M. Lee Goff

A fly for the prosecution

How insect evidence helps solve crimes

"The perfect gift for the hard-core crime fiction addict."

—Seattle Times/Post-Intelligencer
Using actual cases on which he has consulted, forensic entomologist Lee Goff shows how knowledge of insects and their habits can provide crucial evidence about crimes. Even when a decaying body has been reduced to a skeleton, insect evidence can often provide the only available estimate of the post-mortem interval, or time elapsed since death, as well as clues to whether the body has been moved from the original crime scene, and whether drugs have contributed to the death. An experienced forensic investigator who regularly advises law enforcement agencies in the United States and abroad, Goff is uniquely qualified to tell the fascinating if unsettling story of the development and practice of forensic entomology.

"Irresistible...Goff [is] a marvelously vivid and clear explainer of his science...[His] tales can be riveting."
—Atul Gawande, New York Times Book Review

"Goff takes you into the world of the forensic entomologists: the intrepid band of insect experts around the world who turn their intimate knowledge of creepy crawlers to the service of police work...A fascinating read...Goff seems like just the sort of gifted storyteller you'd want to have a drink with, but, perhaps, not dinner."
—John Schwartz, Washington Post Book World

"[Forensic entomology] requires a rare combination of qualities—among them, a deep knowledge of insect life cycles, a knack for deductive reasoning, and a strong stomach. Goff has them all."
—Laurence A. Marschall, The Sciences

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