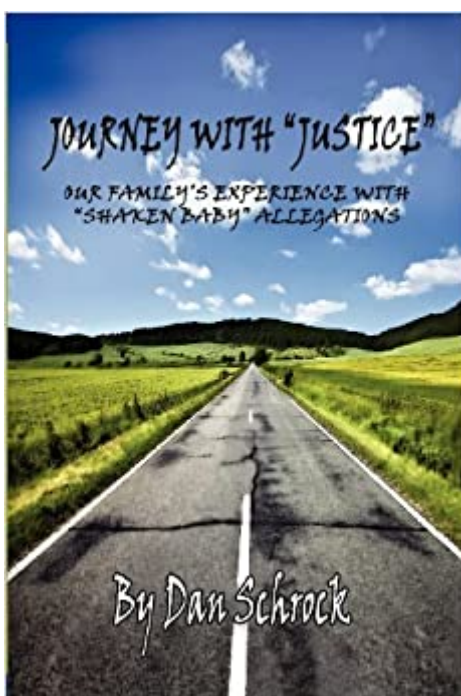


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Journey With "Justice" - Our Family's Experience With "Shaken Baby" Allegations



Synopsis

A young mother awakens early one morning to find her tiny three-month-old premature daughter, Natalia, struggling to breathe and almost rigid. After a call to 911, Natalia is taken by ambulance with her mother to the ER. Almost immediately doctors have brain and bone scans ordered for Natalia. The results of those scans indicate that she is unlikely to live. Mother, father, and extended family are devastated. But the next statement by doctors is almost as unsettling, and even more shocking. They unequivocally diagnose her condition as "shaken baby" abuse. That horrific diagnosis initiates a family journey through the court system that would last for years in search of the truth. This book describes in detail that journey and its impact on the people involved.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dan Schrock was born in Ohio in 1942, raised on a farm, and is a former high school and college counselor, personnel director for a mission agency, and massage therapist. He has a B.S. in Education degree from Goshen College and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois. Dan has been married to Elaine (a school nurse) for 45 years, lived for four years in Kuwait and four years in Egypt, and has traveled to 56 countries. They have one daughter, Barbara, and one living granddaughter, Isabella. Dan is a Mennonite Christian, viewing and living life through that lens.

Journey with `Justice"--One Family's Experience with `Shaken Baby' Allegations by Dan Schrock is a thought-provoking work that raises questions with serious implications in the minds of its readers.

Schrock details his personal "Journey with `Justice'", warning readers, "What passes for `fact' in a courtroom trial may astound you." Schrock's daughter, Barb, awakens to find that her three-month old baby, Natalia, is struggling to breathe. After Barb rushes Natalia to the hospital, she not only receives the devastating news that her baby is unlikely to live, she is also told that her baby's injuries are "non-accidental" and that they are a result of "shaken baby syndrome." She is not allowed to mourn the news of her baby's condition; instead, she is forced to face the possibility of five years to life in prison. The family must embark on a painful search for truth, made nearly impossible by the fabrications and allegations that are made along the way; the police make outrageous statements that the prosecution then later repeats as fact. The evidence used to build the case is shockingly thin, using such "evidence" as "Her demeanor was not accurate" and "Barb had no pictures up of Natalia" to support their attempts to make erroneous charges stick. Schrock values truth and maintains the authenticity of the experience through direct quotes taken from police interviews, trial transcripts, and other official documents, "to keep me from putting my own words into other people's mouths." The words used by the parties involved condemn the justice system, not the mother on trial. Readers will undoubtedly be appalled by the treatment of the Schrock family and the complete disregard for the principles that America was ostensibly founded on. Journey with `Justice' will shock its readers and give them pause for reflection on what "justice" means in America today.

Dan Schrock poses tough questions to his readers in his book Journey with `Justice"--One Family's Experience with `Shaken Baby' Allegations. Schrock wrote the book in an effort to raise some serious questions about how our judicial system operates, how the medical community attempts to elicit black and white "scientific" answers from ambiguous medical situations, and how the justice system and the medical community merge to "wreak unintended `collateral damage' on the families involved." In Journey with "Justice," Schrock details his family's harrowing encounter with the American judicial system after his daughter, Barb, is accused of being responsible for her child's condition. After Barb rushes her baby to the hospital, the doctors deliver two blows: the first devastating blow is that her baby is dying and, without even allowing her to process or mourn that fact, the second blow that it is supposed to be a result of "shaken baby syndrome." Barb quickly finds herself facing serious allegations and in the middle of a legal battle that an innocent person has no chance of fighting, denied the privileges of guilt like plea bargaining. Schrock's insight into how the system presented and accepted erroneous evidence and forced the case to fit their theory, even when it did not fit at all, is troubling. Even when led through the transcripts of trials and official

documents step by step by someone who wants you to understand what happened, it is still nearly impossible as an insurmountable heap of bewildering "evidence" is piled ever higher. One can only imagine how jurors heads must have been swimming during the trial of Schrock's daughter. Journey with "Justice" opens the channels for an important national discourse on the injustice of the justice system. Although it inevitably leaves readers with more questions than answers, it is intended to do just that.

Mr. Schrock took the trouble to transcribe the initial police interviews not only with his daughter but also with his wife, his son-in-law and other family members. His analysis is relentless and flawless, as he brings this knowledge with him through two trials, illustrating how the initial medical reports and the dubious tactics of both the police and the prosecutor tainted the ultimate conviction. Anyone who has been falsely accused in U.S. courts will recognize the pattern, especially anyone accused of child abuse. Actually, reading the book was painful, because these same problems are so common in the cases I've been involved with. I do caution that wading through the analysis slows down the narrative: This is not a light read. I am grateful to Mr. Schrock for detailing how the investigators amplified everyone's pain by lying about what they'd been told, and how the prosecution twisted these interviews to their own purposes, all with no regard to the many real questions that the child's medical history should have raised. This book focuses a very bright light on a weak point in our adversarial justice system, which has allowed sincere but flawed medical opinion regarding shaken baby syndrome to become an unstoppable courtroom force. I hope that Mr. Schrock's work will help bring about the public debate we need, in order to ultimately stop these tragic diagnoses and prosecutions.

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