 books whose titles included, "Whoreson," "Dopefiend" and "The Story of a Black Gangster." He spent 20 years addicted to heroin and served three prison terms, for robbery, larceny and bootlegging.

Saturday's incident could easily have been drawn from a Goines novel. Police believe the car was in a driveway in the 9200 block of Grandville when a second car pulled up, blocking the first car. Then the shooting began. Also killed were Donald's godmother, Tonya Smith, 24, and Darryl Osborn, 26. Smith's boyfriend, Earl Sheppard, 26, and Osborn's wife, Yolanda Osborn, 24, were treated at Grace Hospital. Neither was listed as a patient at the hospital Sunday. Police said at least two suspects are being sought.

Having faced senseless violence before, Powell and her children were hurting again Sunday as they tried to understand why Donald died.

Neighbors tried to understand the shooting, too. Many said it stunned their quiet, working-class neighborhood on Detroit's west side.

Powell said her son, Donald Goines II, was too upset to talk, but she felt hopeful after an anonymous woman called to express her concern.

"I had started to feel better thinking that somebody else cared," said Powell. "Maybe some other people will start to care. . . . This will come to a head, and we'll find a way to solve our problems."

Funeral services for Donald are pending.

Caption: Photo

: Donald Goines III ***

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