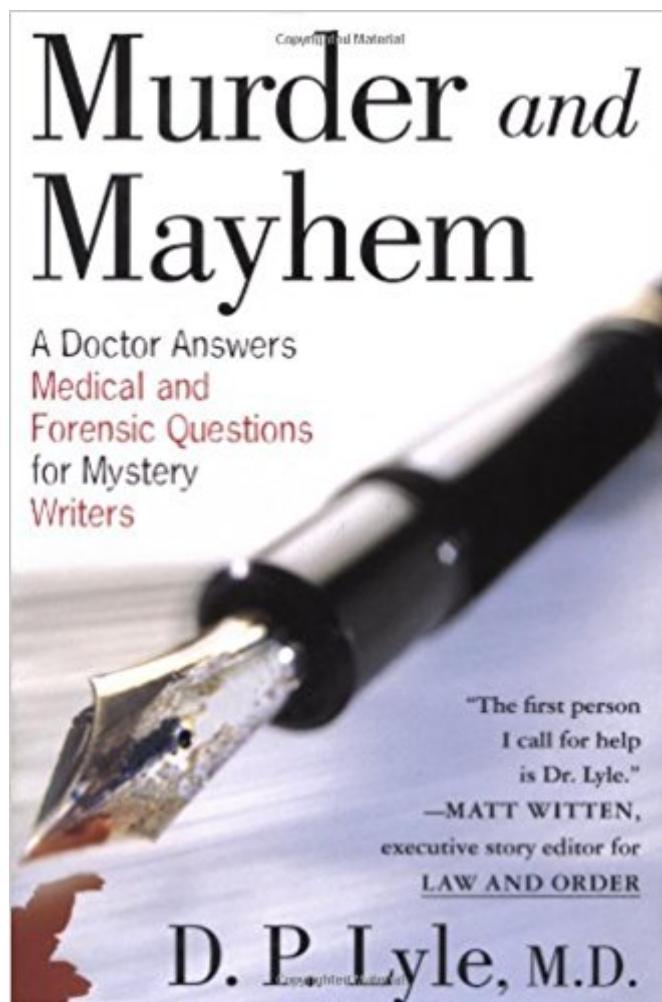


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# Murder And Mayhem: A Doctor Answers Medical And Forensic Questions For Mystery Writers



## Synopsis

In *Murder and Mayhem: A Doctor Answers Medical and Forensic Questions for Mystery Writers*, Dr. D. P. Lyle culls the best of his popular "The Doctor Is In" question-and-answer column for the Mystery Writers of America, in which he answers medical and forensic questions from writers all over the country. A frequent advisor to published mystery writers, as well as writers for TV shows such as *Law and Order*, Dr. Lyle tackles subjects such as traumatic injuries, doctors and hospitals, weapons of death, poisons and drugs, police and the crime scene, the coroner and the crime lab, and more. In extremely organized and accessible detail, he answers questions spanning a wide range: Do pupils shrink or enlarge with death? Can X rays be copied? Can ingested cocaine kill? How soon do strangulation bruises appear? Lively and accessible, this solid reference book is bound for every mystery writer's shelf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an enormously entertaining collection of the best of Lyle's columns for the Mystery Writers of America newsletter, in which the doctor provides detailed and informative answers to questions regarding various aspects of medicine and forensics. Aspiring and experienced mystery writers will achieve verisimilitude, as well as the suspended disbelief of their audiences, by applying Lyle's insights, which he divides into three helpful sections: "Doctors, Hospitals, Illnesses, and Injuries

"Lyle offers straightforward medical information, bound to be snapped up by savvy mystery writers everywhere."--Rocky Mountain News, 1/24/03 "[Lyle] takes a matter-of-fact approach to some very

grisly questions."--St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/22/03"This surprisingly funny book is for writers, readers, or anyone fascinated by medical or forensic details....The medical information is well researched yet simple enough to understand."--Library Journal, 1/1/03"An essential reference work for the fiction writer: informative and fun. I can't imagine my bookshelf without it."--Taylor Smith, author of *Deadly Grace* and *The Innocents Club*"Dr. Lyle has an unerring ability to diagnose what it is writers need to know in answer to their questions about forensic medicine. His fascinating replies to questions writers have posed to him are precise and clearly stated, so that while he'll provide the medical terms you want, he'll also give the definitions you need."--Jan Burke, author of *Bones*, *Flight*, *Hocus*, and *Liar*"An invaluable source for writers who want to get it right and for readers fascinated with the mysteries of the human body. Dr. Lyle's explanations are accurate, clear, entertaining, and thorough, and you'll wonder how you managed without him."--Rochelle Krich, national bestselling author of the Jessie Drake series"This book is at once wise, informative, funny, factually reliable, and accessible."--Barbara Seranella, author of the Munch Mancini crime novels"In my samurai novels I usually have people dispatched by lopping their heads off with a sword. For more difficult medical-related problems, Dr. Lyle's responses are always outstanding. They're lucid, succinct, and provide the information a writer needs. What a tremendous resource Dr. Lyle is!"--Dale Furutani, award-winning author of the *Samurai Mystery Trilogy*"Whenever I have a new 'Law & Order' episode to write, the first person I call for help is Dr. Lyle. He has an amazing ability to explain complex forensics in simple laypersons' terms. He thinks like a writer and gives you exactly the information that a writer will need. This book is a terrific resource."--Matt Witten, executive story editor for *Law & Order* and author of the Jacob Burns mystery novels"It's three o'clock in the morning, you're hard at work on your mystery screenplay, and all that's missing is the essential medical clue to solve the murder...who ya gonna call? Dr. Lyle is the go-to-guy for writers looking for the perfect piece of medical knowledge, filling the blanks that imagination alone simply can't."--Lee Goldberg, executive producer for *Diagnosis Murder* and *Martial Law*, and author of *Writing For Television*"Edifying and ghoulishly entertaining." (Raleigh News & Observer)"A treasure trove of medical and forensic information . . . A must for every mystery writer's bookshelf." (Rhys Bowen *Cozies, Capers, and Crimes*)

I picked up a copy of this book from the local library to use for a story I was working on. The information contained in this book can be a great resource for a writer. It was such a good find that I immediately hopped onto to get a copy of my own. So you thought it was a novel? Not really but I can well imagine it has been used in many novels. If you want to use precise medical descriptions of

wounds and illnesses for characters in your novels then this is the resource for you. The author goes into detail about injuries and describes not only what happens when a person is injured or attacked but describes, in detail, what else happens in the body at the same time. Highly recommended for writers!

Engaging and informative. I write crime mysteries for my own amusement and it is wonderful to have an authoritative source to be able to get the facts right. I think it would be interesting to anyone who enjoys crime shows, regardless of writing.

's questions do not match this book because it isn't fiction. Anyway, I like all of Lyle's books of this style. I have them all and they are fascinating and very helpful for writing mysteries.

All of D. P. Lyle's books are fabulous resources for writers wanting forensics and medical tech accuracy to their plots. Definitely recommend!!

A wonderful resource for all writers, not just mystery writers. I have read this book through, and then gone back and looked again at certain questions that help my own writing. I love this book.

Awesome book. Tons of good reference material. I only questioned one item. The author mentioned 8 cervical vertebra. Humans only have 7. But, I'll cut slack because there are 8 spaces related to the 7 vertebra.

It's three am, you're hard at work on your mystery screenplay, and all that's missing is the essential medical clue to solve the murder. Who ya gonna call? Dr. Lyle is the go-to guy for writers looking for the perfect piece of medical knowledge, fillin the blanks that imagination alone simply can't. Even if you aren't a writer, the book is probably the best bathroom reading ever -- endlessly entertaining, witty, and informative. Buy this book!

Excellent, useful reference.

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