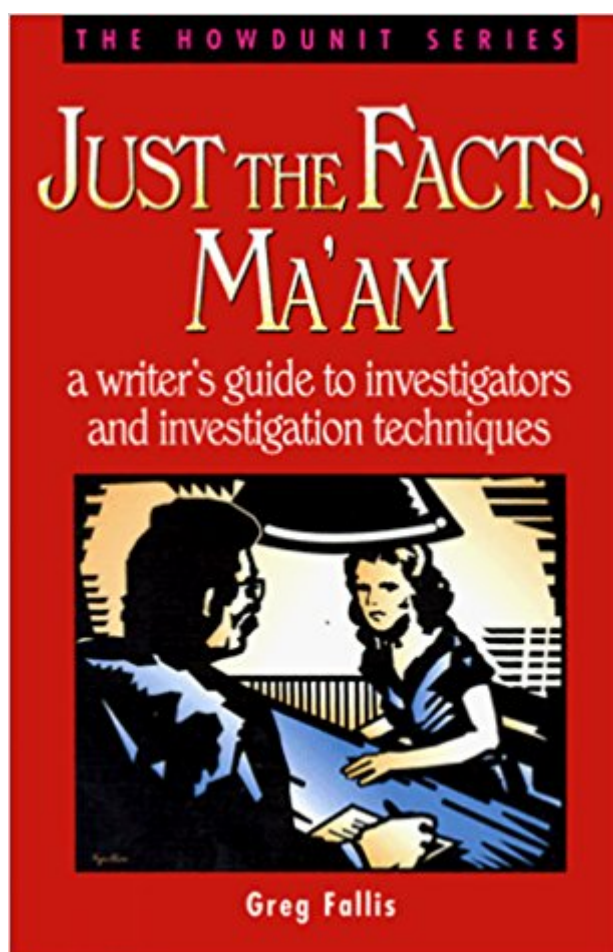




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# Just The Facts, Ma'am: A Writer's Guide To Investigators And Investigation Techniques (Howdunit)



## Synopsis

With practical information and extensive detail, former PI Fallis uses real-life scenarios to show writers how investigative professionals gather evidence, interview witnesses, determine motives and find the answers they seek.'

## Book Information

Series: Howdunit

Paperback: 208 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #290,392 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Writing #543 in Books > Textbooks > Reference > Writing Skills #572 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Journalism & Nonfiction

## Customer Reviews

This series of books is superb for mystery/thriller/crime writers. I recommend all of them wholeheartedly. Even after two decades, it sustains - all the series lacks is a real handle on the Internet in crime fighting and crime noveling, but that's understandable ... wish WD would update these books - i'd buy them all over again.

This book is a great base for anyone who thinking about writing or starting in the field of law, it makes you think of what should have been asked

Looks interesting.

The book reminds me of a recruiting tool for the police academy at Podunk Community College. And it's just the thing for someone who has zero experience with law enforcement and investigations. But the scope of the book is superficial. Plus you never get a sense of what detective work is really like. Many of the detectives I've worked with make major boo-boos, lie, get killed

because of their screw-ups, and are stupid. Around here it's not unusual at all for killer's to walk because of detective malpractice. they lie to get search warrants, then lie in court. And they get caught. I recall one incident I was involved in where the cops were a lot more interested in busting a cop, who defended himself against a violent criminal (I witnessed the whole show), than in arresting the criminal for attacking the cop...escaping...and making a false police report about someone else (why we were at her house). The Internal Affairs guys acted depressed and annoyed when I verified what really happened. So I was wanting to know more of how this happens when cops are supposed to be professionals. But Fallis ignores the subject as if it doesn't exist. You learn nothing about Political Correctness and the BS and the behind-the-scene strong-arm stuff that goes on within police departments. But the book is terrific if you're 18, have stars in your eyes, and wannabe a detective.

Not exactly what I expected. I guess I misread the title as I was looking for a book on tips and pointers on law enforcement investigating, not on how to write stories about law enforcement investigations.

Whether you're just THINKING about writing detective fiction or have some writing and/or investigative experience under your belt, you stand to benefit from reading this book. An informative and often entertaining read, it proves a welcome departure from the condescending, pompous approach taken by some writing guides (and writers!). Its down-to-earth, comprehensive coverage makes it a reassuring presence on your bookshelf.

Just the Facts Ma'am is filled with useful information. It goes through the qualities of an investigator, and the skills needed to become one. There is so much in this book, it is nearly impossible to describe it all to you...you'll just have to read it yourself! Some very interesting sections of this book include: crime scene investigation, 21 points to follow in a death scene investigation, common police mistakes, how to collect evidence, interviewing and interrogation, and my favorite section of the book is surveillance. Just the Facts Ma'am also covers such issues as the dangers of investigations, and specific case studies as examples of previous investigations. I'm really impressed with this book so I'll have to give it 4th place in my "Favorites in the Howdunit Series". It is absolutely a necessity to all crime writers. The whole Howdunit Series is definitely worth the bookshelf space!

This book is an excellent resource for writers who want to imbue their stories with the authentic

details of unnatural death but don't really have all the tools and training of a full-time medical examiner or police investigator. Maybe the life of a real cop isn't as exciting as portrayed on TV, but neither is it as shallow. In my case, as a crime author, the text was an invaluable reference, putting some highly technical material into easily digested context. Recommended for writers of all kinds who need a good reference work on the myriad ways to die.

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