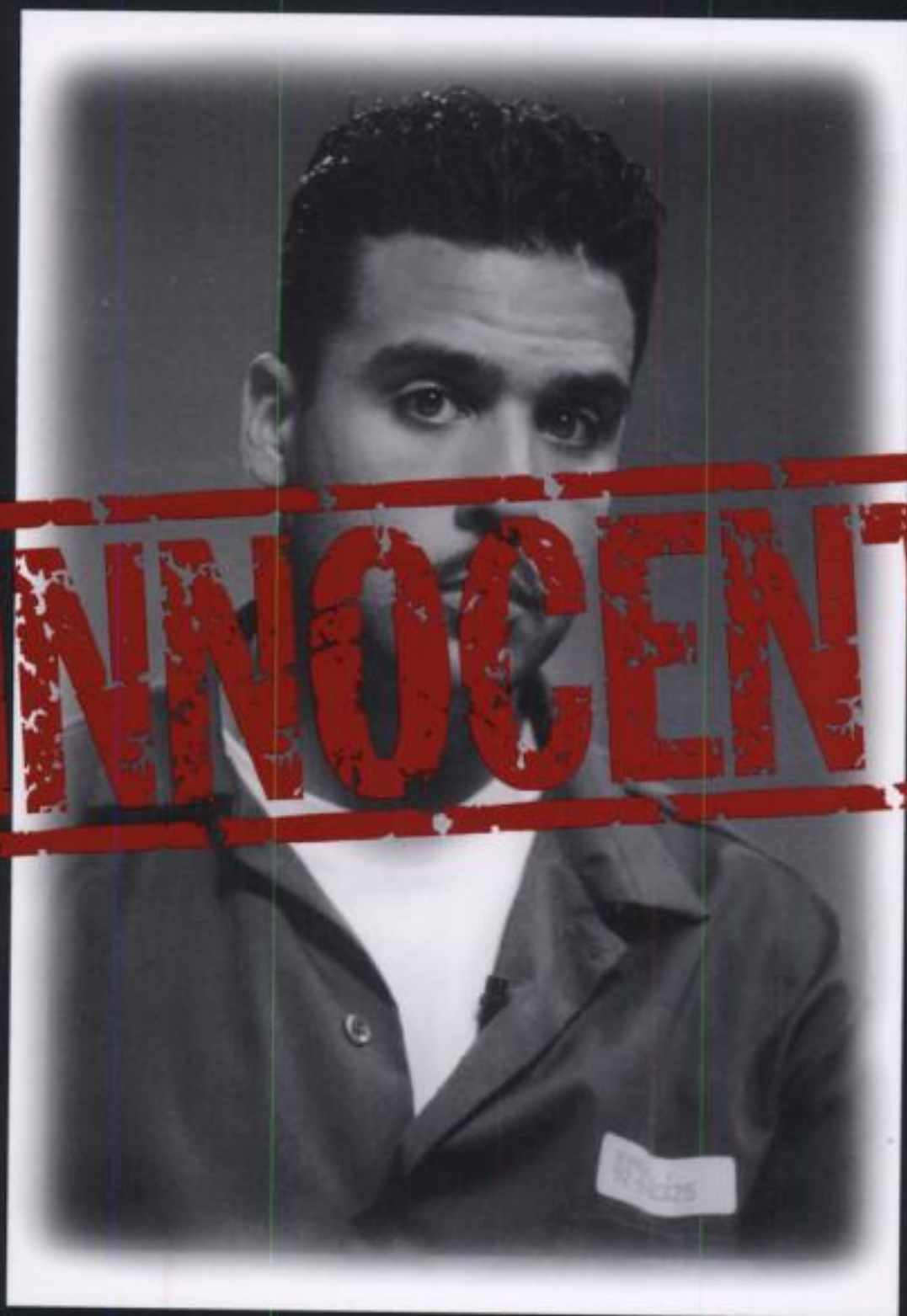


SCOTT CHRISTIANSON



INSIDE WRONGFUL
CONVICTION CASES

Innocent: Inside Wrongful Conviction Cases, Scott Christianson, NYU Press, 2006, 081471675X, 9780814716755, 196 pages. "A chilling chronicle of what can happen when the criminal justice system goes awry." --Publishers Weekly "Innocent is an excellent recommendation to make the next time someone questions the need for further criminal justice reform." --New York Law Journal "This should be required reading for everyone who gives a damn about justice in this country." --Mickey Sherman, CBS News legal analyst "Christianson succeeds in raising reasonable doubts and questions about the integrity of our criminal justice system. Written with perceptiveness and sympathy for the plight of the wrongly convicted, [Innocent] is an excellent addition to the literature on miscarriages of justice." --Justice
Innocent graphically documents forty-two recent criminal cases to find evidence of shocking miscarriages of justice, especially in murder cases. Based upon interviews with more than 200 people and reviews of hundreds internal case files, court records, smoking-gun memoranda, and other documents, Scott Christianson gets inside the legal cases, revealing the mistakes, abuses, and underlying factors that led to miscarriages of justice, while also describing how determined prisoners, post-conviction attorneys, advocates, and journalists struggle against tremendous odds to try to win their exonerations. The result is a powerful work that recounts the human costs of a criminal justice system gone awry, and shows us how wrongful convictions can--and do--happen everywhere..

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The Art of Prosecution Trial Advocacy Fundamentals from Case Preparation Through Summation, John Bugliosi, 2000, Law, 372 pages. A priceless powerhouse of prosecutorial guidance! Learn to solidify cases every step of the way, from the first swing of the judge's gavel to the last. Perfect for practicing

New York Court of Appeals. Records and Briefs. 84 NY2D 992, RESPONDENTS APPENDIX Part 19, PEOPLE V TANKLEFF, New York (State)., , , . .

Presumed Guilty When Innocent People Are Wrongly Convicted, Martin Yant, 1991, Social Science, 231 pages. The American judicial system is far too often a source of injustice for the innocent rather than justice for the guilty. Despite all the alleged protections built into the

True Witness Cops, Courts, Science, and the Battle Against Misidentification, James M. Doyle, Jan 15, 2005, Law, 223 pages. An examination of wrongful convictions in America as a result of honest but mistaken testimony on the part of eyewitnesses reveals the devastating impact of the imprisonment of

Machinery of Death The Reality of America's Death Penalty Regime, David R. Dow, Mark Dow, 2002, Law, 304 pages. First published in 2002.

Journey toward justice , Dennis Fritz, Oct 31, 2006, Social Science, 458 pages. .

Not guilty , Jerome Frank, Barbara Frank Kristein, Harold M. Hoffman, Dec 31, 1971, Law, 261 pages. .

Supreme Conflict The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the United States Supreme Court, Jan Crawford Greenburg, 2007, Political Science, 340 pages. Discusses recent ideological shifts within the Supreme Court, profiles controversial judges, and analyzes the changing role of judicial power in American government..

No Equal Justice Race and Class in the American Criminal Justice System, David Cole, Feb 1, 2000, Current Events, 218 pages. In a hard-hitting study hailed by "Publishers Weekly" as "well-argued" and "passionate, " a leading constitutional scholar reveals that, despite a veneer of neutrality, race

Exonerations in the United States, 1989 through 2003 , Samuel R. Gross, Open Society Institute, 2004, Law, 32 pages. .

New York Court of Appeals. Records and Briefs. 82 NY2D 309, APPELLANTS BRIEF Part 1, PEOPLE V HERNANDEZ, New York (State)., , , . .

New York Court of Appeals. Records and Briefs. 84 NY2D 925, APPENDIX Part 1, PEOPLE V WILLIAMS, New York (State)., , , . .

In Spite of Innocence Erroneous Convictions in Capital Cases, Michael L. Radelet, 1994, Social Science, 399 pages. Few errors made by society can compare with the horror of executing a person wrongly convicted of a crime. This sobering book, which includes an expanded preface, tells the

Harvest of Rage Why Oklahoma City is Only the Beginning, Joel Dyer, 1998, Political Science, 326 pages. An exposé of today's growing antigovernment movement and the connection between the farm crisis of the 1980s and the massive buildup of militia groups in the United States..

Innocent graphically documents forty-two recent criminal cases to find evidence of shocking miscarriages of justice, especially in murder cases. Based upon interviews with more than 200 people and reviews of hundreds internal case files, court records, smoking-gun memoranda, and other documents, Scott Christianson gets inside the legal cases, revealing the mistakes, abuses, and underlying factors that led to miscarriages of justice, while also describing how determined prisoners, post-conviction attorneys, advocates, and journalists struggle against tremendous odds to try to win their exonerations.

A chilling chronicle of what can happen when the criminal justice system goes awry, Christianson's volume documents 42 cases in which an innocent person was sentenced for a crime that she or he didn't commit. An investigative reporter who specializes in the American prisons, Christianson (With Liberty for Some; Condemned) finds the usual evils in our beleaguered, bureaucratic judicial system-prejudiced juries, mistaken identification, ineffective counsel. More frightening, however, are the cases that he reveals involve deliberate institutional corruption-false confessions, fabrication of evidence or misconduct by police or prosecutors. Despite the publicity surrounding the recent exoneration of some prisoners who were freed after the reconsideration of DNA evidence, many wrongfully convicted people still remain incarcerated. The powerful and compelling stories of such innocent victims carry this book, which is otherwise rather shoddily assembled-the anecdotes and photographs lack cohesion or orderly arrangement. Readers may be frustrated by the book's episodic structure and lack of narrative unity, but the subject is an undeniably important one.

Christianson succeeds in raising reasonable doubts and questions about the integrity of our criminal justice system. Written with perceptiveness and sympathy for the plight of the wrongly convicted, [Innocent] is an excellent addition to the literature on miscarriages of justice.-Justicia

I've never read anything quite like this book. The author, who displays an unusual depth and breadth of knowledge about the system, has selected twelve cases of "actual innocence": people who have,through "bad" eyewitness accounts, heresay evidence and/or outright corruption been unjustly convicted and jailed for many years. The stories are HEARTBREAKING and told with great clarity. Fortunately many of these people (several of which have already been exonerated - though not compensated!!) have legal teams and other committed professionals (such as the author) who labor on their behalf pro bono. It seems that the only way our justice system can be reformed is through media exposure, and this book is an eloquent example. Today New York, tomorrow, Texas

acquitted Appellate Division reversed arrested assault Bronx County Brooklyn Carter charges Charles Chenoweth committed confession convicted of first-degree convicted of murder convicted of second-degree conviction and imprisonment conviction and ordered conviction was reversed counsel County in 1984 Court of Appeals Court of Claims Courtesy criminal justice Dana Garner death penalty defendant denied Denis Hamill Detective district attorney drugs eyewitness federal Fernando Bermudez fingerprint guilty plea habeas corpus Hellerstein homicide identification

innocent investigation Jackson Jeffrey Blake jury killer Kings County later lawyer Legal Aid Society misconduct Montalvo murder in Kings overturned parole perjury person plead guilty Police Department polygraph prison prosecution Queens County rape released retrial reversed the conviction robbery Rojas Ron Kuby Rubin Ortega Sberna second-degree murder sentenced to fifteen sentenced to twenty-five served Sing Sing Suffolk County Tankleff testified testimony tion U.S. Supreme Court vacated Whitmore witnesses wrongful conviction York County York Police Department

Scott Christianson is the author of *Notorious Prison: Inside the World's Most Feared Institutions and Condemned: Inside the Sing Sing Death House* (NYU Press, 1999). A longtime investigative reporter, his articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *The Criminal Law Bulletin* and many other publications. Since the author began this project, six of the convictions discussed in *Innocent* have been overturned.

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The following page represents only a small portion of available literature that deals with innocence issues and the wrongly convicted. Feel free to read them on your own, share them with friends, or even start a book club to discuss the issues the books raise and how they relate to issues in our criminal justice system. By clicking the links on this page and purchasing a book through Amazon, a portion of the sale will be donated back to the Innocence Project of Florida.

DNA exonerations have shattered confidence in the criminal justice system by exposing how often we have convicted the innocent and let the guilty walk free. In this unsettling in-depth analysis, Brandon Garrett examines what went wrong in the cases of the first 250 wrongfully convicted people to be exonerated by DNA testing.

Essays in Part 1 show that eyewitnesses are often wrong, police trick suspects into making confessions, informants lie to gain benefits, and police can be incompetent or venal. Part 2 argues that those who are unpopular, uneducated, or members of a racial minority invite harsher treatment by authorities. The next section offers case studies on convictions that were wrongly obtained, followed by suggestions for changes in the criminal justice system, such as more active judges, an [innocence commission](#); to examine convictions, liberal use of DNA evidence, and better training for lawyers.

In 1998, in the small East Texas city of Sloan, Travis Boyette abducted, raped, and strangled a popular high school cheerleader. He buried her body so that it would never be found, then watched in amazement as police and prosecutors arrested and convicted [Dontá© Drumm](#), a local football star, and marched him off to death row.

First the subject of the Oscar-winning documentary, [Murder On A Sunday Morning](#); now Brent Butler speaks out in his own words. In shocking and graphic detail Brent describes his horrific ordeal from accusation to imprisonment and from trial to final exoneration. And the truth is more brutal than ever: The innocent are America's latest victims.

Jennifer Thompson was raped at knifepoint and eventually positively identified Ronald Cotton as her attacker. Ronald insisted that she was mistaken; but Jennifer's positive identification was the compelling evidence that put him behind bars. After eleven years, Ronald was allowed to take a DNA test that proved his innocence. Two years later, Jennifer and Ronald met face to face; and forged an unlikely friendship that changed both of their lives.

In this gripping story of justice gone awry, four innocent men separately confess to the heinous crime that none of them actually committed. Though the real perpetrator has since been convicted, three of the four remain in prison today, attesting to the powerful role confessions—even false

onesâ€™play in our criminal justice system, where they typically trump fact, reason, and common sense.

Incriminating statements are necessary to solve crimes, but suspects almost never have reason to provide them. Therefore, as Richard Leo shows, crime units have developed sophisticated interrogation methods that rely on persuasion, manipulation, and deception to move a subject from denial to admission, serving to shore up the case against him. Ostensibly aimed at uncovering truth, the structure of interrogation requires that officers act as an arm of the prosecution.

In this disturbing yet elegant exposé of U.S. penitentiaries and their surrounding communities, Sasha Abramsky shows how American prisons have abandoned their long-held ideal of rehabilitation, often for political reasons. After surveying our current state of affairs-life sentences for nonviolent crimes, appalling conditions for inmates, the growth of private prisons, the treatment of juveniles-Abramsky argues that our punitive policies are not only inhuman but deeply counterproductive. Brilliantly researched and compellingly told, *American Furies* reveals the devastating consequences of a society that believes in “lock ’em up and throw away the key.”

Dennis Fritz was an ordinary middle-aged man leading an ordinary life when he was charged with rape and murder. An overzealous prosecutor relied on flimsy evidence to convict and sentence Dennis to life in prison. After twelve years of incarceration, with the help of Barry Scheck of the Innocence Project, Dennis was exonerated.

Represents the latest advances of the role of psychological factors in inducing potentially unreliable self-incriminating behavior; Chapters are authored by a diverse group psychologists, criminologists, and legal scholars who have contributed significantly to the collective understanding of the pressures that insidiously operate when the goal of law enforcement is to elicit self-incriminating behavior from suspected criminals; Reviews and analyzes the extant literature in this area as well as discussing how this knowledge can be used to help bring about needed changes in the legal system.

After spending years behind bars, hundreds of men and women with incontrovertible proof of their innocence have been released from America’s prisons. They were wrongfully convicted because of problems that plague many criminal proceedings—inept defense lawyers, overzealous prosecutors, deceitful interrogation tactics, misidentifications, and more. Finally free, usually after more than a decade of incarceration, the wrongly condemned re-enter society with nothing but scars from prison life only to struggle for survival on the outside.

Here are the stories of innocent men and women—and the system that put them away under the guise of justice. Now updated with new information, *Actual Innocence* sheds light on a system that tolerates lying prosecutors, slumbering defense attorneys and sloppy investigators (Salt Lake Tribune)—revealing the shocking flaws that can derail the legal process and the ways that DNA testing has often shattered so-called solid evidence that condemned American citizens to death.

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