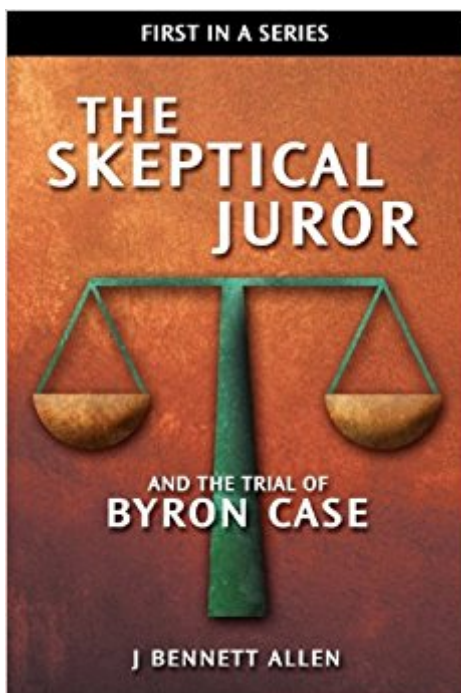


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The Skeptical Juror And The Trial Of Byron Case



Synopsis

A young woman is brutally murdered, shot in the face at point blank range. Her boyfriend is found dead two days later. Suicide by gunshot. The case goes nowhere for three years until, from the depths of alcohol and drug addiction, a friend changes her story. Her ex-boyfriend stands accused of murder. Four teenage lives are shattered. Relive the trial. Hear the testimony. Deliberate the evidence. Render your verdict. Only after your decision is irrevocable will you learn what really happened. Welcome to the world of the Skeptical Juror. Based on a true case, the reader becomes a member of the jury, observing trial testimony of witnesses and participating in deliberations. The drama behind the scenes in the jury room resolves with the explanation of what the actual jury decided, and the subsequent information that has come to light. Forensic evidence, clearcut jury manipulation and the presumption of innocence clash in this work, designed to show potential jury members, litigators, and the public what happens behind the closed doors of the jury room, and how that leads to good, or bad, verdicts.

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Customer Reviews

I have always wondered why it is legal for police to lie and deceive during interrogations with suspects, yet a suspect who does the same is branded a liar during trial. I have heard police defending their right to lie to suspects by saying it is sometimes necessary to uncover the truth (and case law supports this). Two individuals lie, but at trial one of them is branded as dishonest and the other as a hero. This book illustrates the harm inherent in using slippery means to justify the end result. As a fan of true crime, I found this book to be an engaging and novel presentation of the case. Most true crime authors follow the same shop worn format; it was refreshing to read about a case in a truly objective manner. My only suggestion is that I wish the author would have included info on how the public can get involved in correcting injustices such as this one, either for individuals (such as Byron Case) or groups (Innocence Project). With public outrage high over the recent spate of police shootings, perhaps the time is right to rally to the cause.

heck!, I was there and didn't have some of the from the jury bench, up close perspective given here! If you've ever been given a situation where 'Justice served' equaled 'no true justice at all, this book will further shake your faith in our system. Most importantly, this book shows a few things about a midwestern 'kangaroo court' situation!! Give it a spot on your Kindle or reading room!!! /Alexavier

I agree with the others that this should be required reading for all jurors. If every jury took the time to really analyze ALL of the evidence, there would be far fewer wrongful convictions. It is sad that they do not make the State meet the burden of proof in sooooo many cases. I don't think people realize just how difficult it is to overturn a conviction. I think jurors just assume that if they get it wrong, the courts will sort it out. It doesn't work that way. I was aware of this case before reading the book, but this provided many more details and I loved the analysis of the evidence at the back of the book. There actually was quite a bit of evidence that was not provided at trial, but clearly should have been. I hope that Byron Case will somehow be freed. I'm not sure of the status of his appeals process at this time. Like the author, I spend much of my free time researching and writing about wrongful convictions. Once I realized this was happening, I felt I had to do something.

Let's face it-- most of us aren't too excited when we get a summons for jury duty. It's just so damned inconvenient. But this book is a testament to why the system is so important and why each of us should go in as a "skeptical juror". The book is in three parts: the trial, a fictional jury deliberation, and a section on the aftermath of the case. The trial is in a bit more of a narrative format than the actual trial transcripts would be, which makes it easy to read. It gets a little dry and repetitive at

points, but hey, this is what was really said. Real life trials have very little in common with TV courtroom dramas. There's also a few entertaining interjections from our fictional juror to break things up a bit. Once the closing arguments are finished, and the judge's instructions given, we enter the fictional bit of the book. This is where things get really interesting. The characters are well written and believable. They argue back and forth, pointing out little bits and pieces of evidence which didn't seem relevant on their own, but add up to a different picture than any of the lawyers presented. The jury's decision isn't specified, it's left to the reader to make up his or her own mind as to how they would vote. Then the aftermath section informs us how the real jury voted, as well as pointing out some other potential evidence that wasn't brought to light when the actual trial took place. This was the part I found most interesting. A lot of it is speculative, but it really brings up a lot of questions about this particular case and how it was handled, and things to be aware of should one ever find themselves on a real jury. All in all, I found this to be a great, compelling read. I read most of it in one sitting. Granted, I'm naturally a voracious reader, but this book isn't short at nearly 300 pages, and it's quite dense with information. I look forward to further books in this series.

The format of this book is perfect if you are curious about how a real-life criminal case is conducted in the courtroom. Evidence and testimony is presented to the reader as if you are a member of the jury. The author (injecting himself in the case as a sort of fellow jury member and narrator - he calls himself the skeptical juror) does interject his thoughts and opinions at times, which can be sometimes annoying and sometimes helpful. For those of us who have wondered how would I vote if I were a juror, this is the perfect mental exercise because you do not find out until the end how the actual jury voted. After the verdict is revealed, the author goes through some background information about the case that was not allowed into evidence or challenged in court. For those interested in true crime and the justice system, this is a must read.

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