

## BOOK REVIEW

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### *A Review of Forensic Photography*

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**REFERENCE:** Duckworth, J. E., *Forensic Photography*, Charles C Thomas, 2600 South First, Springfield, IL 62717, 1983, 160 pp.

If you have had the experience of shooting rolls of film on an important death investigation, whether it be death scene, autopsy photographs, or pictures of evidence, and your photos are rendered useless by over- or under-exposure, lack of a measuring guide, extraneous blood and gore rendering them inadmissible, or for any other reason, you are aware of the value of at least a minimum of knowledge in photographic technique.

Some of us have learned primarily from trial and error combined with admiration of our colleagues' efforts and mortification of our own. Now a slim, useful guidebook to the art and science of forensic photography is available. The author is a college instructor in the subject, and the book is basically a text of his course, written in an informal and informative style, well-illustrated and with no apologies for the "start-from-scratch" approach of assuming relative ignorance of the subject on the part of the reader.

In addition to covering cameras, film, filters, light sources, and other basics, Duckworth discusses more specific problems such as traffic fatalities, child abuse, latent prints, fire investigation, and surveillance. He emphasizes proper care of equipment, explains depth-of-field and how it can be of use, and how to make a useful court presentation of photographic evidence.

The book should be on the recommended reading list of all police academies, and should be available to all crime/death scene investigators, coroners, and medical examiners.

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