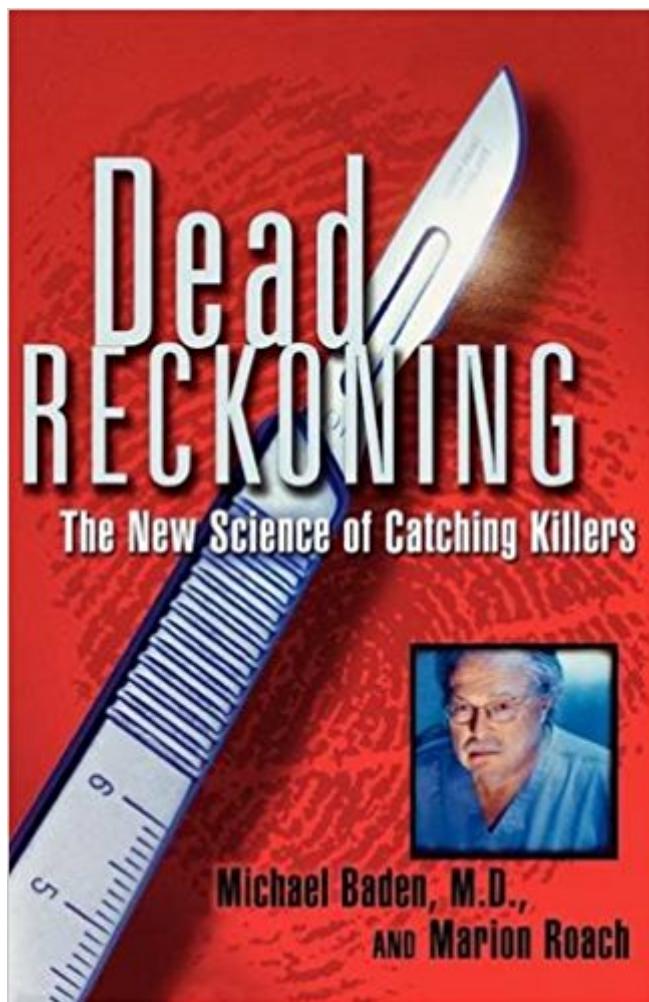


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# Dead Reckoning: The New Science Of Catching Killers



## **Synopsis**

For most people, the forensic sciences are something reported on the news when a crime is solved through DNA evidence, or used as a plot twist for television shows. But behind the crime-scene tape and the doors of the morgue is a world never seen by the public. Now famed pathologist and medical examiner Dr. Michael Baden and award-winning writer Marion Roach take readers into the laboratory, above the autopsy table, onto the witness stand and out in the field to show how advances in forensic science can solve crucial questions in a criminal case, often with startling accuracy. Baden and Roach reveal how a key clue to the killer of Nicole Brown Simpson was lost when her body was moved to the morgue, and why the JonBenet Ramsey case can never be solved. They show how no clue is too small to be analyzed and no case too old to be reopened. Full of behind-the-scenes drama and surprising revelations, *Dead Reckoning* is a fascinating look at how forensic science is changing the way we convict the guilty and free the innocent.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Baden, a leading forensic pathologist and host of HBO's *Autopsy*, and Roach (Another Name for Madness) are a dynamic pair, delving into delightfully creepy material that can potentially bring murderers to justice or free an innocent on death row. Baden is a methodical and ethical medical examiner and consummate scientist. Every page reveals another aspect of the forensic sciences, leading the reader into the Cimmerian world of autopsies, murder scenes, blood-splatter analysis, the life cycles of blowflies in carrion, DNA fingerprinting and the methods for identifying unknown

victims by their skulls, teeth and bones. The authors also touch upon the obscure yet fruitful fields of forensic botany and climatology. The material is exhaustive, yet the journey is never less than fascinating. For the reader (with a strong stomach) interested in the juncture of crime, law and science, this book is chock-full of practical information about death by unnatural means. The account is replete with a cast of weird, amiable characters, historical insights (where else this year will readers learn that Paul Revere took the first step in forensic odontology?), and reverence for the scientific study of the dead. Baden and Roach invite the outsider into the laboratory with a gripping sense of immediacy, and conversely, they bring the usually hidden forensic sciences into the light of day. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School-Forensic science is a fascinating and complex subject. Baden and Roach simplify the details but retain the interesting aspects and serve up exciting and illuminating cases culled from Baden's extensive background as former Chief Medical Examiner for New York City. His curriculum vitae includes a stint as the chief forensic pathologist for the Congressional Select Committee on Assassinations investigations into the deaths of JFK and Martin Luther King, Jr. Readers follow along during an autopsy, learn about bloodstain pattern analysis, discover the importance of insect analysis performed on corpses, and are introduced to the methods used to reconstruct faces from skeletons. All the information is presented in an easy-to-understand format, with plenty of grizzly detail. The crime-scene gaffs that derailed the O. J. Simpson trial, how DNA evidence has established the innocence of some wrongfully imprisoned prisoners, and the tests that determined the cause of Princess Diana's fatal accident are also addressed. Black-and-white photos add interest. Those who are interested in crime, criminal sciences, or just intrigued by science in general will find it difficult to put down this well-written and authoritative book. Carol DeAngelo, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA  
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Having already read this book, I knew it was a GREAT book (really interesting) and that it would be the perfect gift for a granddaughter who will begin a forensics course in Tennessee next fall. She was delighted. Having already read this book, I knew it was a really fascinating read. So the copy I just bought was for a granddaughter who will begin forensics courses in Tennessee next fall. She was delighted.

I am an avid reader and found that this book is a bit boring. When the authors start off a chapter with good intriguing information, it's great! It's almost like a roller coaster ride. Ups and downs in this book. Over all, good information.

I was a huge fan of Dr. Baden's HBO series on crime and forensic pathology, so it was with eager anticipation I waited for this book. Once I received and read it I was dumbfounded. The chapters contain very little that is interesting, or better yet, entertaining. Overall, many, many references and indictments of the poor job done by the LAPD in the OJ trial! It's everywhere in the book!!! Over and over he harps on it. Not much more to this book than a soapbox for him to complain about OJ, and bland stories of other experts in the field.

People contrive some very peculiar ways to die, and Dr. Baden, who was once the chief medical examiner of New York City seems to have seen or heard of them all. For instance, there was the airline pilot who stripped down and chained himself to a moving--well, I don't want to spoil the story for you. But if you have a mordant sense of humor, try attending a convention of pathologists and forensic scientists--especially if Dr. Baden is scheduled to speak. They usually meet near Reno and book Wayne Newton in to entertain them.(I don't know why medical examiners are so endeared with Wayne Newton. This might be one of those deep philosophical conundrums that ordinary mortals should not speculate upon lest they go blind). Did you know that it is possible to special-order a pair of diamond-studded handcuffs? This is just one of the fascinating tidbits that Dr. Baden and Marion Roach share with us in "Dead Reckoning." This book is more of an overview of modern forensic pathology than was their previous volume, "Unnatural Death," which was primarily a series of Dr. Baden's criminal cases. In "Dead Reckoning" we are introduced to other famous (in their own circle, at least) forensic scientists such as the bug man, Dr. Neal Haskell (his specialty is my least favorite part of crime solving) and Dr. Henry Lee, the American 'Sherlock Holmes' whose Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory was involved in the infamous 'wood chipper' case (there was a very thorough murderer, indeed). The authors also illuminate criminal cases where Dr. Baden had no direct involvement, such as the O.J. Simpson murder trial. It was shocking to learn how badly the crime scene was handled in this particular case. "Dead Reckoning" is a must-read for true crime buffs. It also helps to have a peculiar sense of humor.

interesting, well written..helped me understand forensic medicine...was easy to read and written in a language that was understandable.....

This book, clearly and in laymens terms, describes the world of the forensic pathologist. Dr. Baden takes us behinds the scenes of his every day world to inform, educate, and enlighten us as to the latest forensic techniques. Its an extremely difficult task to discuss complex scientific methods to the non-scientist. However, Dr. Baden fully succeeds in this task. I highly recommend this book to anyone with even a passing interest in the world of forensic science

On this subject, a fine text. Found some of the time it was a bit deep for this amateur but I really liked getting to know Dr. Baden which I think the book did. sorry that a previous reviewer saw this as a deficit - I liked this book, if you are new to the subject I think you will like it and if you are not I am sure you will be impressed. Kept me going and made me aware of so much in this newer science that TV shows etc. just can't quite do.

The book meets all of my standards for 5 stars: Interesting subject, spell-binding story, and well-written. Plus Baden includes comments about the dummies who work as cops, attorneys, judges, medicos, and technicians. These people make life difficult for the real stars: competent cops, attorneys, judges, etc. I especially like how Baden walks you through what he does, commenting on the professional arcana of his craft. Any professional who fails to talk about his tools is suspect, in my book. This book will serve you well if you're writing about true crime.

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