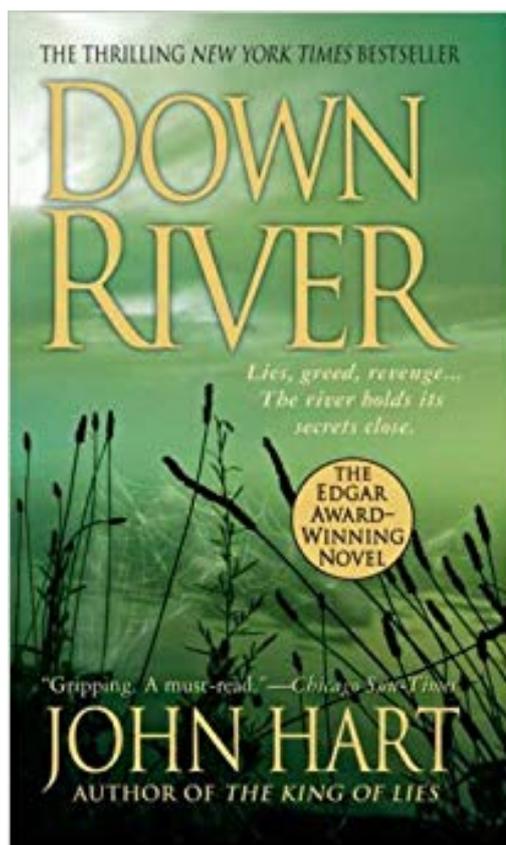


## Down River by John Hart



### DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



**ISBN:** 0312945663

**ISBN13:** 978-0312945664

**Author:** John Hart

**Book title:** Down River

**Publisher:** St. Martin's Press; Reprint edition  
(September 30, 2008)

**Language:** English

**Category:** Genre Fiction

**Size PDF version:** 1619 kb

**Size ePUB version:** 1126 kb

**Size DJVU version:** 1214 kb

**Other formats:** mbr lrf azw txt

Adam Chase is passionate and misunderstood, a fighter. When narrowly acquitted of a murder charge, he disappears for five long years: not a clue, not a trace. Now, he's back and nobody knows why—not his family or the cops, not the women he left behind. But Adam has his reasons.

When more bodies surface, Adam must unravel a web of deceit and violence so dense it staggers the imagination. Old secrets rise, lives collapse, and more than one person crosses the brink as author Hart probes the timeless, destructive power of deception and vengeance.

*Down River* is the winner of the 2008 Edgar Award for Best Novel.



## Reviews of the *Down River* by John Hart

*Ylonean*

I don't know what took me so long before I finally read a John Hart book. I knew he had a solid rep, had won an Edgar, was a popular writer. Maybe I thought he'd be too slow, or too literary, maybe

too serious in plot and themes - but he was not. Anyway, I finally did it; read "Down River" and thoroughly enjoyed it. I will soon be reading more John Hart. This book has a rather basic plot - our protagonist Adam returns home after being away for a number of years, and not everybody greets him with open arms and hearts. We gradually learn what happened, and why many think he was guilty of a serious crime when he left. Upon his return, his family is still one of the richest in the area; his dad owns a huge farm, and a power company wants it to build a nuclear plant since it abuts a big enough river to support a nuclear facility. An outcome that would enrich the lives of all - some looking forward to enrichment in their pockets, others fear enrichment of uranium. Then there's the family. Where to start....perhaps the stepmother who five years ago in court accused Adam of murdering her daughter's boyfriend. And the step-brother who is deeply in debt to the wrong people. And that's for starters. There are also two attractive, passionate young women with strong feelings for Adam even though he has not been in touch with either since leaving. But we must eliminate one of them from the chase because.....And then there's a couple of murders. Guess who's the primary suspect?

A great, twisty story well told with a very satisfactory ending. Laid out very well such that you don't have to have detail upon detail in the last 50 pages to explain all the connections that tie everything together - a sign of a very good, practiced author. Kudos, John Hart.

*MilsoN*

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. To echo someone else's opinion -- John Hart can certainly write! His choice of words is so often impeccable and his descriptive phrases, if the reader can slow down to take them in, are spot on. One reader who reviewed called the book a quick read and referred to it as light and fluffy. I would say to that person -- go deeper! The themes Mr. Hart writes about -- human frailty, deception, family secrets, unfailing loyalty and devotion, forgiveness, etc. -- are anything but light and fluffy. It's true I finished *Down River* quickly but that was only because I couldn't put it down for long.

I am looking forward to reading *Redemption Road* and anything else by John Hart. It's a pleasure to find an author who writes books of such substance and tells his stories so beautifully. LWS

*Gold as Heart*

If you are an adrenaline junkie, "Down River" is not the book for you. If you are looking for a mystery with layers peeled away like the skin of an onion while learning more about the main characters with each layer unfurled, then this offering by John Hart is right up your alley. This book is what I would consider a character driven mystery, and while we learn more about the character, the tumbled pieces to solve the mystery drop into place.

The story begins as Adam Chase drives back into his home town in Rowan County, North Carolina. We learn that Adam has not been there for five years, that he has not even been in contact with anyone there - not even his main squeeze Robin Alexander, who has worked her way up to detective on the small police force. We come to find out that the reason Adam left was a murder trial in which he was the defendant, acquitted but none the less considered guilty by most of the town - including his step mother who testified against him. This latter fact caused a rift between Adam and his father Jacob, a rift Adam did not see as being able to be mended.

The reason Adam returned to Rowan county was a cryptic message from Danny Faith, one of Adam's oldest and dearest friends. Adam almost did not return, but in the end felt he owed it to Danny. He had not been in town 24 hours when he had a run in with Danny's father Zebulon, who not only felt Adam was guilty of murder, but also felt the wealth of the Chase family was the reason Adam did not go to jail. After an ambulance ride to the emergency room, Adam was picked up by Robin, who let him know she was over him and the offer of her apartment did not come with any fringe benefits. Adam, however, was not able to locate Danny Faith and was told he went to Florida to hide from an assault and battery charge from his ex-girlfriend.

But it seemed as if Adam's presence dug up some all to fresh memories, despite the five year interlude. Not long after his inglorious return to his childhood home, a severe beating there had him under police suspicion once again. Later, a body is found, and the local sheriff was out to implicate Adam. Things surely did not look good for him. Add into the mix that half the town wanted Jacob to sell 1400 acres to the power company for a new plant to be built, and the town was boiling over with accusations and hatred. But the worse things got for Adam, the deeper he dug. And just when you thought you might have figured out the mystery, another layer was peeled away and you were back to square one.

I really enjoyed this book. It is not every author that could pull this story off the way John Hart did. I really wanted things to turn out right for Adam (not saying they didn't) and became frustrated with him at times, especially for his inability to control his temper. It is not every novel that can keep me invested in the experiences of the characters, but "Down River" did this and more. I recommend this to any mystery buff who is looking for something a little bit different.

*Cetnan*

This is so much more than a mystery/thriller. It is fine literature that wraps and intertwines family dynamics, warts and all, with societal conflicts in an engrossing novel that is very well written. The storyline is involved but well paced, the diverse characters interesting and well developed. Definition of time and place is excellent. All in all, a terrific reading experience!

*Hra*

I ordered Down River after reading and enjoying Hart's novel Redemption Road last month. Early on in Down River, I had the discouraging feeling that the plotting and narrative development were too mechanical. There are many plot twists. The specifics of those twists were not predictable but their occurrence and frequency were. The characters, including the protagonist, Adam Chase, are largely two-dimensional. Half way through, I put the novel down (and actually tossed it). I just didn't care about any of the characters or what was happening to them. It is not that Down River is so inferior to Redemption Road but rather that it was too similar and having read Redemption Road fairly recently, I could feel the same machinery at work and the second time through it felt clumsy.

## **Related PDF to [Down River](#) by John Hart**

1. [Adam Sharp, London Calling \(Adam Sharp, Book 2\) by George Edward Stanley](#)
2. [The First Book of Adam the Computer by Arthur Dent](#)
3. [10 Secrets of Abundant Wealth: Ancient Chinese Wisdom to Enhance Your Life by Adam J. Jackson](#)
4. [The Adam Project by William Woolfolk](#)
5. [Middle Age: a Romance by Joyce Carol Oates](#)
6. [Ordinary Thunderstorms by William Boyd](#)
7. [First Adam Raccoon \(Parables for Little Kids\) by Joe Yakovetic, Glen Keane](#)
8. [Adam and Eve and Pinch Me: A Novel by Ruth Rendell](#)
9. [Black Adam: The Dark Age by Doug Mahnke, Peter Tomasi](#)
10. [The Genius of Robert Adam: His Interiors by Eileen Harris](#)