



## Crime Science: Methods of Forensic Detection

By Joe Nickell, John F. Fischer

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The O.J. Simpson trial. The Lindbergh kidnapping. The death of Marilyn Monroe. The assassination of the Romanovs. The Atlanta child murders. All controversial cases. All investigated with the latest techniques in forensic science. Nationally respected investigators Joe Nickell and John Fischer explain the science behind the criminal investigations that have captured the nation's attention. Crime Science is the only comprehensive guide to forensics. Without being overly technical or treating scientific techniques superficially, the authors introduce readers to the work of firearms experts, document examiners, fingerprint technicians, medical examiners, and forensic anthropologists. Each topic is treated in a separate chapter, in a clear and understandable style. Nickell and Fisher describe fingerprint classification and autopsies, explain how fibers link victims to their killers, and examine the science underlying DNA profiling and toxicological analysis. From weapons analysis to handwriting samples to shoe and tire impressions, Crime Science outlines the indispensable tools and techniques that investigators use to make sense of a crime scene. Each chapter closes with a study of a well-known case, revealing how the principles of forensic science work in practice.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Nickell (*Pen, Ink and Evidence*) and Fischer provide a comprehensive primer of forensic investigation for the uninitiated. After an introductory chapter details the proper protocol for securing a crime scene, nine chapters focus on different forms of evidence. Although the writing is uninspired, a great deal of basic information is presented. Each chapter ends with a well-known case study in which the techniques discussed played a significant role. The relatively brief case studies are the most interesting portion of the book and demonstrate the range of evidence with which investigators must deal. A conviction was secured in the Lindbergh kidnapping by matching marks on a homemade ladder left at the crime scene with a carpenter's plane in Bruno Hauptmann's garage; a detailed fiber analysis led police to conclude that Wayne Williams was responsible for the deaths of 30 black men in Atlanta. Also discussed are firearms in the Sacco and Vanzetti case, toxicology in the investigation into Marilyn Monroe's suicide, DNA "fingerprinting" in the O.J. Simpson case and anthropological techniques in an examination of the deaths of Russia's last czar and his family. Some technical material, like how a bullet's entry hole might be smaller than the bullet making the hole, is glossed over, but there's enough here to satisfy most inquisitive readers. 65 b&w illustrations. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Nickell (*Detecting Forgery*, Univ. of Kentucky, 1996) and Fischer, both nationally recognized forensic scientists, have collaborated on step-by-step descriptions of crime-scene investigation. Each chapter focuses on a specific technique (e.g., handwriting analysis, fingerprinting, autopsies, DNA profiling), and famous cases are used to illustrate how the particular technique helped solve the crime. The authors define investigative terminology in lay reader's language and clear up misused terms. Ballistics, for example, a term often associated with bullets and shell cases on popular TV shows, is actually the science of projectiles; one versed in this field is both a physicist and a mathematician. Academic libraries with strong criminology collections should consider purchase. Michael Sawyer, Northwestern Regional Lib., Elkin, NC  
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Review

"The case studies clearly highlight the subject being discussed and bring to life the application of that particular forensic science." *Gideon Epstein*

"Extremely well written and easy to read." *Journal of Forensic Identification*

"An excellent basic book for the criminologist." *Lee A. Kilty*

"Nickell and Fischer, both nationally-recognized forensic scientists, have collaborated on step-by-step descriptions of crime-science investigations." *Library Journal*

"In this must-read for anyone in the crime-solving field, the authors examine the amazing and complicated crime scene, taking the reader on an educational journey as they explain processes ranging from how to verify a bullet came from a specific gun to how teeth determine the age of a decayed body." *Paintsville Herald*

"Nickell and Fischer provide a comprehensive primer of forensic investigation for the uninitiated." *Publishers Weekly*

"Beautifully organized and ingeniously supplemented by real-life criminal case-histories at the end of each chapter, the book provides a detailed yet simplified review of the major methods and techniques of forensic science and criminalistics. Anyone and everyone interested in either real crime or crime-fiction or both, will want to read and regularly refer to this comprehensive and informative source by experts in the field." *Robert A. Baker*

"This book is well-written and should be of considerable value to those training for a career in these areas." *Science & Justice 1999*

"Delivers the goods for the educated layperson. Once getting into the book, readers will be hard-pressed to put it down." *USA Today*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Estella Powell:**

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim as well as goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will require this Crime Science: Methods of Forensic Detection.

#### **Marie Avis:**

Reading a publication tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them is this Crime Science: Methods of Forensic Detection.

#### **Roderick Olin:**

Precisely why? Because this Crime Science: Methods of Forensic Detection is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

**Ricardo Huddle:**

This Crime Science: Methods of Forensic Detection is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can state no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but hard core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Crime Science: Methods of Forensic Detection in your hand like finding the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no publication that offer you world within ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that?

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