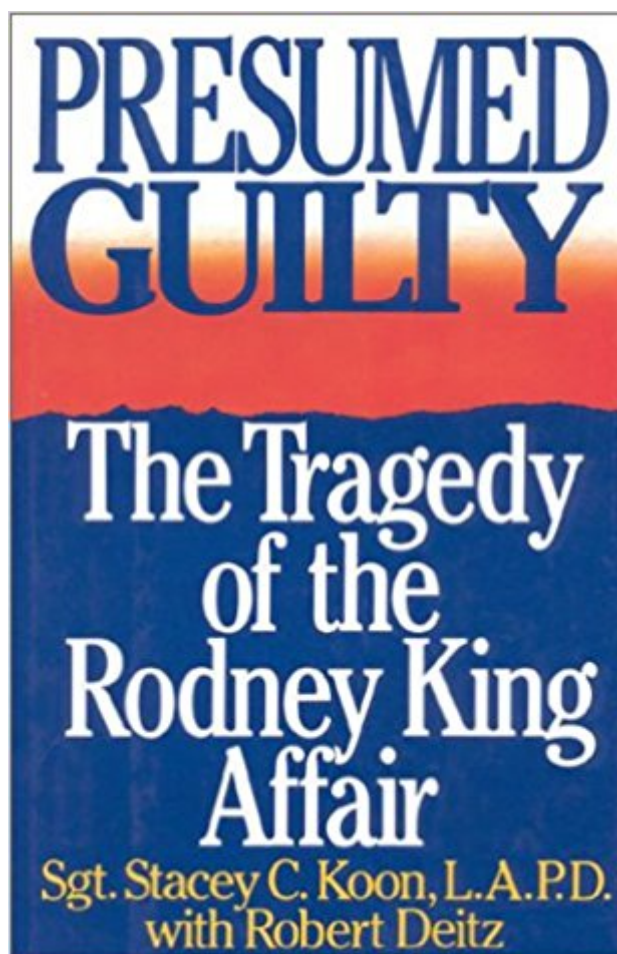


The book was found

Presumed Guilty: The Tragedy Of The Rodney King Affair



Synopsis

...a compelling, thoroughly documented, well-reported story--one that challenges readers to probe deeply into their own feelings about justice, racism, violence, police brutality, and media coverage.

--San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Awesome book! Reminds everyone on administrators who have no clue of what their employees do daily make the decisions that affect them and then take no responsibility for it.

This book is important for many reasons, not the least of which is the complete and well-documented recounting of the facts of what happened that night. Anyone who has not read this book wouldn't believe that the truth is that Sgt. Koon actually saved Rodney King from being shot by the female rookie CHP on the scene. The overwhelming rush to judgment of the press and politicians is astonishing. That the partial taping of the event was taken by so many to tell all that was necessary to be known in order to form the opinions that were made is appalling. This book should be required reading in all high schools. People should be made more aware of how the press distorts facts in order to sell copies and raise ratings.

Changed my view of Rodney King and I feel so sorry for the poor Policemen. NO ONE stood up for them EVEN after they were NOT GUILTY.

Always understand both sides before presuming anything...

Koon provides his side of events in a way that is surprisingly convincing. Moreover, the book (though sometime redundant in its accounts) is a brisk read. The courtroom sequences bring to mind a Grisham page-turner.

This book was suggested by the trainer of a FTO Supervisor course I recently took, and now I am passing it around to my co-workers as, aside from Sgt. Koon's story, there is so much more to learn and reflect upon to help one maintain a long and healthy career. The do's and don'ts, if you choose to take away from this reading, are priceless. The book shows the importance of solid training and the dangers of when officers from multiple agencies are involved in a critical incident. I don't like to second guess decisions made in the heat of the moment, but, just as an example, in reading the book you can see that one agency trains (or hopefully "trained") much different than the other. It also reflects the adverse affect and restraints that political correctness imposes on law enforcement then, and now. Though this arrest happened nearly 20 years ago, many of the responses from administrators and politicians are still seen today, leaving the street officer too vulnerable for the job that is done. As a sergeant myself, I was sickened by how cops treated one another and how bosses treated subordinates in this story. I might not be able to control political atmosphere and such, but I'll be damned if I ever allow myself to turn into a jagoff like some of those depicted in this incident. The front line cannot ever be forgotten and this was a classic example of forgetting where one (the supervisors and chief) came from. My support of this book is not one cop backing another, but I was able to relate to so many of the descriptors that described how this played out. In fact, sadly I recall the day when I saw the clip on TV. My first thought was that there would be no way to justify the actions taken and that these were the few bad apples of all the good cops out there. The media is extremely influential this is a classic example. Lets just say that if you do, or ever have, wore the badge then in your first few pages you'll know that Sgt. Koon and the other officers were in a life and death situation. For me, when he described the look in King's eyes when King exited his car I was hooked on reading the rest of the book and knew Koon wasn't some loser trying to capitalize on writing about a public incident they were involved in. His descriptions were written in a way that often made me pause and reflect on my own encounters and to me makes Koon extremely credible. I would highly recommend the book if you are considering law enforcement or are in it. As mentioned, aside from reading Koon's account, there is a vast amount of situational awareness that

you can apply for all aspects of the job; thorough report writing needs, training, having sound policy, following protocols, and much much more. Read the book and ask yourself, how would I handle this if I were a street officer, a street supervisor, a command officer, a chief or sheriff...you'll take away much more than a decision of whether this arrest right or wrong.

The book takes you through the events that night and show that King was in fact the aggressor, leaving the officers little choice in dealing with him. It also, explains in great detail the exact LAPD "use of force" policies the officers had to work within and in fact, they were completely within policy. This event shows how the media can and did manipulate a situation into a racial event when it was nothing of the sort. They ruined the careers of some outstanding officers, Sgt. Koons in particular, cost the lives of many innocent LA citizens, and cost millions of dollars in damage, as a result of the media induced riots. Sgt. Koons was used as a scapegoat and subjected to double jeopardy after being found innocent of the original charges, showing that our government has no respect for the rule of law, or individual civil rights as they concern police officers. This book should be a wake up call to all Americans. We are all just one edited video, one sound bite away, from personal destruction at the hands of an unscrupulous ratings driven media and an over reaching federal government, willing to sacrifice the innocent, in order to satisfy the public outcry for blood; all in the name of "justice".

It was a perspective on the case I'd never heard before. It really revealed how much the media can spin a case any way they want. Also a very easy read.

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