



The Christopher Killer

Alane Ferguson

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Fascinated by forensics, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney persuades her father, the county coroner in sleepy Silverton, CO, to take her on as his assistant. But she never expects her first case to involve the death of a friend! Rachel Geller, a beautiful young waitress, is found strangled in a field with a Christopher medal around her neck—clearly marking her as the fourth victim of a serial killer. Cameryn is determined to help find Rachel's killer, and attending the autopsy gives her the first clue. But as she follows her instincts and gets closer to the killer, Cameryn suddenly finds herself on the verge of becoming his fifth victim!

The Christopher Killer Details

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From Reader Review The Christopher Killer for online ebook

Lucy says

17-year-old Cameryn Mahoney's dad is the town's forensic pathologist, and Cameryn wants nothing more than to follow in his footsteps. When she convinces him to make her his assistant, she has no idea that one of the first deaths she'll investigate is that of her friend Rachel. Rachel is the fourth victim in a string of killings known as Christopher Killings, girls who are strangled and then left with St. Christopher medals on their corpses.

Cameryn throws herself into the forensic work, trying to separate herself emotionally from the case to solve Rachel's murder. The involvement of a famous psychic who predicted Rachel's death, as well as clues that lead Cameryn to suspect the people around her only complicate the case.

This was another lender from work, and I was not really that impressed. Cameryn's personality seemed a little flakey to me - one moment she's the skeptic scientist, the next she's running to the psychic for answers. And the people around her felt extremely one-dimensional and flat to me. The plot twists, too, were predictable and unimpressive. It was an okay read, but I wouldn't bother recommending it to anybody.

carolina ? says

This was really great!

Paige Bookdragon says

You can also see this review in our blog:

Review:

Suspense, my ass. This is more like a book where a teenager is a detective-slash-medical examiner wannabe. The execution of characters were lame and the mystery isn't exactly mysterious.

I love forensic science and I watch a lot of shows where Medical Examiners slice up dead bodies to determine the cause of death and all that shit. I also know that not because I watch CSI and read crime books, I'm already an expert when it comes to science stuff. Hell no. I'm not an expert in that thing but I'm expert in spotting lame books.

I don't have a problem with the plot. In fact, I love it. I'm excited to read this one because *gasp* a 17 years old girl is now an assistant to a Coroner!

Cameryn was said to be a smart girl who borderlines the genius level. That's true. She is well versed when it comes to the process of autopsy. The science stuff in this book is well appreciated by yours truly. In fact, I have a mini orgasm when during the slicing and dicing and all the gorey stuff was being done, the ME gave us a commentary on whatis and whatnots.

****Don't be alarmed.**I'm not sick. Just weird.**

But the real reason why I gave this book a 2 star are the following:

Characters:

Cameryn is smart but she lacks common sense.

For all the life of me, I can't comprehend why a supposed to be smart girl would go into the hotel room of the murderer (that she suspected) to find some incriminating evidence to nail his ass without even thinking of having a back up!

What also bothers me is that, yes she's well versed in forensic science and all that geeky stuff but **REALLY**. I can't believe that she discover things that a seasoned ME and police officers can't. Cameryn, you're a 17 years old teenager who despite being smart is still a teenager. Get real.

Her friends (Adam and Lyric) are supposed to make the story more interesting but they're useless.

Her father lacks some character.

The police has no spunk.

The murderer is boring.

The mystery:

Women are being killed and the killer left a Saint Christopher medal in the crime scene. That was the MO.

Can you see the potential, BECAUSE I CAN. This is something that should have been explosive and thrilling.

I was like:

But nooo. The potential was there but the story was poorly done that it left a bitter taste in my mouth.

I was waiting for the author to give the mystery some twist and turns. What I got instead was a rushed simple ending when in fact the author made the crime more "difficult" than what it actually was.

Ugh. This is a let down. I'm not sure if I'll read the 2nd book or what because the first book scar me for life.

I'm on a crime books spree this week so if you guys know any good crime book where people randomly

sprout medical words, you can recommend it to me. :)

Logan Nott says

I liked this novel due to its detailed characters and mysterious story. The coolest part of this whole novel would have to be how the author took facts and information from forensic scientists and real coroners. All this extra work made this novel a true murder mystery and I would recommend it to anyone.

Pawlowskierik says

The Christopher Killer
By Alane Ferguson
Review by Erik Pawlowski

Alane Ferguson, author of The Christopher Killer, writes with unbelievable description. She could turn a one-word subject into a whole book, and this is part of the reason why this book is so good.

* * *

The Christopher Killer's main character is Cameron Mahoney, who dreams of following in her father, Pat Mahoney's footsteps as a County Coroner. The only obstacle in her way is her grandma, who she refers to as mammaw. That doesn't stop Cameron though, because when her dad lets her assist him, she is absolutely thrilled! Since the County Coroner usually deals with murders, this could've been a risky job for her to be in, but there hasn't been a murder for decades, so her father has no worries. Unfortunately, there was a murder in this sleepy Rocky Mountain town in Colorado. And it's not just the murder of a stranger, but Cameron's friend, Rachel Geller. Added to that is the fact that it's not a random murder, but seems to be part of a serial killer's spree. The murderer always leaves a St. Christopher medal on the victim's body, thus earning him the moniker The Christopher Killer. As Cameron sets out to assist her father, she suddenly finds herself drawn into a murder investigation. As the police in this small town search for clues as to who may have murdered the lovely Rachel, Cameron is determined to start putting her knowledge of forensics to good use.

* * *

This book had me guessing page by page. Your thoughts and predictions will all of a sudden turn a 360 when Cameron finds a new clue. To see what ends up happening with Cameron and the murdered Rachael, read The Christopher Killer.

Mistress ~ ♠ Mistral's Kiss ♠ ~ (Mist) says

Camryn convinces her father (The town coroner) to take her on as an assistant, since she dreams of a career in forensics. When all signs point to a notorious serial killer hitting their sleepy town, she's determined to decode the story the dead are telling so they can have justice. Our plucky teen doesn't quite hit the ground running though, all her reading hasn't quite prepared her for all the sites, smells, inner turmoil, and characters

she'll have to contend with.

I enjoyed this novel, you gotta love that a heroine's super power is being exceptionally observant. That said, this is not a fly through the pages thrill ride sorta book. Which may or may not be a deal breaker for you. And Camryn's detective style is more Nancy Drew than Veronica Mars. She's not a edgy in a personality sense. Just a good kid who worships at the altar of science and wants answers.

Dale Ibitz says

17 year old Cameryn Mahoney wants to be a forensic pathologist. Living in a teeny town in the mountains of Colorado, she doesn't get to see much in the way murders and forensics, even with her dad being the county coroner. So Cameryn learns what she can by studying her books. Until a new deputy comes to town, and the Christopher Killer drops a body right at the town's doorstep.

This forensic mystery is rock-solid. Solid characters, solid plot, solid writing, and solid details regarding the science of forensics.

Each character is distinctively drawn. You get cozy with the ones you need to, you like the ones you're supposed to, you get annoyed with the ones who are annoying, and you doubt the ones you're supposed to doubt. Nothing lacks in this author's characterizations.

The descriptions are lovely without being over the top, and you can easily imagine the picturesque scenery of the Colorado mountains. The descriptions of the dead and the autopsy are realistic, but artfully done so as not to be gory.

While you know the killer really can't be just *anyone*, there are enough red herrings to keep you guessing until the end who the Christopher Killer is.

The only niggly thing for me was the amount of time spent going over every detail in the forensic's lab. For me, I'm kind of an action girl, and I'd much rather have shortened that (it went on for *quite* a long time) and get right back to the mystery at hand. But boy oh boy, this author makes up for it in the end. The climatic scene was fraught with tension and suspense. This author *knows* how to write tension. I had to force myself to slow my reading down, wanting to rush through to the end to see how it all panned out. The ending of this book could easily be used as a teaching tool for writers. The "how to end a book with tension" class.

Excellent read for mystery-lovers.

Caitlin "Sparkie" says

It so pleasing to know that there is another human being out there just like me! Let's jump in: I really connected to this book, I loved Cameryn, I was able to relate and connect to her on a whole other level. Connecting to characters in other books was never much of an issue, but when I was reading about Cameryn I felt like I was looking in a mirror. The beginning of the book was a little rocky, in my opinion, the dialogue between Cameryn and her father almost seemed forced and there were some awkward moments. Though once the plot really started progressing, you could tell the author had gotten into a groove. The book is really interesting murder mystery given new life, the perspective of a coroner versus the detective, police officer, etc. which was what really kept me interested in this book. It was really cool

learning about the different medical terms and even though I'm not an expert on the matter, but you could really tell that Mrs. Ferguson knew her stuff. Another thing I felt was a little disappointing was that I thought it would be more gory and graphic (as a lover of both these things). While it was both of those (especially in that scene where she was describing the dead body) I just thought that it would be to the point where you need a vomit bag on stand-by. Granted if she had done that I would likely be the only person who ever read it. I also thought it be a little more twisted and darker, though I think that would have taken away the likeability of the characters. Speaking of the scene with the dead body, that scene was really long and while it was interesting, as an action girl, I kind of needed more to happen.

One final criticism would be that the other characters, besides Cameryn, seemed a little flat and one-dimensional though this might be because it is the first book in the series. Or it could be on purpose because it does place in a backwoods town, as someone from a backwoods town sometimes the people there can seem really one dimensional.

The ending was really fantastic and I will be really excited to learn about in the next few books and really shed some light on Cameryn's parents (all I'm gonna say). It really left me with an OHMIGOD, shocker moment which is always super satisfying. One other thing: I ship Justin and Cameryn (all I'm gonna say) Besides my few criticisms, I really liked the book, I felt like it's not something that you see often and it kept me on my toes the whole time, I never wanted to put it down.

Claire Odegard says

This was an okay book. I thought that is was kind of slow in spots throughout the book. The author Alane Ferguson wrote a lot of very detailed things in the story. If you like books that bring a challenge to follow with them then this is a book for you. I couldn't quite finish it because I couldn't keep up with what was going on.

Amber says

average murder mystery but the forensic bits were good

Maddie says

The Christopher Killer is about 17 year old Cameryn Mahoney, who has the annoying habit of challenging her elders. She also has the unshakable desire to be a forensic pathologist and a very strong stomach. This comes in handy during the autopsy of a friend,the latest victim of a serial killer whose signature is a St.Christopher's medal left with each body. The vivid autopsy scenes are surprising given the fairly routine story line and agreeable though certainly not complex,characters.It's Cammie's energy and chutzpa that really propel the story,and readers will sympathize with her as she struggles to decide whether ti keep faith in science or be sucked in by a charismatic psychic.Cammie is really interested in figuring out the stories that the dead have to tell,but she has to have a lot of personal strength,knowledge, and patience, to figure out those storiesd. This book really focuses on the aspects of crime solving.when i was reading this book it made me think about CSI and all the crime scenes they have to figure out.I also thought about all the people in the world that get murdered every second of the day.A text-to-self connection would be when my great grandpa died and they did an autopsy on him and all the great description about Rachel's autopsy reminded me of it.

My favorite part in this book is when Cammie sneaks into Dr. Jewel's hotel and gets caught. Great book for anyone if you can handle squirmish descriptions.

Sharon Mariampillai says

Thank you Sharon J for recommending this book series to me. This is the first book of the series, and I loved it. I love forensic mysteries because of CSI, Criminal Minds, and Bones. This was an amazing read. Cameryn Mahoney is a 17 year old girl who wants to be a forensic pathologist. I really loved her character. The fact that she went to investigate the murder was really interesting to read. She is a really strong and smart character. I would want to be best friends with her. This book was gruesome, but after watching Bones and CSI, I really was fascinated with the details of the decomposing bodies and the autopsies. The ending was really good. I cannot wait to read the rest of the series. Overall, an incredible read.

Reader says

Young Cameryn's father is the town's coroner. Since Cameryn dreams of becoming a forensic pathologist someday and her father is overworked, she begs her dad to allow her to become his assistant. When he finally gives him, Cameryn is all smiles--until the dead bodies start appearing and The Christopher Killer's victims become more personal than Cameryn ever thought possible. Suddenly a target, Cameryn must solve the serial murder's case before she becomes part of the file. There are few better mystery stories at the young adult level than this Christopher Killer series (see also The Angel of Death and Circle of Blood). These are serious pageturners: students are raving about how great these stories are and I've seen students reading through them in just a day or two.

Karin says

Are you a fan of CSI or Bones? If so, this series is for you. Alane Ferguson has written a good forensic mystery. Cameryn Mahoney is a seventeen-year-old with dreams to become a forensic pathologist. She is in a great position to do so with her father being the county coroner. The budget problems have prevented the county from hiring an assistant for him and the work load has been too much. So, he asks Cameryn to be his assistant and she accepts, even though her Mammaw (Irish way of referring to grandmother) doesn't want her to. Mammaw thinks that her focus on death and forensics is a danger to her soul and will lead her down a dark path in life. Cameryn simply wants to use science to allow the dead to tell the tale of their death.

Silverton, Colorado is a silent, sleepy town where nothing much happens. There hasn't been a case of murder in years, but all that changes when a serial killer decides to make a resident of Silverton his next victim. Rachel is a friend of Cameryn's, they even worked together at a local diner. Losing a friend is hard enough, but for Cameryn it is even harder. She not only has to feel the loss, but has to suffer through the details of processing her body as a crime scene and participate in the autopsy.

Cameryn decides to investigate the murder with the help of a few friends, but mostly on her own. She is a strong and clever character and a wonderful role model for girls. Alane Ferguson sets up a possible love interest for Cameryn with the new sheriff's deputy as well as a long running story line that can continue throughout the entire series. The sequel is titled The Angel of Death. This book is appropriate for upper middle school grades and above. The only determining factor will be how well you can stomach the details

of the stages of a decomposing body and of course the procedures of an autopsy.

Michele says

I loved Nancy Drew, Scooby-Doo and other meddling kid mysteries growing up, but this was just too ridiculous. A high school student as an assistant to the medical examiner? I really did not like the main character, either. I felt she was a know-it-all teen, and thank you, I already have one of those.
