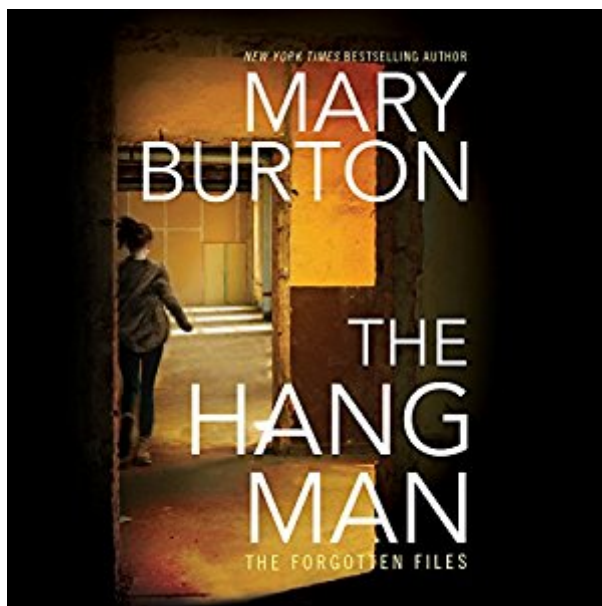


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# The Hangman: Forgotten Files, Book 3



## Synopsis

Julia Vargas is a cop with a mission. When she's not chasing down bad guys, Julia dedicates her time to investigating the Hangman serial killer...the same unsolved case that her father, Jim Vargas, was working on when he supposedly shot and killed himself three decades before. While rumors continue to swirl around her father's death, Julia attempts to hunt down the truth. The case once again hits dangerously close, however, when a woman's bones are discovered in a historic downtown home, together with a photograph of Jim and Julia as a young girl. As horrifying as this discovery is, it may just be the break Julia has waited for. Working alongside Tobias Novak, a homicide detective with whom she shares a complicated - and steamy - history, she's forced to confront her own past even as the Hangman looms in the shadows. But as the mysterious killer circles closer, Julia can feel her own noose begin to tighten...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The third in the Forgotten Files series focuses on Julia Vargas, agent with Virginia state police, working on the cold case of The Hangman which left doubts as to her father's complicity in the serial killings. Helping her is Richmond Homicide Detective Tobias Novak. With her usual suspenseful, fast prose Mary Burton had me from page one racing forward to the (for me) surprising resolution. So many hints and red herrings -- love it -- and a smart and determined woman with need of healing and a strong and compassionate man patient with Julia's healing worked just right. Also, I always appreciate the previous books' characters having involvement with the newest books in the series.

Great read.

Another great mystery from a superb author. Several times I was sure I knew who the serial killer was, but as always with her books, she completely threw me off. The characters are so interesting and relevant. The romance between Julia and Novak is growing. The way all the murders come together is just smart. Her attention to detail is what draws me to all her books. I find myself getting lost in her books and am sad when they end. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and look forward to the next. (I received an advanced copy of this book and thank the author for the privilege of reading such a page turner. ) I recommend this book to everyone who loves to read mysteries.

THE HANGMAN is the third book in Mary Burton's "Forgotten Files" but can easily be read as a standalone. It's honestly my least favorite of the series so far though, and I'd highly suggest reading them in order mainly because of the characters that jump from story to story... Here we have Agent Julia Vargas with the Virginia State Police partnering up with City of Richmond detective Tobias Novak, after the remains of a woman are discovered in an old home. When a piece of evidence connects the victim to Julia and the cold case she's working, the same case her father was working on twenty-five years ago when he committed suicide, Julia is more determined than ever to find answers. But doing so resurrects a killer who has been hiding in the shadows and is no longer content to stay there. He has his ropes ready, his victims in sight, and Julia may just be next on the kill list... As usual Ms. Burton has written another intriguing mystery with twists and turns galore. I love the way she takes you step by step from the start of an investigation all the way to its finale. From interviews, to autopsies, to forensics, or just walking a crime scene - the details literally made me feel like I was right there alongside the detectives. Early on you learn Julia and Novak are lovers, but have to admit that for 3/4 of the book I wasn't feeling much chemistry. And while I liked them both, Julia was really closed off and very hard to connect with. She does open herself up, but not until the end. Julia's father I didn't like at all - he was a crappy dad, an even worse husband, and pretty much reaped what he sowed. Still, the ending was a complete stunner with some shocking revelations and a killer I never saw coming. A solid story overall, and I loved the epilogue which was sweet.

This author makes no wrong moves. I enjoyed this book, pace is perfect - lots of action, yet also time to get into characters. Hero is immediately lovable; heroine justifiably guarded. The crime aspects are handled really well; no one makes stupid moves or ignores obvious clues, so the

resolution is credible and satisfying. I recommend this book. I probably should give this 5 stars; I think my preference for romance books over suspense-romance books is why I don't 'love' this book, and I only give 5 stars if I love a book ...

A police mystery with interesting, flawed characters. Julia, the protagonist, works for this Virginia State Police as a detective. Her father was also a cop. Unfortunately, he died when she was young. The circumstances always bothered Julia so she sets out to find some answers. There are many good twists and turns in the story and almost all are surprising and believable. One of the strengths of this novel are the characters. They are real people with real flaws. They are consistent, each with their own voice. As far as mysteries go, this one is both well written and a page turner. It doesn't get much better than that.

I have not finished all three of the forgotten files series. I'll have to say I loved all of them. Then again I haven't found any novel that Mary Burton had written that I didn't love. She the author, has a wonderful talent to develop characters and plots that are so intense that it keeps the reader totally engrossed in her stories. The conclusion of the Hangman was the best conclusion out of the three series.

After reading the first two books in The Forgotten Files I did not think it could get any better. I was wrong. This is such a great series. This book is about Julia Vargas and her attempt to close a case that her father was working on before his death. She has help from Tobias Novak and it gets steamy. I am hoping there will be more books to come in this series.

This heroine is very appealing and takes some of the worst criminals on the streets. She seemingly does this in her stride without raising a sweat. She uncovers the truth behind a 25 year old cold case. A serial killer called the Hangman, along with uncovering the true identity of the murderer she also uncovers a myriad of questions about her own identity. A great ending and gripping tale.

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