Forensic Science: A Very Short Introduction
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.

I bought this book knowing full well ahead of time that the author, Jim Fraser, is a highly experienced and well renowned expert witness and forensic criminal scientist in the U.K., whilst I am a simple forensic engineer in the U.S., who absolutely loved the way he writes what he thinks unrestrained by popular convention. Unabashed, Jim takes on the contemporary aspects of forensic science with glee and, like a masterful medical examiner, performs an Oscar-worthy autopsy, re-painting the forensic science landscape in the process. If not for the locked-in precedence already established by the "Very Short" series, this book could have also been titled: "A Very
Condensed Handbook of Forensic Science". (Here, I am paying homage to the book "Handbook of Forensic Science", also authored by Jim Fraser and co-authored with Robin Williams; a wonderfully written treatise on the subject.) If forensic science is your passion, only your failure to buy this book, study and understand it, would be the crime.

Important vocabulary, brief history of the field, discussion of issues and contentious positions; ideal for an Advanced Placement High School or 100, 200 level college course

Studying writing so handy insight into forensics!!

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