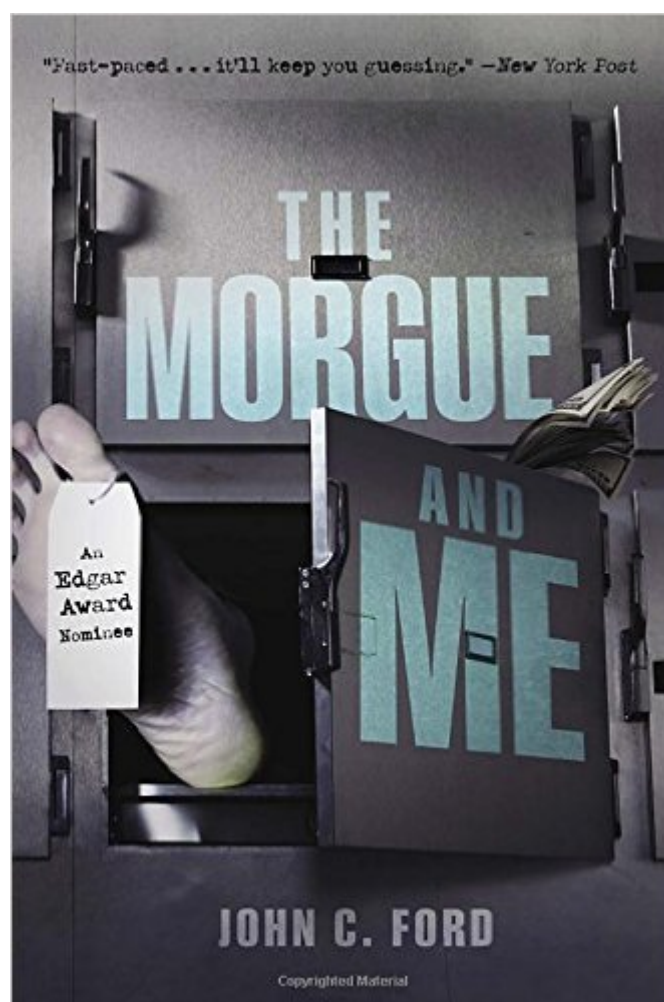


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# The Morgue And Me



## Synopsis

“A throw-back style detective novel that readers of all stripes should pay attention to.” —Los Angeles Times  
Christopher just needed a job to kill time the summer after graduation. He didn’t expect to stumble across a murder cover-up when he was hired as a janitor at the morgue. With the sheriff as his prime suspect, he turns to Tina, a gorgeous newspaper reporter, to help him get to the bottom of the case. Suddenly they find themselves in a full-blown investigation involving bribery, kidnappings, more murders—and his best friend. With plenty of plot twists, red herrings, and dry wit, *The Morgue and Me* is a page-turning modern take on the classic detective genre perfect for fans of *Veronica Mars* and *Shelter*. “A dark and stellar debut.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review  
“Fast-paced and full of red herrings, it’ll keep you guessing.” —New York Post  
Edgar Award nominee Agatha Award nominee YALSA Best Books for Young Adults nominee

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #394,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary Periods #189 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical #541 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

*The Morgue and Me* is an excellent YA introduction to the classic murder mystery with a reluctant but determined hero, his misfit sidekick, quirky family members, plenty of suspects and plenty of bad guys. *The Morgue and Me* could be a good gateway into the adult mystery genre. Author, John C. Ford says his inspiration was Elmore Leonard, but protagonist, Christopher, reminds me more of

Spenser in the Robert Parker books. Christopher is smart, but shy. His best friend accuses him of spending too much time in his own head which is true, and it is also what makes him a great amateur sleuth. When his plans to get a summer job in the astronomy department at the town university fall through, his mother wants him to come work in her biology lab on campus. The idea of spending the summer with his mother motivates him to go out and land a job working as a custodian at the county morgue. A few days in to the job, he happens upon a conspiracy to cover up a murder. He can't go to the police because the sheriff is in on the cover-up. Instead, he recruits a young gorgeous, hipster reporter to help him solve the murder. *The Morgue and Me* has all of the classic good mystery elements - car chases, attacks in empty parking lots, being followed, threatening messages, friends acting suspiciously. It is fast paced and pretty short which makes it a good choice for reluctant readers. Chris is a very likable character. Many young teens will admire his spunk and relate to his awkwardness. YA readers will have fun trying to solve the murder and connect all of the mysterious relationships before Christopher does. Maybe they will even be inspired to read an Elmore Leonard mystery.

I enjoyed this book a lot. The setting was refreshing, as was the hero and his parents and everybody in the supporting cast. This is well worth reading as a Young Adult book. The only thing that keeps me from rating this five stars is that the main character didn't seem to fit the 18-years-old mold. In some ways he seemed much younger, in some ways much older. I had a hard time accepting him as a just-graduated high school senior. That aside, I enjoyed this book and recommend it.

Awesome book that keeps you guessing until the very end. A fun, easy read that was not only enjoyable for me but for my 15 year old son. We are looking forward to John C. Ford's next book!  
*The Morgue and Me*

A friend recommended the book. I really enjoyed it. Fast moving with plenty of twists. Kept me guessing until the very end. Some really memorable characters too. We only had one copy so had to keep stealing it back from my wife. Looking forward to reading Mr. Ford's next book.

In Petoskey, Michigan eighteen year old Christopher Newell may be his high school Valedictorian and won a regents Scholarship to Northwestern Michigan University, but he plans to become a spy though he has no idea how one applies for the job; only that it is cool and a woman magnet

vocation. Meanwhile he obtains a job for the summer at the morgue so he can receive on the job training in forensic pathology. While most of his job is filing and clean up, he comes across some odd information involving the cover up by crooked politicians hiding a toxic disaster. As he digs deeper, Christopher begins connecting further dots including a tie to a local felon. However, now that he has enough information to bring down a conspiracy fostered by a criminal industrial political complex, he has no idea who to turn to with his information as he distrusts everyone except a classmate he wants to date. Soon Christopher believes that someone is watching his every move; either that he figures or he has become paranoid. THE MORGUE AND ME opens with the teen explaining how he just shot someone and now is seeing a shrink who accuses him of disassociation; not a good thing for a cop or an espionage agent. The story line just takes off from there as Christopher explains what happened during the craziest but most wonderful summer of his life as the young hero begins to tie together the conspiracy that engulfs Petoskey. Young adult fans will relish the class valedictorian turn hard boiled teen detective Mindful of the teen noir movie Brick, fans will enjoy the most insane summer of Christopher's young life. Harriet Klausner

A summer job at the morgue? It's not for everyone, but it's just right for Christopher. Mystery, intrigue, and some day working as a spy are what fill his thoughts. When Christopher overhears his boss agreeing that a recent death at a local motel was the result of suicide, he doesn't think too much about it. That is, until he gets a peek at the body. There are five gunshot wounds in the guy's chest. That's hardly what most medical examiners would rule a suicide. There's a mystery to be solved, and Christopher is on the case. When he tries to take the evidence he's found to the local newspaper, he meets up with a reporter named Tina. Not only is she interested in the case, but she's pretty hot, too. Together, they are determined to find out the truth. THE MORGUE AND ME is a real whodunit kind of mystery. The two amateur detectives find themselves wrapped up in a complicated scenario that involves local business people, a couple of lawyers, the sheriff, and more. Not only are Christopher and Tina in danger, but so also is Christopher's kid brother. Can they find the evidence they need to convince the authorities that the would-be suicide was actually the victim of murder? Both teen readers and adults will find this quirky mystery filled with plot twists and turns a satisfying read. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunkie"

A well written mystery that involves teen aged versions of Sherlock Holmes wanna be's. The mystery unraveling with precision allows mystique to the plot in a methodical manner which keeps the reader thirsting for more. Glad I was able to enjoy this book with one of my students. He was

interested completely from cover to cover.

Interesting characters and plot twists. Wonder if he will take them into another story. It would be fun to see them develop.

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