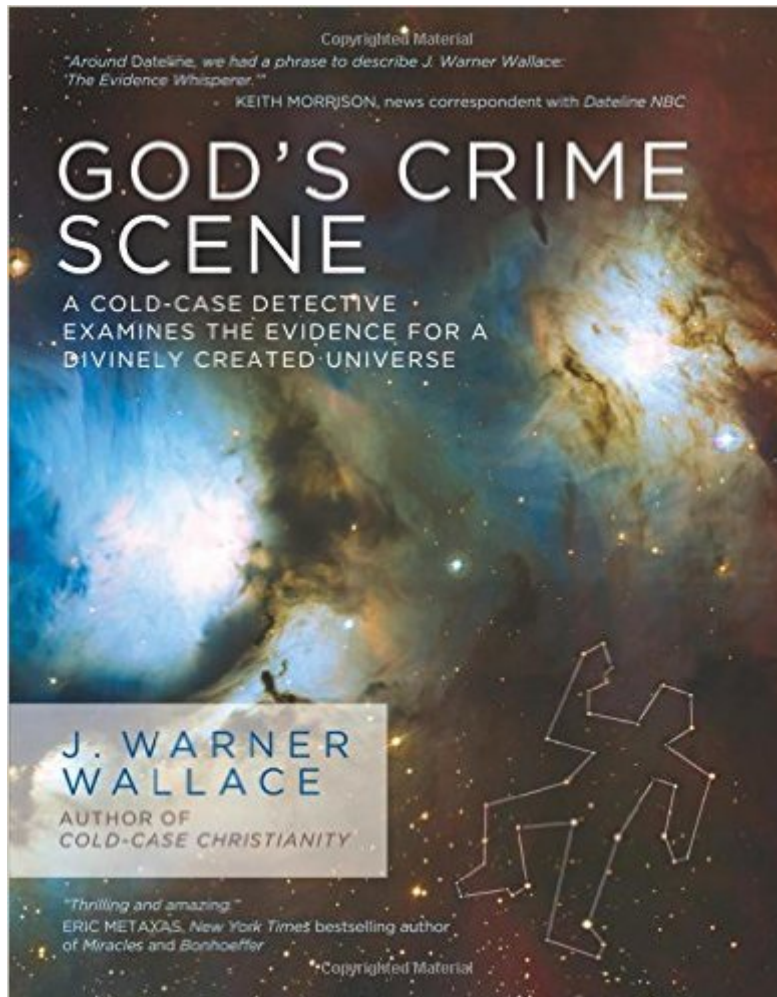


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God's Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines The Evidence For A Divinely Created Universe



Synopsis

There are four ways to die, and only one of them requires an intruder. Suicides, accidental, and natural deaths can occur without any evidence from outside the room. But murders typically involve suspects external to the crime scene. If there's evidence of an outside intruder, homicide detectives have to prepare for a chase. Intruders turn death scenes into crime scenes. Join J. Warner Wallace, former atheist, seasoned cold-case detective, and popular national speaker as he tackles his most important case ... with you on the jury! With the expertise of a cold-case detective, J. Warner examines eight critical pieces of evidence in the "crime scene" of the universe to determine if they point to a Divine Intruder. If you have ever wondered if something (or someone) outside the natural realm created the universe and everything in it, this is the case for you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's about 2 a.m. on an August morning in 1979. A beautiful young nurse by the name of Lynne Knight is living in a bungalow behind a larger house in Torrance, California. As two police officers approach her door, they notice a chair overturned in the entryway and bloody footsteps leading back to the rear bedroom. Each officer has his gun drawn, not sure what to expect. When they switch on the light, they witness the worst murder scene of their careers. Ms. Knight is lying on her bed, undressed. Her throat is deeply severed, and her lifeless body, which had been stabbed repeatedly, is covered in blood. Under her body is 18 inches of twisted wire strung between two small pieces of wood that had been sawed off from an old broomstick. Although they've never seen one in person before, the officers immediately know it's a garrote—a homemade weapon

used to strangle someone in order to commit a murder quietly. The killer tried to murder Lynne with the garrote, but couldn't complete the evil act because she fought back. So the killer stabbed her to death and left the garrote behind in a panic. Could the garrote lead the cops to this monster? Not soon enough. For nearly three decades the case went cold until cold case homicide detectives J. Warner Wallace and Rick Glass got involved in 2007. They dusted off the evidence left in a box at the Torrance PD, and Wallace made it his personal mission to analyze every aspect of the garrote. It turned out to be the key to the murder trial that took place last summer in the same LA courtroom where O.J. Simpson was tried. And there was a familiar face in this trial. The defendant, Doug Bradford, hired O.J. lawyer Robert Shapiro to be his defense attorney.

J. Warner Wallace is a homicide detective and the author of *Cold Case Christianity*, one of my favorite introductory apologetics books (see my review). He recently came out with his second apologetics book, *God's Crime Scene*. The former work focuses on the evidence for the resurrection and the reliability of the New Testament. In *God's Crime Scene*, Wallace makes a convincing case presenting evidence for the existence of God. The first question I think readers will ask is: "What separates this introductory apologetics book from the pack?" That's a valid question. There really are a rather large number of intro-to-apologetics books on the market now (thank goodness!). *God's Crime Scene* is different from the rest in that it makes real-world examples central to the case that is made therein. That is, Wallace uses examples of crime scenes that he has experienced throughout the book (sans much of the gory details) to set the stage for each exploration of a different argument for the existence of God. The way this works is simple: each chapter begins with a story that reads much like a mystery novel. Then, Wallace asks a question like "How might we figure out the evidence inside the room with the victim?" After he presents an answer to that question, he shows how similar evidence inside our own "room" (the universe) points to a being outside the room (aka a transcendent being) as the explanation. This makes the book eminently readable while also being almost immediately applicable. The arguments that Wallace surveys are the cosmological argument, the fine-tuning argument, an argument from the origin of life, a biological design argument, the argument from consciousness, the argument from free will, and the moral argument.

I consider J. Warner Wallace a friend of mine and I was pleased to see he wrote a new book. Upfront, I'll say scientific apologetics for the most part I don't really find very interesting. I find science items quite interesting at times and I find I have questions raised when I read things about

science for both sides of the atheism/theism debate, but for the most part, I just don't get convinced. I also have a concern that we live in a scientism culture and if we marry everything to science, what will happen when the science changes? Hence, I prefer to go with metaphysics that has lasted through the years to demonstrate theism, but let's talk about Jim's book. Jim's book is written in an attractive format and for the most part it's easy to follow. While it has a lot of pages, many of these also have illustrations so the book is not as large as it first appears. It's written in a good chronological format that will help the reader go step by step. I suspect if one had just one issue in mind, that each chapter could be read in a stand-alone fashion. Wallace also does not ignore the opposition and he does cite the people who disagree with him and includes them as expert witnesses. Yet one of the best aspects is that each chapter starts with a story that will draw the reader in. Many of us love mysteries. I know I do. I have been disappointed for instance to find that the Monk mystery series has apparently come to an end. Wallace begins each chapter talking about a crime case that he's covered and uses that to explain the data. It's a wonderful illustration, although be warned that there are some crime scenes that you don't want to hear the description of. Some will also just break your heart especially, like hearing about the deaths of children to violent crime.

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