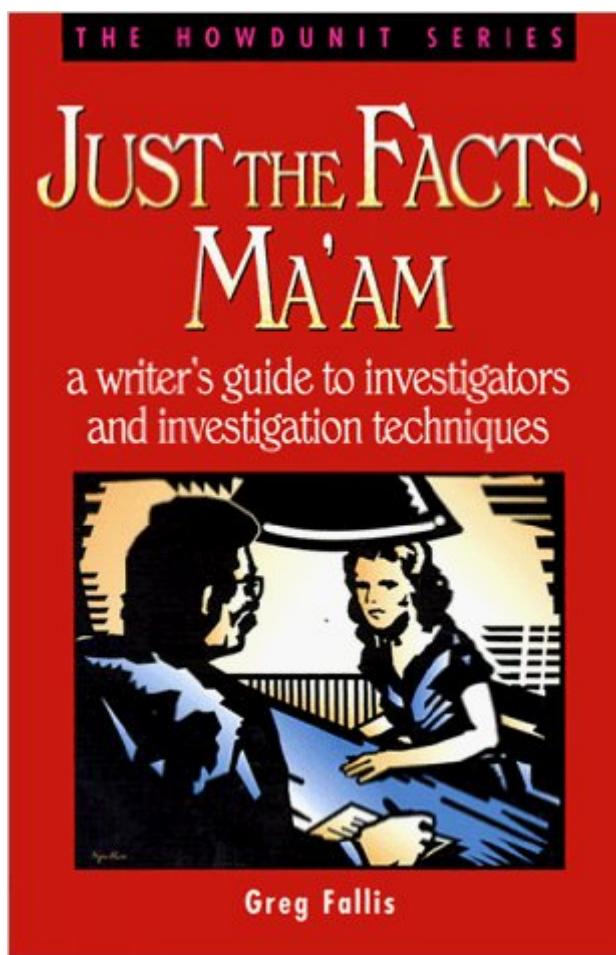


The book was found

Just The Facts, Ma'am: A Writer's Guide To Investigators And Investigation Techniques (Howdunit)



Synopsis

With practical information and extensive detail, former PI Fallis uses real-life scenarios to show writers how investigative professionals gather evidence, interview witnesses, determine motives and find the answers they seek.'

Book Information

Series: Howdunit

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Writer's Digest Books; 1 edition (September 1998)

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ [See all reviewsÂ \(13 customer reviews\)](#)

Best Sellers Rank: #153,268 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 inÂ Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Writing #256 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Journalism & Nonfiction #294 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Reference > Writing Skills

Customer Reviews

Just the Facts Ma'am is filled with useful information. It goes through the qualities of an investigator, and the skills needed to become one. There is so much in this book, it is nearly impossible to describe it all to you...you'll just have to read it yourself! Some very interesting sections of this book include: crime scene investigation, 21 points to follow in a death scene investigation, common police mistakes, how to collect evidence, interviewing and interrogation, and my favorite section of the book is surveillance. Just the Facts Ma'am also covers such issues as the dangers of investigations, and specific case studies as examples of previous investigations. I'm really impressed with this book so I'll have to give it 4th place in my "Favorites in the Howdunit Series". It is absolutely a necessity to all crime writers. The whole Howdunit Series is definitely worth the bookshelf space!

Whether you're just THINKING about writing detective fiction or have some writing and/or investigative experience under your belt, you stand to benefit from reading this book. An informative and often entertaining read, it proves a welcome departure from the condescending, pompous approach taken by some writing guides (and writers!). Its down-to-earth, comprehensive coverage

makes it a reassuring presence on your bookshelf.

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This book is an excellent resource for writers who want to imbue their stories with the authentic details of unnatural death but don't really have all the tools and training of a full-time medical examiner or police investigator. Maybe the life of a real cop isn't as exciting as portrayed on TV, but neither is it as shallow. In my case, as a crime author, the text was an invaluable reference, putting some highly technical material into easily digested context. Recommended for writers of all kinds who need a good reference work on the myriad ways to die.

This book is a great base for anyone who thinking about writing or starting in the field of law, it makes you think of what should have been asked

This is definitely a great resource for the aspiring mystery novelist since the book helps authors construct realistic plots for police procedurals. This is because it contains crucial information about how investigators conduct investigations. However, some of the material covered is obvious but, nonetheless, there are many interesting facts.

I enjoyed the evening I spent reading this introduction to theart of investigation. ...[I]t was a good introduction that, like anyuseful introduction, sets the stage for further reading. Anybody who just wants to know more will enjoy it; any writer thinking about writing a murder mystery (as I was when I picked it up) will see its value. The author obviously knows his stuff, and presents it in a clear, precise fashion that ranges from the obvious to the insightful. Definitely worth reading. END

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