Why Humans Are Bad At Spotting Lies

October 16, 2018

"[Exactly how you'd expect a guilty person to act](#)." "[Moving and credible](#)." "[So coached and so rehearsed](#)." "[Simply tremendous](#)."

These are all reactions to Supreme Court nominee [Brett Kavanaugh's testimony](#) on Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, a set of responses that put on full display just how differently people can interpret the same set of behaviors, statements and emotions. And that reality lines up well with what experts who study lying and lie detection would expect: Humans aren't very good at being able to tell — just from watching someone and listening to them talk — whether they are being told truth or fiction.

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