



Forensic Science: A Very Short Introduction

By Jim Fraser

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Due to its connections to violent crime and ingenious detective work, forensic science is a subject of endless fascination to the general public. A criminal case can often hinge on a piece of evidence such as a hair, a blood trace, a bit of saliva on a cigarette butt, or the telltale mark of a tire tread. High profile cases have stoked this interest in recent years and some of the most popular shows on television--such as *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and its raft of spin-offs--attest to the enduring popularity of forensic science as a form of grisly entertainment. This *Very Short Introduction* looks at the nature of forensic science, examining what forensic science is, how it is used in the investigation of crime, how crime scenes are managed, how forensic scientists work, the different techniques used to recover evidence, and the range of methods available for analysis. It also considers how forensic science serves the criminal justice system and the challenges of communicating complex scientific evidence in a court of law.

About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, **Very Short Introductions** offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

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Editorial Review

Review

This no-nonsense guide is an admirable alternative to the CSI science fiction juggernaut. Jim Fraser discusses expert evidence, DNA, fingerprints and confirmation bias, mentioning the Birmingham 6 and Sir Roy Meadow, though not Shirley McKie's shameful persecution on the basis of supposedly infallible fingerprint evidence. Fascinating. William Darragh, Fortean Times juggernaut...Fascinating.

About the Author

Jim Fraser is Professor of Forensic Science and Director of the University of Strathclyde's Centre for Forensic Science. He was also Head of Forensic Investigation for Kent police and Head of Forensic Biology for the Edinburgh police force.

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