



STEVE JACKSON
New York Times Bestselling Author

No Stone Unturned: The True Story of the World's Premier Forensic Investigators

Steve Jackson

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A body stuffed in a car trunk swallowed by the swirling, muddy waters of the Missouri River. A hiker brutally murdered, then thrown off a cliff in a remote mountain range. A devious killer who hid his wife's body under a thick cement patio. For investigators, the story is often the same: they know a murder took place, they may even know who did it. But without key evidence, pursuing a conviction is nearly impossible. That's when they call NecroSearch International. Necrosearch boasts a brain trust of the nation's top scientists, specialists, and behaviourists who use the latest technology and techniques to help solve "unsolvable" crimes, no matter how decayed the corpse, no matter how cleverly the killer has hidden the victim's body. Now, for the first time ever, readers are taken on a fascinating, often-shocking journey into a realm of crime investigation of which few people are aware. Necrosearch's most challenging cases are described, step-by-step, as these modern-day Sherlock Holmes's detect bodies and evidence thought irretrievable, and testify in court to bring cold-blooded killers to justice.

No Stone Unturned: The True Story of the World's Premier Forensic Investigators Details

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From Reader Review No Stone Unturned: The True Story of the World's Premier Forensic Investigators for online ebook

Gwen (The Gwendolyn Reading Method) says

Subject matter was interesting but the writing wasn't awfully dynamic...

Mikko Muilu says

The real life CSI and how it got started. The book starts off with the history of fingerprints and microscope analysis of bullets, but mainly happens in 70's-90's. There was a tiny bunch of people who wondered if they could bury pigs to find out how the cadavers and the ground behaved while time went by. In time the bunch grows, while they add geologists, botanists etc. The book has several (was it seven?) cases that had gone cold and the PIG-people come to save the day. Really fun read, I would read a sequel also.

Daphne says

Some of the best parts were involving the description of the science involved. I enjoyed listening to them work through the entire scientific process to figure out different problems posed. There were many scientific first in this book, and I absolutely love hearing about the first time a scientist finds a questions, and then goes about discerning the truth in the best way they can.

I think this narration by Pierce was right on point. He has the right kind of cadence and inflection for a book focusing on science, case studies, but also the stories about the people behind the science. It was articulate throughout, and I never once had a problem understanding everything he said.

I found the entire book packed with interesting science and stories. The backstories about the people involved were just as interesting as the science itself. The only part that kind of slowed me down and I didn't enjoy as much was the second to last story about the meth dealers - The author spent WAY too much time setting up the entire scene, and by the time the actual forensic got involved it was over in a couple minutes. I would have cut this story and included one that was more science focused.

I received the audible version of this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Cyndie Honeyford says

Not my usual reading genre, but I did enjoy this book. I did not realize that the forensic investigators involved in criminology was such a young science, started informally in the late 1980's. Seeing the CSI and like-type shows having been around what seems like forever, I assumed the science had been older than it really is. This book explained how people sharing different expertise's in various scientific fields began gathering and collaborating as NecroSearch International and how it changed the way police investigations

were done. The one fact that jumped out at me in the beginnings of the book that only about 1/3 of the murders in this country are solved. I had no idea that number was so low! Although this book was written in the early 2000's, that number has not changed much. The cases that were described in the book were updated; the author revisited the people or cases in 2015, which was nice to see some of the follow-up. It made me particularly appreciate and respect those involved in both dogged police work and the experts that team up in NecroSearch International.

Teressa says

NO STONE UNTURNED was a good listen on the basis of forensics. It was informative on how forensic science came about and what it entailed. The story involved a group of hardworking, dedicated individuals who never gave up in the search for missing people who were murdered and the evildoers who killed them. Despite multiple road blocks they had gotten lucky in several cases.

The book follows Diane France and others throughout the process which at first began as Project Pig, enlisting a group of trustees who played an integral role with Davenport in the start up of the grassroots beginnings of Necrosearch and NecroSearch International. (It was somewhat humorous when the trustees made up puns such as the pigs committing sookie-cide and Dr. Ke-porkian). A little humor goes a long way in a book such as this. I suspect they most likely had many hard days and nights where jokes and funny puns were welcomed in the light of the circumstances, however they took their jobs seriously. Jokes aside, through their hard work they got the job done.

More of this review can be found at [Sixth Dimension Audiobook Reviews](#).

Audiobook received in exchange for an honest review.

Kristen says

I didn't like this enough to continue listening to it. I'm not sure what it was about it exactly, because the concept is interesting and I liked the narrator just fine, but I couldn't make myself focus on the words for more than a minute or two at a time. It was a useless endeavor, in the end, so I have to give up and move on to something else.

Betty says

This is a great book!! I loved learning how technology is being used to help solve crimes today and how the group, Necrosearch, helped facilitate many of the methods used today. The methods used are constantly evolving. To be honest, when I downloaded it I thought it was a mystery. :) It kinda is, in a sense, in that past unsolved crimes are the mysteries in this book. I would recommend this book to anyone interested. I am not in law enforcement in any way, I found the book compelling, interesting, and a very easy read. Enjoy!

Brenda Dickenson says

I found this to be a compelling book for the use of sciences in our investigation of the truth in justice.

This is well written for the average person to just pick up and read. The real situations are handled with passion, and considering the cases with where in the investigation certain scientific research may come to the aid of law enforcement. This a story of a group of scientists that do research for better understanding in helping locate bodies and help the forensics be the best it can. They are independent from law enforcement and are a non-profit group and every case is taken on only if the police have done a lot of work and the group thinks it can help in some way. I thought it was very interesting and informative.

Jan says

We've been brainwashed into thinking that murder investigation always start with a body found. Not so. How then, do we go about finding the body? Ghostbusters won't answer the call, but nowadays, NecroSearch is the organization to call. A fine group of science nerds and cadaver dogs have adapted and utilized technology usually known to us only through archaeology. In this edition, the early cases which prodded the ideas resulting in a mobile team to provide what most departments cannot afford to keep on retainer are expanded upon and epilogues provided. Like the medical examiners, this organization aids law enforcement to speak for the dead, assists in providing justice for them, and bring closure to the grieving.

KP takes audio performance tips from Joe Friday? Excellent delivery which makes it quite clear that this is reality, not fiction.

Thank you so much, AudioBook Blast for giving me the opportunity to learn.

Julie says

If you have any interest in the history of forensics this is a great read. They begin by discussing how they created a group; each person a specialist in their field (botanists, geophysics, etc) in order to use each skill set to enhance the ability to find bodies determined by the needs of each case. They move into how those forensics are used and then follow with actual cases applying the forensics and how they create the teams for the most efficient use of man power and resources. A very enjoyable and informative read. They build the characters enough to give it a personal touch throughout the growth and development of the group.

John says

I just want to rave about this book. It has thoroughly pulled me in and shown me just how much interest I have in this topic. The author is very capable of drawing the reader in to experience the nature and work of Necrosearch. An incredible team, having this opportunity to see through their eyes is invaluable. The book goes into great detail about the cases that it profiles. And it does not focus singularly on the work of the team, but also on the emotional and physical challenges leading up to and after their work. It expresses motivation that the reader can share. It also does not press too hard on fine detail to the exclusion of the

experience, as one might fear. Instead, it presents well-balanced, easily readable scenes that can pull you in before you realize it.

As this was an update to a previous edition, I just want to say I'm waiting eagerly for the next edition or additional stories.

Jean says

I found this book fascinating. I was most interested in all the various scientific specialties that were utilized and the basic research done by the group.

Necrosearch was founded in 1991 as a not for profit forensic investigation team. They specialize in homicide cold cases where a body cannot be produced.

The team members are from a wide range of experts, from chemists, geophysicists, behaviorists, medical examiners, forensic anthropologist, photography, retired police officers to cadaver dogs. Jackson reveals in the book the burden of scientific proof with exciting stories of forensic field work and basic police work.

Steve Jackson is a crime journalist based in Colorado. He is now a member of the team. His first book was a true crime story called "Monster" written in 1998. He also writes fiction along with New York ADA Robert K. Tanenbaum for a series called Butch Karp.

The first part of the book provides the history of forensics. I was surprised to learn that the French police were the first to use forensics and teach it in police training.

The middle part of the book is about the original members of Necrosearch telling about the expertise and how it was first used by the group. The group's research teams used pigs buried in different ways and depths to learn about the changes in graves over time so that they have provable information to look for such as changes in the soil, plants, insects, animals and in the electrical flow and chemical gases of graves. I found this absolutely fascinating.

The last half of the book is about some of the field projects they undertook such as the discovering the body of Michael Wallace who disappeared near Gunnison Colorado. The author covered this in depth from her disappearance, search and police work at the time to the Det. Young working it as a cold case twenty years later. Jackson covers the step by step work Young did to narrow the search area so Necrosearch had a reasonable search area. The author then covered the step by step procedures of the search and then the detailed work after the found parts of the body to locate the entire body. Jackson then covered in depth the trial of the murderer and the role the team played in helping toward the conviction. Jackson covered a number of other cases in almost as much detail as the Wallace case.

The book is well written and moves at a fast pace. I understand another book about the team is on the way. I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Kevin Pierce narrated the book.

Kay says

While this is a history of the birth and evolution of NecroSearch International (described as "a small, eclectic group of scientists and law enforcement personnel, active and retired, who volunteer their services to help locate the clandestine graves of murder victims and recover the remains and evidence to assist with the apprehension and conviction of the killers"), this is also the in-depth story of a number of cases that they were involved in, covering not just their involvement but all the other aspects of the case as well. Two of them I'd actually heard about before on *Forensic Files*, which I've watched quite a bit of.

I enjoyed the narrator and felt he did a good job with his narration.

Becky Moore says

Gripping!

As a lover of the tv show 'Forensic Files', I knew I had to read this book after seeing it on the show. This is the story of a group of scientists that put their efforts into finding clandestine graves. The book covers several cases that are each amazing! From the use of sonar equipment to blood hound dogs, this group uses all sorts of methods to reach their conclusions. It is a real group that are called into real cases to bring closure to otherwise cold cases. Amazing and addicting. I couldn't put it down for long

Melanie Ericson says

Fascinating history of forensic science.

Maria Lewis says

It's hard to track this bad boy down in Australia (I had to buy one secondhand from a police library in the US, ironically) but damn it is so worth it, especially if you have any interest in true crime or forensic criminology. The most fascinating segments were the forming of the Pig People and specifically how they collected experts like rare Pokemon. Also, when they were actually out in the field and putting that research to use on IRL cases I was captivated. I found some of the passages a little flowery and read this with a friend, who dropped out because she found the narration "waffled on at times". I don't disagree, but the insights gained from peeking into such a unique world at such a specific time were totally worth it. Obviously it goes without saying, this is not for the squeamish. It's literally a whole book about studying body decomposition and how that can be used to solve crimes years - even decades - after the fact. So if that makes you blanch, avoid avoid avoid.

Al says

Very interesting. Opens with a general history of the origins of professional police investigators and the development of forensics in the late 19th/early 20th century. Continues into the more specific history and growth of an eclectic group of scientists/academics with a wide set of backgrounds and experience to become the world's premier forensic search team, Necrosearch. Using their diverse set of skills to help locate

missing bodies in cold cases. As they say, there's no device or technology to locate a missing body, but by looking for anomalies in the ground, or water, in forests, etc to determine the best places to start a search. Closes with some of their most important cases, keeping alive the hopes of police and family members of cold case victims. Their goal is not necessarily an a conviction or acquittal of a case, but to locate missing victims to bring a sense of closure for surviving families and the investigators dedicating years to these cases. Necrosearch's motto sums it all up: There is no statute of limitations for murder. There's also no statute of limitations for grief.

Melinda says

The Development of a Branch of Forensics - How to Find a Body...

Even though this book was written in 1998, it gives a real life view into how many of the forensic techniques for finding dead bodies were developed by the nonprofit NecroSearch International. The book gives a concise history of forensics, then goes on to explain how the nonprofit developed out of a monthly discussion of three law enforcement officers in a coffeehouse in Colorado, who needed a better way to find where bodies were buried. They invited scientists from different disciplines as well as other law enforcement officials. The result was a group who did research on the best ways to determine the location of a grave and how to excavate it once it is found.

Starting with pigs, they buried in various conditions - they later gave a seminar, using a pig in a Sherlock Holmes costume, and became known to law enforcement as "the Pig People". The group included: aerial photographers, archeologists, botanists, dog handlers, geologists, geophysicists, naturalists and many others. This list doesn't include the criminalist personnel from the different Crime Labs of law enforcement. Working as a team, they developed best practices for finding bodies and unearthing them.

Later, the group would hire out to law enforcement, to help on specific cases where a body needed to be found, or the suspect would not face prosecution. The majority of the book follows not only NecroSearch, but also the detectives who worked the cases. By doing this, Jackson provides a well rounded and realistic picture of the frustrations, roadblocks and lengthy cases that face the police and sheriffs, as well as the victim's families. In some cases decades go by without closure, but not for lack of effort.

While science has achieved much more since this book was written, it is clear that no one simply waves their CSI wand and solves a case, as they do on television. People who are interested in forensics, real crime, cold case solutions or those who love solving puzzles will appreciate the work that Jackson went through to add atmosphere, character and humanity to many chilling stories of violence and murder.

Jackson updated this edition in 2015 with notes regarding the status of people involved and any relevant facts he thought were pertinent to each case. He is coming out with a sequel this year. I will definitely read it.

Phil Brown says

Very interesting.

Very interesting. Sometimes a little slow. The real cases were good illustrations of how their methods

worked. I'm glad I read it.

Petra X says

The title led me to think it was about individuals who were particularly excellent at forensics. But it isn't. It's about Necrosearch International. A company of volunteer specialists who search for the graves of murder victims, recover and investigate the remains and any localised evidence. Necrosearch operates worldwide, not just in the discovery of the graves and bodies, but in training law enforcement in outdoor forensics. Why the book was not given a more accurate title is a mystery to me.

It was all quite interesting, some of the cold-case murders they solved particularly, but it is not really a book about forensics at all.
