present prohibitive discrepancies from Canadian experience with one important exception. The authors indicate that a parent can choose to disclose the abuse to authorities, whereas in Canada provincial legislation requires that all sexual abuse of children be reported.

In conclusion, this is a text that can be useful to certain parents in combination with other material on the subject of sexual abuse. On its own it is not a complete resource and it does have a specific audience, but it also provides some helpful suggestions for dealing with the potentially overwhelming complexities of sexual abuse.

Vincent F. Sacco and Leslie W. Kennedy, *The Criminal Event*. Scarborough: Nelson, 1994, pp. 363 (softcover).

Reviewed by Helen D. Saravanamuttoo
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I found this book well written and clear. The framework used allowed for the integration of many perspectives and demonstrated the continuity of the field with other social science approaches. The book presents many viewpoints and allows the reader to consider different implications of crime and how it affects people. I particularly liked its balanced approach.

This book organizes information around the "criminal event," and it moves the emphasis from either the offender or the victim to a perspective where both are taken into account. It includes a useful addition — the context in which a crime is committed.

Theories are presented in an interesting and productive way. The general theories that have been used in the field are explained early on in the text. As the book states, theories of crime were initially directed at understanding the motivations of offenders. Later, the authors discussed how social control is necessary to keep criminal behaviour in check. Yet others saw opportunities and particular lifestyles as sufficient explanation for criminal behaviour and victimization. By introducing the idea that criminal events are social events subject to the same rules of behaviour as other social events, the authors normalize criminal behaviour and place it within the wider context; they integrate the earlier perspectives and consider them as part of a whole field. This wider view is then used to discuss the "domains" or contexts of crime: the family, where leisure activities take place, and the workplace. For example, when violence in the family is discussed, the authors are not only able to include information about offenders and victims, but also the social climate that has made such violence invisible, through defining family life as private.