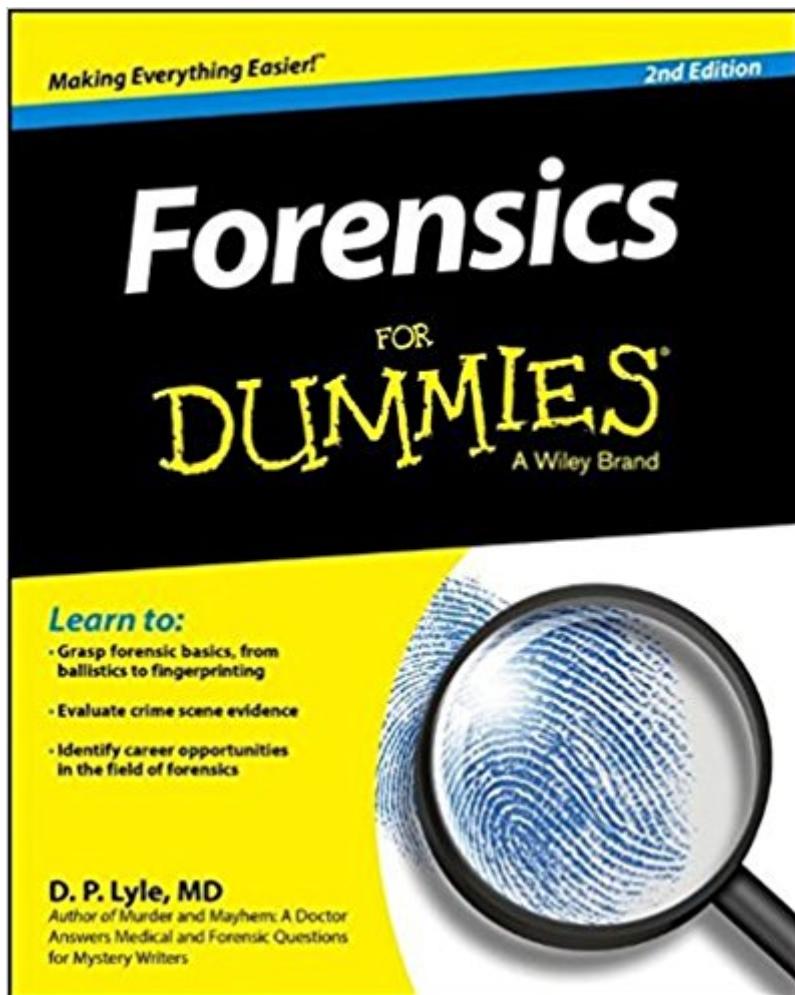


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# Forensics For Dummies



## Synopsis

Understand the real-life science behind crime scene investigation Forensics For Dummies takes you inside the world of crime scene investigation to give you the low down on this exciting field. Written by a doctor and former Law & Order consultant, this guide will have you solving crimes along with your favorite TV shows in no time. From fingerprints and fibers to blood and ballistics, you'll walk through the processes that yield significant information from the smallest clues. You'll learn how Hollywood gets it wrong, and how real-world forensics experts work every day in fields as diverse as biology, psychology, anthropology, medicine, information technology, and more. If you're interested in a forensics career, you'll find out how to break in and the education you'll need to do the type of forensics work that interests you the most. Written for the true forensics fan, this book doesn't shy away from the details; you'll learn what goes on at the morgue as you determine cause of death, and you'll climb into the mind of a killer as you learn how forensic psychologists narrow down the suspect list. Crime shows are entertaining, but the reality is that most forensics cases aren't wrapped up in an hour. This book shows you how it's really done, and the amazing technology and brilliant people that do it every day. Learn who does what, when they do it, and how it's done Discover the many fields involved in crime scene investigation Understand what really happens inside a forensics lab Examine famous forensics cases more intriguing than any TV show Forensic scientists work in a variety of environments and in many different capacities. If you think television makes it look interesting, just wait until you learn what it's really like! Forensics For Dummies takes you on a tour of the real-world science behind solving the case.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Learn to: Grasp forensic basics, from ballistics to fingerprinting Evaluate crime scene evidence Identify career opportunities in the field of forensics Understand the real-life science behind crime scene investigation Fascinated by forensics? From fingerprints and fibers to blood and ballistics, this book will have you solving crimes alongside your favorite TV shows in no time. From determining a cause of death to climbing inside the mind of a killer, it pulls a curtain back on the technology and people who work in forensics; and shows you how it's really done. The DNA of forensics; get to know the forensics team working behind the crime scene tape and in the lab, understand how evidence is collected and protected, and delve into the criminal mind It's all evident; discover how the pros analyze evidence, from fingerprints to bloodstains, and everything in between Over my dead body; find out how forensics is used to identify unknown victims, estimate a time of death, and analyze traumatic injuries Behind the scenes; take a tour of the crime lab and figure out how the forensics team uses toxicology, DNA analysis, serology, and more to pick apart evidence to nail a killer Open the book and find: Why forensic science is necessary to crack open any case The deal on DNA analysis The lasting impressions shoes, tires, and tools make What happens in the toxicology lab How firearms evidence is analyzed The science behind ten famous forensic cases Tips to help you spot when Hollywood gets it wrong

D. P. Lyle, MD, is the award-winning author of many nonfiction books and works of fiction. He is the co-host of Crime and Science Radio, and has worked with the writers of popular television shows such as Law & Order, CSI: Miami, Monk, Judging Amy, House, and Pretty Little Liars.

Recently I finished reading Dr. Lyle's book, *Forensics for Dummies*. Truth be told, I bought it because I am an author who likes to infuse horror with mystery so crime is a mainstay in my genera. When I was in college, I studied law enforcement and had the opportunity to work as a law enforcement officer on the corrections side. This was a good many years ago and when I was writing my last novel, I realized some of my information was somewhat dated. Dr. Lyle has done a great job in writing an easy to use guide on the basics of forensics. There were a lot of things I already knew. For example, I already knew some basic information on evidence collection. But I still read that section as I found it interesting. He does a great job explaining some of the basics of pathogens, different types of gunshot wounds, and autopsies. There were a lot of things in the book that I either didn't know, or had forgotten. I really found the section on establishing the time of death particularly interesting. As a fiction author, dealing with time lines can be difficult

and it is helpful if you can have something particularly gruesome to explain it. I found this book easy to read, easy to cross reference, and just the right amount of science and places where Hollywood just gets it wrong. It was well written and logically organized. I would highly recommend *Forensics for Dummies* to anyone interested in the topic of forensics. I know that I will be referencing this book in future writing.

Very comprehensive book. Covers all the bases but is hard reading. Like the case studies though. Pity about the poor grammar.

Clear and Easy to Understand. Good info and intro to forensics and the wide field it encompasses. Modern and up to date. Well written and helpful.

Will be using this in class.

Very informative!

Gave book to my Grandson . He likes the book .

Whenever I take an interest in a subject matter I know next-to-nothing about, I generally look for a "for Dummies" book to build my base of knowledge and it usually satisfies my craving for information. Several friends in law enforcement (as well as all those crime dramas on television these days) sparked a desire to learn more about forensics and I decided to give *FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES* a try. I found Douglas Lyle's effectively detailed summarization of a complex scientific field to be fascinating, entertaining and surprisingly easy to consume. I first sought guidance from a "Dummies" book almost 30 years ago when I purchased my first computer and was trying to get a grip on understanding DOS. While the series has grown exponentially over the years, all the books I've read have proven to be a valuable educational resource; *FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES* is no exception. Lyle's presentation of forensics is well-organized, succinct and extremely informative. He manages to put a light touch on a rather dark profession (studying the dead) that manages to keep things interesting and relatable from beginning to end. What Lyle clearly wants to defuse is the image of sure-fire high tech methods cranking out details in fancy labs that we see on the myriad of CSI television shows. Step-by-step, Lyle guides readers on a journey that clearly

illustrates how the field of forensics relies more on human involvement than any futuristic computer program. FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES is methodically organized into five parts that progressively build to form a well-balanced tableau of forensics. Lyle serves the “who, how and why” of forensics to give a basic understanding of the field (Part I) before venturing to the crime scene, where readers are informed about analyzing all sorts of evidence, like bloodstains, fingerprints, footprints, tire tracks, tool marks, etc. (Part II). Examining the body (Part III) is where the book gets into the guts of forensics (both literally and figuratively) by way of the medical examiner (ME). This segment of the book is quite fascinating and again illustrates that the human mind is still the most effective tool in finding critical evidence. Part IV visits the crime lab where the more modern methods of examination are practiced (DNA analysis, toxicology testing and analyzation of fibers and firearms evidence). The final segment of the book (Part V) Lyle highlights 10 iconic cases where forensics played a significant role, 10 careers to consider in the field of forensics and 10 ways television misrepresents the field of forensics. Typical with “Dummies” book series, this book is peppered with the “Dummies” icons that inform readers of key points, a closer look at a specific issue, historical and case studies. I felt the case study side-bars both interesting and effective in illustrating forensics methods described being put to good use. The stories, by themselves, are obscure and entertaining (ironically, the DNA benchmark case of OJ Simpson is rarely mentioned in the book). What I liked most about this book is that the author never makes the science boring or confusing. Lyle does an excellent job simplifying complex information and presenting it in a manner that is not only easy to understand, but oddly enjoyable to read (considering the subject matter). Despite the need to dispel a great deal of scientific minutia, the reader is never bogged down by it. The material flows at a rapid pace. The book has a way of providing answers to issues most have thought, but never asked about, like: how to get footprints from snow and analyzing pieces of a body to determine anything from age and sex to cause of death and estimated time of death. After reading it, I definitely feel I have a better understanding of what I see/hear on television crime dramas or the crime reports I see on the news or read in the paper. I can see FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES being a useful tool for crime book authors and a sure catalyst for anyone considering a career in investigative law enforcement. FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES is yet another solid installment of the “for Dummies” series. Well-written and concise, anyone with a passing interest in the subject matter will enjoy the details this book offers and how enjoyable it is to read.

Being a fan of various crime related television shows and the cunning Sherlock Holmes, I was always fascinated at how my favorite detectives could solve the case. This book is a revealing look into the systematic, meticulous approach of crime fighting. Every particular basic detail is covered in this introductory text about forensics. Terminology is written in a simple style that readers of various levels can understand. Though Art attempts to initiate life in our favorite shows, the reader understands the true limitations of reality. Many participants in the investigation of crimes aid in the solving of cases, disproportionately greater than is even portrayed in our fictional characters' scenarios. Whether you're interested in a career in the field, curious about how detectives and investigators solve crimes or just a curious person, this has a lot to offer its audience. It's truly a fascinating subject.

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