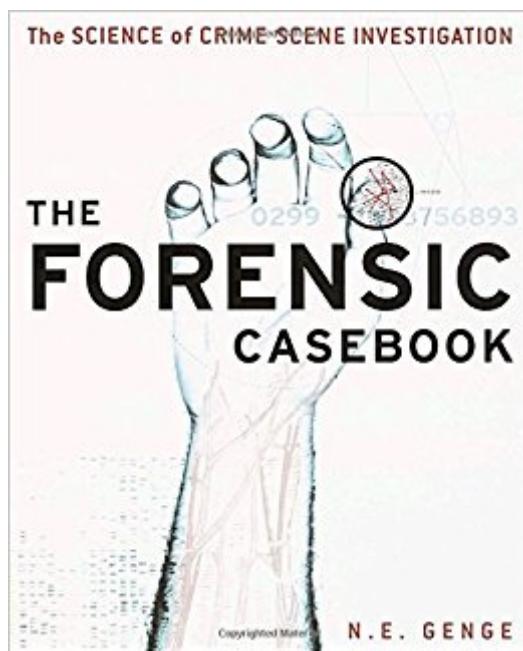


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The Forensic Casebook: The Science Of Crime Scene Investigation



Synopsis

THE ULTIMATE READERS' GUIDE TO THE ART OF FORENSICS! An intrepid investigator crawls through miles of air conditioning ducts to capture the implicating fibers of a suspect's wool jacket . . . A forensic entomologist discovers insects in the grill of a car and nails down a drug dealer's precise geographical path . . . A gluttonous criminal's fingerprints are lifted from a chocolate truffle. . . . Filled with these and many other intriguing true stories, and packed with black and white illustrations and photographs, *The Forensic Casebook* draws on interviews with police personnel and forensic scientists—including animal examiners, botanists, zoologists, firearms specialists, and autopsists—to uncover the vast and detailed underworkings of criminal investigation. Encyclopedic in scope, this riveting, authoritative book leaves no aspect of forensic science untouched, covering such fascinating topics as: Securing a crime scene; Identifying blood splatter patterns; Collecting fingerprints and feet, lip, and ear prints; Interpreting the stages of a body's decay; Examining hair and fiber evidence; Trace evidence from firearms and explosives; "Lifting" DNA prints; Computer crime and forensic photography; Career paths in criminal science. Lucidly written and spiked with real crime stories, *The Forensic Casebook* exposes the nitty gritty that other books only touch upon. Here is a reference book as addictive as a page-turning novel of suspense.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Adult/High School-This well-researched and vetted book is chock-full of fascinating, informative, sometimes incredible examples of forensic crime fighting. It begins with the identification and protection of the area where a crime took place; the next three chapters focus on work at the scene, and the last one describes the roles of the dog handler and forensic photographer. Bulleted information and quotes, sidebars with examples from both true and fictitious crimes, and uncaptioned black-and-white photographs appear throughout. There are frequent references to the television show CSI, films, and literature to illustrate when fiction writers got it right, and when they got it ludicrously wrong. Experts provide an absorbing look at all aspects of the profession from imprint evidence to DNA fingerprinting and from document examination to forensic entomology. Appendixes list employment opportunities, requisite qualifications and skills, academic institutions offering forensic programs, and more. Fans of CSI and similar shows, those considering crime-scene investigation as a career, and readers of true crime and crime fiction will find this book engrossing.

Dori DeSpain, Fairfax County Public Library, VA
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"The Famous Five would have cracked their cases sooner if they had packed this in their haversacks. The budding crime writer will reach for it when writing a police procedural." * The Times
* "The ultimate guide to the art of detection" * Crime Time * --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm interested in forensic investigation for my future career so my dad talked to one and he suggested this book. It is so detailed with a ton of information, like a textbook but the way it's written is interesting. I'm so excited and feel like I'll have a better view of the reality of my career.

This version is a bit dated, but gives the reader the basics in a straigh forward manner. There are far more extensive presentation of this subject, but at a much greater price.

"The Forensic Casebook: The Science of Crime Scene Investigation," by Ngaire E. Genge, NY, Ballantine Books, 2002 ISBN 0-345-45203-8 (hc), 246 p., of text plus 58 p. for Appendices, Bibliography and Index. The author of some 10 (+/-) books on divers subjects as the X-Files, Buffy the Vampire, Urban Legends and the like, has developed a fluent writing skill together with ability to both explain and clarify technical matters in a lively manner without being wordy. The author obtained source input from 427 contributing individuals and also made direct contact with 30

policing agencies, public and private labs, and teaching facilities to be both current and accurate in the rapidly evolving science of forensics. Using appropriate and at times incredible case studies, this raconteur provides a narrative-type casebook placing it apart from the usual cold or aloof and detached textbooks. There is a helpful contents table listing the 5 chapters covering the scene of the crime, and "working the scene" for evidence, body human, different stages (bombs, computers), and skills (animal and photographic). There are amusing anecdotes, references to TV, book, and movie plots and to some well-publicized crimes and criminals plus helpful illustrations. The bibliography is excellent and the book includes 2 helpful Appendices listing (A) requirements, duties and salaries for the various specialists in forensics, and (B) a worthy listing of teaching institutions offering instruction in CSI. The author's use (p. 98-101) of the term "splatter" (Ugh!) for blood stains departs from the accepted and conventional word "spatter" used in the U.S. would suggest possible Canadian influence or naivete. In DNA discussion the reference is made (p. 150) to C,T,A,G as "proteins" -- in reality these are purine or pyrimidine bases found in nucleic acids. The discussion of National Geographic's manipulated photo of moving "one of the Great Pyramids a little closer to the other" (p. 217) is incorrect, as the change made involved altering a horizontal format into a vertical format to accommodate a cover photo (to keep the Nat.Geo. Editor happy) so an artificial elongation appeared in height of pyramids and camel (the Editor got bigtime Hell!). Errors are few and minor -- the book is a joy to read and has been admirably researched with good contributors.

Great, interesting read. Love reading about cases and real-life informative material. My husband and I both read it, and we really liked it. Definitely worth it!

The two forensic buffs in my family really loved this book. I got them as graduation gifts.

I enjoy the ways the cases are explained and the forensic aspect is made to be easy to understand.

great book

This book is amazing, I love the stories that help relate random incidents to make it more real. This book is also easy to read in reference to anything you would need to know.

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