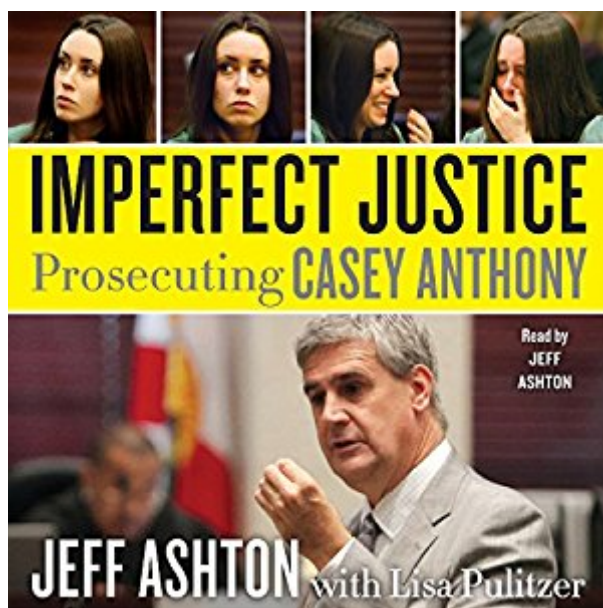


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Imperfect Justice: Prosecuting Casey Anthony



Synopsis

Filled with explosive new information, this is the definitive inside story of the case that captivated the nation and the verdict that no one saw coming.... It was the trial that stunned America, the verdict that shocked us all. On July 5, 2011, nearly three years after her initial arrest, Casey Anthony walked away, virtually scot-free, from one of the most sensational murder trials of all time. She'd been accused of killing her daughter, Caylee, but the trial only left behind more questions: Was she actually innocent? What really happened to Caylee? Was this what justice really looked like? In *Imperfect Justice*, prosecutor Jeff Ashton, one of the principal players in the case's drama, sheds light on those questions and much more, telling the behind-the-scenes story of the investigation, the trial, and the now-infamous verdict. Providing an inside account of the case, Ashton, a career prosecutor for the state of Florida, goes where the press and pundits have only speculated, detailing what really happened during the investigation, showing how the prosecution built their case, and explaining how a woman so shrouded in suspicion was proclaimed innocent. Moving beyond the simple explanations, Ashton offers an in-depth look at the complex figure of Casey Anthony, a woman whose lies he spent three years trying to understand. And yet this focus on Casey came with its own risks; here he details how this widespread fixation on Casey - both in the media and in the trial - may have undermined the case itself. As everyone got caught up in the quest to understand the supposed villain, somehow the victim, Caylee, was all but forgotten - not just to the public, but more important, to the jury. Complete with never-before-revealed information about the case and the accused, Ashton examines what the prosecution got right, what they got wrong, and why he remains completely convinced of Casey Anthony's guilt.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a simple case of jury nullification which allowed a murderer to go free, but the bigger issue was the fact that the prosecution over reached in not only trying to make it a first degree murder charge but additionally a capital case. Had they charged her with 2nd degree murder I think they get a conviction by claiming that even if one were to concede the death might have been accidental it was still a murder that went unreported for 31 days.

Reading the book was difficult because it made one almost live through the whole sordid mystery again. Writing this book was probably a cathartic exercise for Jeff Ashton--now he can get on with his life. The prosecution team definitely presented and should have won their well-laid-out case, so why did the verdict go so wrong? The jury was incapable of separating fiction from non-fiction and did not appropriately follow through with their assigned tasks; otherwise they would have found Casey Anthony guilty of something besides lying to the police--they certainly had enough choices to put her in prison where she belongs. My conclusion is that the placement of the table where the defense team and Casey Anthony sat was unusual. Throughout the whole trial they faced the jury; the jury watched Casey Anthony the whole time and became completely mesmerized by her. The prosecution team and Judge Perry should never have allowed this seating arrangement in the courtroom. When it came time for the appropriate review by the jury to reach the verdict, they were not smart enough to use common sense or to intelligently evaluate the evidence that was given by the prosecution and separate the truth from the entirely fictional case presented by Jose Baez. Why did so many people become completely enthralled in this case? Because, as it unfolded, the mystery of what happened to the little girl was surrounded by lie after lie after lie and the public hoping to finally get to the truthful answers--which never came from Casey Anthony or her smarmy, slimey defense team lawyer. There were also many "if only" situations throughout--if only Cindy Anthony had not been in such deep denial and had admitted the truth; if only George Anthony had stood up more forcefully to his daughter and wife; if only Roy Kronk had been successful in August in forcing the police to investigate the remains he saw in the swamp; if only Casey Anthony had not continued to tell such whopping lies. The truth did not set Casey Anthony free, but the lies did. Caylee Anthony is free from possibly becoming just like or maybe even worse than her mother. Caylee is the only member of that family who is now and forevermore at peace.

Presented by the prosecuting attorney in decent prose, not inflammatory, reasonably calm, a blow by blow account of everyone's testimony, depositions, investigations.....if you are a fan of True Crimes or pyramid power, probably not for you. Why did this woman kill her child? Because she is a sociopath. Don't believe this cute little cheerleader type is Hannibal Lector in a skirt? Then try "The believing brain" or "Why people believe weird stuff?". Better, read "The sociopath next door" and spend a week working in animal rescue. Why the "not guilty" verdict? Because people usually cannot reason logically and don't understand that beyond a reasonable doubt does NOT mean absolutely has to have happened this way. Jurors should have to take a basic test in logic. And if you don't like what I have said, then go for another book on the subject -- like Caylee was the love child from Saturn and continues to exist and explore the galaxy. If there is one. Because you will not be swayed by the evidence presented here. Your emotions will not allow your brain to believe, just as the jurors did not believe. And you will feel cheated. For my part if I ever see this woman up close and personal I will turn and run as fast as I can. IN ANY OTHER DIRECTION.

I was hooked on the case the first time I saw Cindy Anthony on Nancy Grace pleading for "information" about her missing granddaughter. From Nancy Grace's daily updates through the verdict I found it inconceivable that anyone other than Casey was involved in Caylee's death. My lawyer husband insisted from the get-go that there was not enough evidence for a conviction. Even now I still can't believe the truth about Caylee has never been revealed. Whatever shortcomings Jeff Ashton may have, his passion and commitment to finding justice for Caylee comes through in this book. It's a perfect, concise account of "Imperfect Justice."

Mr. Ashton, who last year was elected Orange county prosecutor, wrote an excellent recounting of the case that this retired lawyer enjoyed reading. It's too bad that the jury was not savvy enough to understand what inference (in regard to formaldehyde) is because Ms. Anthony should have been found guilty of first degree murder. She researched it on her computer - her mother tried to cover for her but was caught in a lie because she was at work when the computer search was done - and her mother smelled its odor when she opened the trunk of the car. There was no other rational conclusion (of who did it) from the testimony and the evidence that the jury could have reached. Mr. Baez's theory in his closing argument that the child drowned was so bizarre. Sure, Jose, that's the way we treat drowned children in our society, by placing duct tape over their mouth, stuffing them in a plastic garbage bag, and throwing them in a swamp off the side of a road.

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