



Eyewitness Testimony: Civil And Criminal

Elizabeth F. Loftus , James M. Doyle

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As pertinent today as when it was first published more than a decade ago, this engaging and highly praised study makes the psychological case against the reliability of the eyewitness. By shedding light on the many factors that can intervene and create inaccurate testimony, Elizabeth Loftus illustrates how memory can be radically altered by the way an eyewitness is questioned, and how new memories can be implanted and old ones altered in subtle ways. She thus calls into question today's widely held assumption of eyewitness authority over the details of a crime or other events. "Eyewitness Testimony" provides a sobering counterpoint to today's theatrical reliance on eyewitness accounts in the media, and should be required reading for trial lawyers, psychologists, jurors, and anyone who considers the chilling prospect of confronting an eyewitness accusation in a court of law.

Eyewitness Testimony: Civil And Criminal Details

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From Reader Review Eyewitness Testimony: Civil And Criminal for online ebook

Kim says

Fascinating - something every trial attorney would find fascinating

Jessi says

I read this book when I was in college for a class and was amazed at how the mind see what it wants to see and everyones perception of 1 event varies.

Katherine says

This book took me a while to get through for a couple of reasons. One, it's a fairly dry read. Not hard to read, by any means, but very much "here's the research, here's what we've found to be the case". There are some real cases included that make it less dry, but this is not a breezy summer read. Second, much of the information in this book is not new to me. Having read other stuff about memory and the foibles of eyewitnesses, I was aware of a lot of what was discussed. It was very interesting to see how the actual experiments were performed and see the actual results, but nothing was terribly surprising for me. Finally, this book is a bit out-dated, having been written in the late seventies. It is interesting that, as far as I'm aware, a lot of the results discussed in the book have gone on to be further confirmed in the intervening years. But some of the references are pretty dated, and you never really forget that you're reading information from the seventies.

That being said, I think this is a great book, and an important one for people to read. Especially with the thought that any of us could end up on a jury and have to decide the fate of a person, possibly with eyewitness testimony. People who are absolutely certain that eyewitnesses are the pinnacle of proof against criminals definitely need to be exposed to this information. If there's an updated version of this, I'd probably recommend it over this version, but either way, it's worth a read.

Caitlyn says

Loftus is easily the most prominent name in eyewitness testimony, and for good reason. Her experiments are innovative for both psychology and criminal law.

Courtney says

The psychology of eyewitness testimony; discussion of its unreliability.

Aveugle Vogel says

"a garden store or a bowling alley"

Jonathan Hays says

Elizabeth Loftus is a memory researcher. She presents a lot of excellent information about eyewitness testimony in this book including eyewitness identification of suspects, which is related to memory issue. The three main categories of consideration when it comes to memory are the original perception of an event and its storage, the retention period, and the retrieval of events from memories. Suffice it to say that there are so many pitfalls at each of these stages that using eyewitness testimony as the sole evidence to convict someone should be against the law. The writing is a bit on the dry side (Dr. Loftus is a scientist, not a journalist or novelist) but it is fascinating if you are interested in this subject.
