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# The Forensic Casebook: The Science of Crime Scene Investigation

By Ngaire E. Genge



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*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.



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### **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

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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### **Review**

"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

From the Inside Flap

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#### **Ella Nebel:**

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