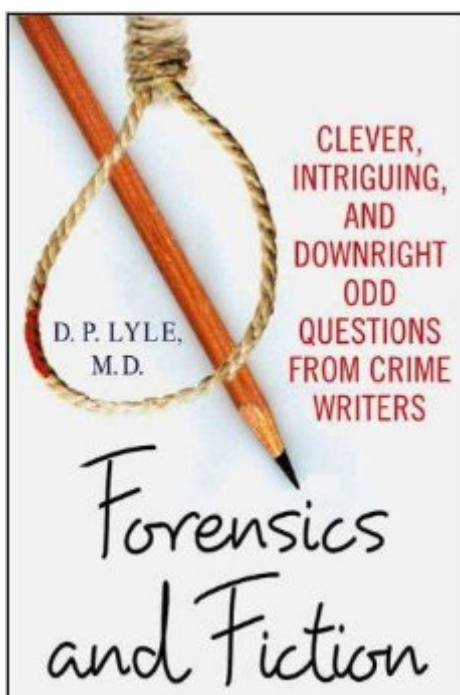


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# Forensics And Fiction: Clever, Intriguing, And Downright Odd Questions From Crime Writers



## Synopsis

How long can someone survive in a cold, damp cave without food or water? How was diphtheria treated in 1886? Can Botox kill? Can DNA be found on a knife years later? How are mummified corpses identified? How long does it take blood to clot when spilled on a tile floor? What happens in death from electrocution? As a consultant to many novelists around the world and to the writers of such popular TV shows as Monk, Law & Order, House, and CSI: Miami, D. P. Lyle, M.D., has answered many cool, clever, and oddball questions over the years. *Forensics and Fiction: Clever, Intriguing, and Downright Odd Questions from Crime Writers* is a collection of the best of these questions. The answers are provided in a concise and entertaining fashion that will keep you wide awake so you can read "just one more."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nothing ruins a good crime novel faster than factual errors or logical mistakes. That's why so many writers turn to Dr. D.P. Lyle for help. A practicing physician, Lyle is a writer himself, and he helps his colleagues figure out inventive (and accurate) ways of doing mayhem to the human body.

"Forensics and Fiction" collects some of the most interesting questions Lyle has answered. Want to

know how long a human head immersed in the North Sea would remain recognizable? This is the place to look. Not only is the book valuable for all the useful, obscure information it contains, it's also fascinating to see what kinds of questions writers ask. (Some of them, as you might expect, are rather strange.) "Forensics and Fiction" is an excellent resource for writers and an entertaining, informative read for fans.

This third book by D.P. Lyle, M.D. continues the format of his other two volumes and begins with the caveat, "This book is to provide writers of fiction with answers to basic and complex questions on medical and forensic issues. It is not to be used for diagnosis or for real-life behavior." That said, the Table of Contents lists 283 pages of questions concerning causes and results of death; an Index alphabetizes the subjects from "abortive herbs" to "zombie killers." For ease in looking up a particular question, the pages are divided into five categories: Traumatic Injuries...;Poisons, Toxins,drugs....;The Crime Scene and Lab....;The Coroner, Body and Autopsy....;Odds and Ends -- Mostly Odds.Two definitely odd questions in that category include, "Could my character hide inside a corpse?" and " Do Zombie Killers leave behind forensic evidence?" Oh well....Authors would agree with one of the book jacket's blurbs, "Indispensable... Don't even think of writing a medical mystery without the wise counsel of Dr. D.P. Lyle." Unlike Lyle's first book, "Murder and Mayhem," this one allows an author to list his/her name and books -- nice publicity!

DP Lyle writes a number of forensic books and a blog aimed at writers getting the forensics correct in their stories. As such, he receives letters and emails from writers with specific questions about their own particular needs, which he answers with amazing grace. This book is a collection of some of those questions and their answers and, for entertainment value alone, is extremely valuable to any writer. For mystery, thriller and crime writers who might use this information in their next work, the answers contained in this book are fabulous.

I use this in ebook form and find it quite helpful and easy to access when I need it. The table of contents is organized well and the whole book is so comprehensive, you'll even find yourself getting ideas for your next mystery !

Forensics and Fiction by D. P. Lyle, M.D. is the kind of book every mystery writer should have at hand. It explains what happens when a person is killed by poison or other means so an author doesn't commit grievous errors when describing a murder. Great reference book.

This is one of those books you don't just sit down and read. It's a reference book that you reach for when you come to a bump in the road during your manuscript. I've already found it quite useful in my writing and I recommend it to anyone who is writing mystery, suspense, thriller-type fiction.

Fantastic resource for crime writers, or, it should be said, the criminal element. All sorts of easy to understand and fun explanations of how to kill off characters, how to conceal bodies, about decay and forensics of all sorts. Written in a chatty question and answer format, I can't recommend this book highly enough, whether you kill people in fiction or you just want to talk about it at family dinner parties.

As a writer I've used Dr Lyle as a resource several times. I highly recommend him and all of his books. I like this one in particular because I have a question in it that resulted in a short story sale.

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