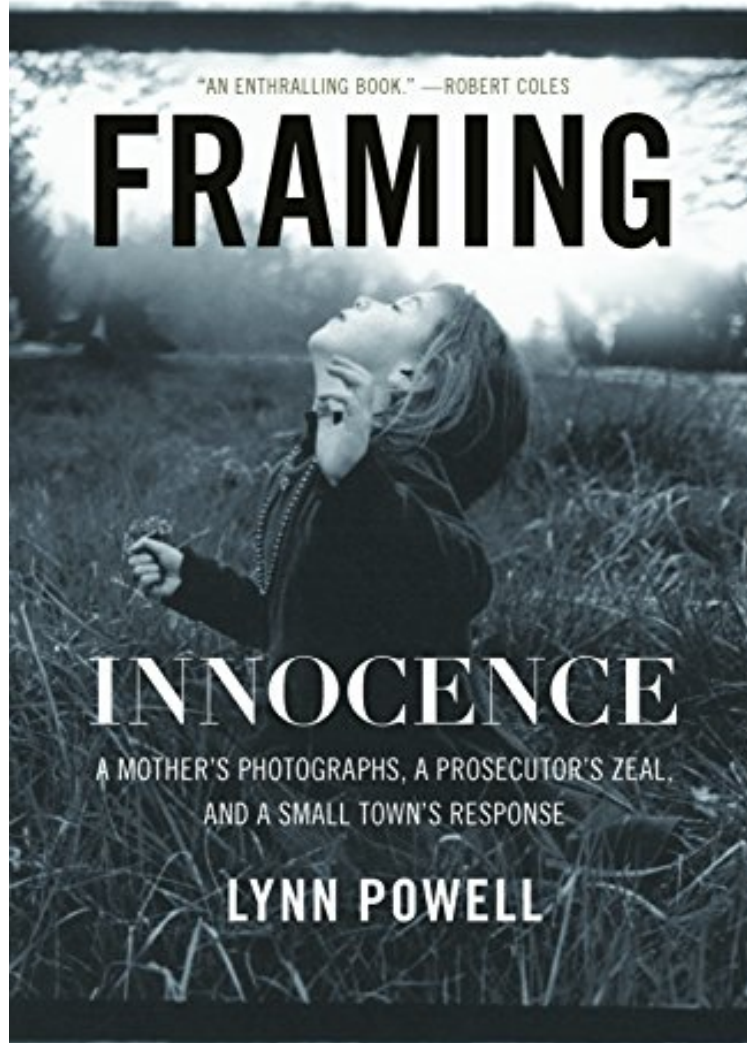


[Read now] Framing Innocence: A Mother's Photographs, a Prosecutor's Zeal, and a Small Town's Response

## 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 Linsenmeyer In 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\_shrink This 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".

This nationally acclaimed book tells the shocking true story of how photographs taken by an amateur photographer and mother became the center of a disturbing legal battle that galvanized a community and challenged the legal system charged with protecting, not harming, children. When Cynthia Stewart dropped off eleven rolls of film at a drugstore near her home, it didn't occur to her that two snapshots of her eight-year-old daughter would cause the county prosecutor to arrest her, take her away in handcuffs, threaten to remove her child from her home, and charge her with crimes that carried the possibility of sixteen years in prison. *Framing Innocence* brilliantly probes the many questions raised: when does a photograph of a naked child cross the line from innocent snapshot to child porn? When does a prosecution cross the line from vigorous to overzealous? When does the parent, and when does the state, know best? Written by poet Lynn Powell, a neighbor of Cynthia Stewart's, this riveting and beautifully told story plumbs the perfect storm of events that put a loving family in a small American town at risk.