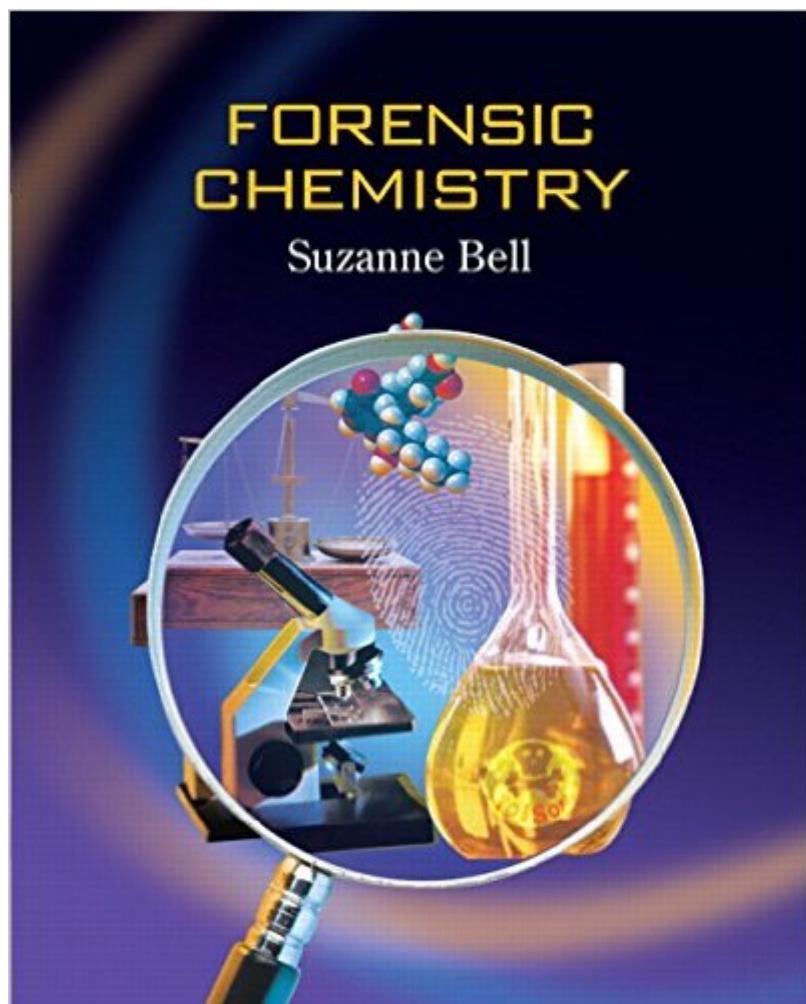


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# Forensic Chemistry



## Synopsis

As the number of forensic science and forensic chemistry degree programs has increased over the last few years, *Forensic Chemistry* was the first book to specifically address this rapidly growing field. It introduces the principal areas of study from the perspective of analytical chemistry, addressing the legal context in which forensic chemistry is conducted, types of samples and matrices, variety of sample types encountered, and extensive use of instrumentation. It offers a solid foundation for basic chemistry, introducing chemical concepts and practices from a forensic perspective — including multivariate statistics, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and protocols used in working forensic laboratories. *Introduction; Statistics, Sampling, and Data Quality; Multivariate Statistics, Calibration, and Quality Assurance; Sample Preparation and Chromatography; Instrumentation and Microscopy; Drugs and Pharmacology; Forensic Drug Analysis I — Overview and Acidic Drugs; Forensic Drug Analysis II — Basic Drugs; Chemistry of Combustion I: Arson; Combustion II: Explosives and Gunshot Residue; Chemistry of Color: Inks and Paint; Chemistry of Polymers: Fibers, Paper, Plastics and Adhesives/* A useful reference for anyone interested in forensics or for chemistry professionals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This textbook attempted to cover semester-long courses in a chapter each. It fell a little short. I've broken down the reasons why I felt it was an insufficient text. Content: *Forensic Chemistry* by definition is a very specific application (as it pertains to the law) of some very broad areas. The text

does a good job in touching on these intersections. (e.g.. applied statistics, applied biochemistry, applied instrumental analysis, applied organic chemistry, applied physical chemistry, physics, thermodynamics, etc.) Where the text fundamentally fails is the approach to conveying that to the student. A good text should either a) convey general topics and trends to the reader so they can be familiar when they come upon them in their careers (e.g. tests for presumptive analysis commonly used for street drugs), or b) provide specific equations, details, and thorough explanations of the fundamental principles behind a test, statistical method or reaction. The later should be used only as reference. The failure of this text is that it attempts to do both, and does neither well. The general themes are bogged down in specific minutia, while the equations, tables and appendices are incomplete and neglect the units or definitions of terms that would make them useful. End of Chapter Questions: Furthering the frustration is the end of chapter questions. If the text is misguided, the questions are criminal. The poorly worded, poorly conceived questions attempt to test the readers critical thinking skills, but instead are exercises in patience. In an attempt to provide "real world" scenario questions, the author (and editors) failed to ensure that the questions were properly worded (e.g.

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