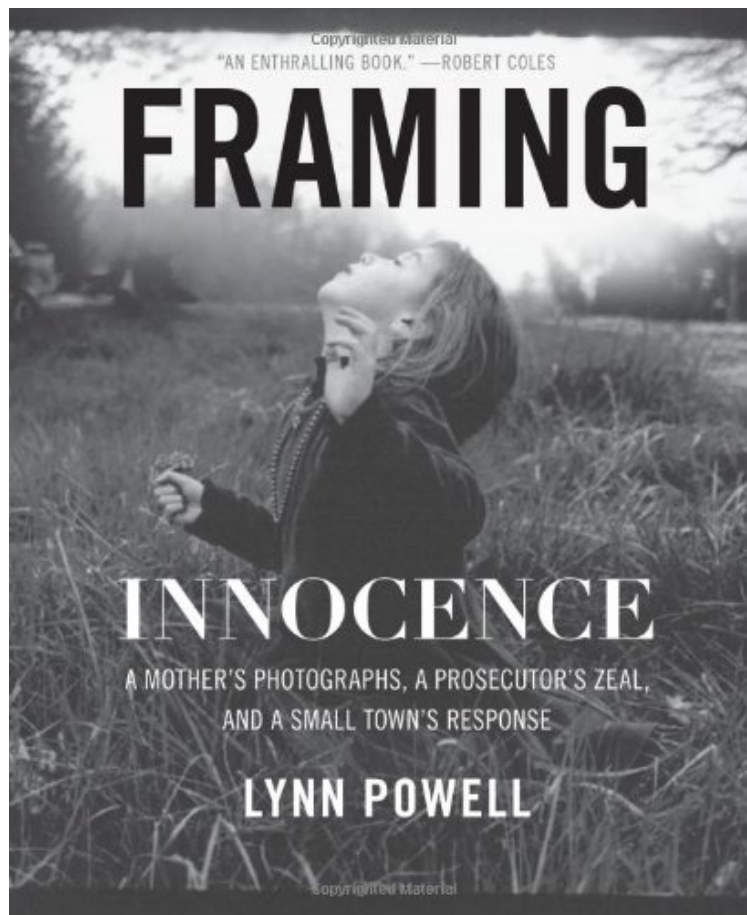


(Mobile book) Framing Innocence: A Mother's Photographs, a Prosecutor's Zeal, and a Small Town's Response

Framing Innocence: A Mother's Photographs, a Prosecutor's Zeal, and a Small Town's Response

Lynn Powell

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Lynn Powell : Framing Innocence: A Mother's Photographs, a Prosecutor's Zeal, and a Small Town's Response before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Framing Innocence: A Mother's Photographs, a Prosecutor's Zeal, and a Small Town's Response:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Full Access View into the Struggle of an Accused MotherBy William LinsenmeyerIn depth coverage of a small town witch hunt of a mother accused of taking pornographic photographs of her daughter. The author has a personal connection to the accused mother and this allows the reader a full access to the plight and struggle of the family at the center of the prosecutors crosshairs.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This could have been you or I!By D_shrinkThis is a rather simple story of an over-zealous county prosecutor versus an aging 50 year old hippie at the time of the story in 1999. It basically was a clash of cultures. It pitted the Oberlin College community which is liberal for even most of California, let alone Ohio, and the

prosecutor who represented all of Lorain County and its county seat Elyria, which is generally considered to be conservative. The story begins when the mother Cynthia Stewart, an amateur photographer dropped off eleven rolls of what she considered to be innocuous pictures of family and surroundings. Ten rolls were developed and returned by the drug store immediately while she kept getting the run-around on one roll. It turns out that an employee at the processing lab, Fuji Films in Mansfield, Ohio found several pictures of a little girl showering with the portable shower head pointed towards her private areas to be very disturbing and contacted the local police, who contacted the Oberlin police. The rest of the book merely explains the cultural divide between this middle aged hippie and the up-tight conservative prosecutor and the political ramifications that this had in splitting the town of Oberlin from the county of Lorain by forcing locals to pick which side to support. I felt the author did a great job of telling the story even with her bias towards her friend Cynthia. If the book bogged down at all, it was in the numerous pages of direct trial quotes. Having lived in Ohio for over 20 years and being familiar with this geographical local and also having worked forensically with battered and abused women myself, I found the story to be an accurate representation of how the legal system actually works, as opposed to how it should work ideally. After reading this account, it is hard NOT to come down in favor of both the mother and the daughter, who were each traumatized by all the events transpiring over what they both felt were a couple of playful pictures. I read the book in three evenings and honestly found it hard to put down. Kudos to the author on her first book of published prose, with her previous works being poetry; a very nice transition! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read. Only criticism By Douglas R. Henry Excellent read. Only criticism, as a lawyer is that author and editors incorrectly referred to a dispositional hearing as "dispensational".

The story of how innocent photographs taken by a mother of her child became the heart of a wrenching legal battle--an unforgettable book that "restores the truth of a family's life" (Sally Mann, photographer). Ten years ago, amateur photographer and school bus driver Cynthia Stewart dropped off eleven rolls of film at a drugstore near her home in Ohio. The rolls contained photographs of her eight-year-old daughter Nora, including two of the child in the shower--photos that would cause the county prosecutor to arrest Cynthia, take her away in handcuffs, threaten to remove her daughter from her home, and charge her with crimes that carried the possibility of sixteen years in prison. The disturbing case would ultimately attract national attention--including stories in USA Today and on NPR--and supporters including the famed photographer Sally Mann, Katha Pollitt, and the ACLU. Written by poet Lynn Powell, a neighbor of Cynthia Stewart's, this riveting and beautifully told story plumbs the perfect storm of events and people that threatened a loving family in a small American town. Framing Innocence features a determined prosecutor; a fundamentalist Christian anti-porn crusader who is appointed as Cynthia's daughter's guardian; the local attorneys for whom the case would become a crucible; and the many neighbors--friends and strangers, Republican and Democrat--who come together to fight for sanity and for justice for Cynthia and her family.

From Booklist In 1999 Cynthia Stewart, a mother, respected member of the community, and amateur photographer, was arrested and accused of child pornography, based on snapshots she took of her daughter in the shower. The fact that she had no intention of publishing or distributing the photos and had no prior record for this kind of activity did not dissuade the aggressive prosecutor. Powell, who lived in the same community and had a passing acquaintance with Stewart, chronicles in month-by-month detail Stewart's battles to prove her innocence, and keep custody of her daughter. The story that unfolds is a fascinating cautionary tale of a criminal justice system both intent on finding criminals where none may exist and weighted against the poor and the powerless. Especially terrifying is the evidence Powell reveals that other moms, many single mothers, many in middle or lower incomes, have been similarly charged, and, in some cases, convicted for similarly innocent family photos. Powell is a facile writer, and her closeness to the material adds a subjective element to the story that makes it more immediate and compelling. --Jack Helbig "Thoroughly and fairly reported." --The Wall Street Journal A "well-written, absorbing book." --The Cleveland Plain Dealer "Powell is a gifted writer, and her ability to convey the complex characters and emotions . . . raises Framing Innocence above other books of its kind. . . . [An] intelligent, beautifully written book." --Chapter 16, Humanities Tennessee A "gripping true story." --MORE magazine: Great Read, November 2010 "An unsettling story bound to grip readers with its own quest for justice, understanding, and truth." --New York Journal of Books About the Author Lynn Powell is the author of two books of poetry, Old New Testaments and The Zones of Paradise, and has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council.