



# Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide for Writers

*Lee Lofland*

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## **Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide for Writers** Lee Lofland

Not everything you see on your favorite crime show is accurate. In fact, a lot of it is flat out wrong. *Police Procedure & Investigation* helps you get your facts straight about the inner workings of law enforcement.

With a career in law enforcement that spanned nearly two decades, author Lee Lofland is a nationally acclaimed expert on police procedures and crime scene investigations who consults regularly with best-selling authors and television producers. Now you can benefit from his years of experience with *Police Procedure & Investigation*.

This comprehensive resource includes:

More than 80 photographs, illustrations, and charts showing everything from defensive moves used by officers to prison cells and autopsies

Detailed information on officer training, tools of the trade, drug busts, con air procedures, crime scene investigation techniques, and more

First-person details from the author about his experiences as a detective, including accounts of arrests, death penalty executions, and criminal encounters

*Police Procedure & Investigation* is the next best thing to having a police detective personally assigned to your book!

## **Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide for Writers Details**

Date : Published August 8th 2007 by Writer's Digest Books (first published July 25th 2007)

ISBN : 9781582974552

Author : Lee Lofland

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Language, Writing, Nonfiction, Reference, Mystery, Crime, True Crime

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## From Reader Review Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide for Writers for online ebook

### A.L. Sowards says

This is a good reference book for writers. I doesn't cover everything in a lot of depth, but it's a great place to start. It includes good insight from a former cop and good warnings about common misconceptions inspired by movies and TV shows.

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### Sue Coletta says

Lee's sense of humor and witty banter makes learning police procedure entertaining. In this book he explains the differences between common phrases, such as "crime scene" and "scene of the crime", "homicide", "murder", and "manslaughter". A must for every crime writer's (especially) toolbox, Police Procedure & Investigation: A Guide For Writers is a tool I'll refer back to again and again. Well worth the money. Incidentally, his blog ([www.leelofland.com](http://www.leelofland.com)) is a wealth of information, too!

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### Ksenia Anske says

Can't recommend this book highly enough. Every thriller writer must read it and own it. Hell, anyone writing about police officers in any capacity must read it. Aside from covering the correct police procedures (the way they are performed in real life as opposed to what we're used to seeing on TV), you'll learn about blunders to avoid. For example, a detective never returns to the crime scene to collect more evidence: once they're done with it, they're done. And they don't investigate a crime on their own after getting suspended (what I had in my plot and will now change)—if they do, they most likely get fired. You'll also find out what happens to a body of someone murdered after it was found, and what happens to a body of a killer when they're being electrocuted—what it looks and sounds and smells like. Grim but very accurate details.

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### Rebecca McNutt says

This book is one that any writer who plans on making a killing (no pun intended) on crime fiction should definitely read. A large amount of crime writers get their inspiration from what they see on television. With over twenty different crime shows currently available on TV, from *Criminal Minds* to *Flashpoint*, it's easier to watch than it is to ask a real cop how things work. *This book is one of the most useful that I've ever read.*

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### M. Hickmon says

Writing about criminals is easy--they can do pretty much anything. But when writing police there are rules, procedures and laws that characters must (usually) follow. For an author, studying the ins-and-outs of police procedure is a daunting task...especially since most books on the subject go into far more detail than

necessary for a novelist. This book is one tool that can help fill in the gaps. It is well organized, so you can easily locate just the information that you need, and it gives just enough detail to understand what you need to know to write about police investigations.

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### **Chester says**

Great reference work.

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### **Linda C. says**

This is a great reference book for writers who wish to understand police procedures. It is more than that though.

Lee explains how the hierarchy of law enforcement is structured between local police departments, sheriffs departments, the state police, the FBI, the ATF, the U.S. Marshals and more.

He also gives examples of terminology we all have heard and thought we understood. Such as the difference between a crime scene and the scene of a crime. They are different.

Or the difference between homicide, murder, and manslaughter. No they are not synonyms.

Yes, this book would make a fabulous gift for writers in your life that even want to barely touch on crime as an aspect in their work to help avoid making cringe-worthy mistakes, but it would also make a great gift for anyone who is interested in going into law enforcement. It would be an excellent reference book for someone trying to understand all the new lingo and terminology involved in that profession.

I have to think it would be better written than a lot of dry as sawdust textbooks on the subject.

Lee has a great sense of humor and it comes through on the page.

This is a great book even if you aren't interested in writing about crime or going into law enforcement, for it will help you to understand the occupational complexities of those who are sworn to protect and defend us.

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### **Charles Hoffman says**

#### **Worth Your Time...**

IF you are interested in detail on matters of this type, then this is a book for you.

Check it out by a download of a sample.

You should get a couple of chapters; enough to help you decide to read more or forget about it.

I had to read more. And I'm glad I did. ?

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### **Georgina Cross says**

I write suspense and feature a detective in nearly every book, especially my latest draft which includes a narrative written from a detective's point-of-view. It's important to me to get their process and thoughts right. This book was very helpful, particularly with the author's own commentary and personal thoughts regarding his process. It's important to know the steps followed when responding and documenting a crime scene, but it's also helpful to get into the mind of a detective, what they're thinking as they search the scene. I also plan on talking to several retired detectives to bounce my storyline(s) off them, but this book was also a very helpful read for me. I highlighted many sections!

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### **LATOYA JOVENA says**

Informative and more interesting than the average reference book. The author may not have intended it this way but this book explains a lot of the police shootings of unarmed citizens. It goes on and on about training with all sorts of weapons. There wasn't a single chapter on de-escalation, because I'm guessing this isn't something they're taught. I'll for sure never touch drugs and the amount of detail he went into about autopsies was enough to turn my stomach.

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### **Raimy Gallant says**

I bought this how-to for authors to prepare myself for plotting a mystery. After reading this and interviewing the representative police department for my story, I do feel much more confident that I am capable of realism as far as police are concerned. This said, the latest edition is ten years old, and so all references to technology may or may not be outdated. Even if the text was more recent though, I would still double-check facts as best I can, and I recommend this as good practice for anyone undertaking a procedural. The book often addresses subtopics in a generalized manner with a disclaimer that policy varies by department/region. My point is that this makes sense in retrospect, but it makes me wish there was more specific information available for the actual department I'm researching. While this book is a great start as far as research, it shouldn't be anyone's only source. As far as the author's style, it's well-written, but I wish Lofland had added more anecdotes, because what there were of them were great, but too few and far between.

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### **T Ramon says**

More informative than any cop show on the air.

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### **D.J. Adamson says**

Majoring in forensics? Crime writer? Or do you just have an avid curiosity to learn the sequences of events when they eventually find you and your arrested? This great book of procedures. It should sit on every mystery, crime writer's desk.

Reviewed in Le Coeur de l'Artiste: <http://www.djadamson.com/le-coeur-de-...>

**Dana says**

This is a great research tool to have on hand.

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**Bob Schueler says**

I've only read part of this, but will use it as a reference work, so it's more ongoing than actually read. So far, it has been helpful: well-crafted and to-the-point. I think it will continue to be useful for me in making my writing more credible.

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