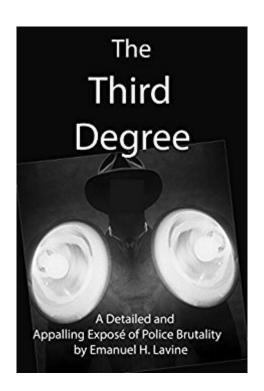
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The Third Degree: A Detailed And Appalling Exposé Of Police Brutality





Synopsis

Sometimes The Third Degree reads like a Dashiell Hammett story, sometimes it has the voice of Joe Friday in â œDragnetâ • and it is always true crime through and through. There is much more to the book than the third degree as weâ ™ve become accustomed to thinking of it in film noir.

Emanuel H. Lavine considered it in the context of all corruption in the criminal justice system, from traffic tickets to prison, from the beat cop to the courthouse. He knew his subject well and should have since he was crime beat reporter for 25 years when reporters could walk around jails almost as freely as the officers. It was not uncommon for reporters to take pictures of suspects and inmates in their cells, and reporters would do investigative work that could break the case. If nothing else, the use of hard-boiled slang during the 1920s is worth the price of admission. Then there is the historical context. It is hard to believe this was how the police operated almost one hundred years ago. And yet, in light of "Making a Murderer" there is a surprising amount that could be in the headlines today, not to mention the same problems and the same debates over those problems.

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