



## Hangman's Root

*Susan Wittig Albert*

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**Ex-lawyer turned herbalist China Bayles must solve a hair-raising murder in this mystery from *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Wittig Albert.**

When a prominent animal researcher is found hanged in the midst of angry protests against his experiments, suspicion falls on biology professor Dottie Riddle. Known as the Cat Lady of Pecan Springs, Dottie's sympathy for strays--and the victim's distaste for them--gives the police reason to think she may be capable of murder. But China doesn't think so. She hires a lawyer for Dottie and starts looking around for clues. But she soon discovers that digging up old evil is a dirty and dangerous business...

## **Hangman's Root Details**

Date : Published August 1st 1995 by Berkley (first published 1994)

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Author : Susan Wittig Albert

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## From Reader Review Hangman's Root for online ebook

### **Bonnie Rose says**

Loving this series.

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### **Barbara says**

Revisiting an old read. Didn't realize things heated up so quickly with China and her former policeman boyfriend. Thought that dragged on longer.

Enjoying the revisit. More than a cozy and very tight mystery.

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### **Muffin Pam says**

Another good one from Ms. Albert. China Bayles is looking to solve a murder dressed up as a suicide and help get her cat lady friend off the hook as the only suspect. We meet some great female characters in this episode - including the new head of security at the college and China's high-powered lawyer friend.

Ruby reunites with her long-lost daughter and China decides to move in with her young, hot boyfriend and his son.

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### **Marty says**

China Bayles (former high-powered attorney) is still happy running her herb shop. She and McQuaid are getting serious and are considering living together – if Mike's 10 year old son, his dog, and her cat, can all find an agreeable home. Ruby is a new age guru who has a shop in the same building as China's herb shop. Her friend Dottie teaches Biology at the local college and runs a “cattery” at her home. .. She has over 150 cats that she takes care of. Her neighbor, Dr. Harwick, also a professor of biology at the college, is constantly giving Dottie a bad time about her cats. When he is found dead (hanging in his college office) Dottie is the number one suspect. Can China and Ruby help Dottie prove her innocence?

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### **Sandy says**

The local college is the source of many good things in Pecan Springs. But this year it isn't one of them. Dottie, China's friend and college professor is part of the biology department at the college but she always has trouble being the only woman.

College politics, being what they are, and Dottie being the gruff cat loving individual she is, there are bound to be fireworks.

We also in this book find out a secret, Ruby, China's long time next door business associate has been reluctant to share. But this secret could cause Ruby great heartache in the long run.

This was very well written and the supporting characters well done. This is one book that amply gives the reasons behind the suspects to the extent that it makes sense why they are suspects. I loved that about this book.

A well deserved 5 stars - I will read on.

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### **Katey says**

"Villainy makes equals of all those whom it links." This is an interesting quote and it came from this book. I thought this book was interesting, and the story was neat. I didn't know another name for catnip was hangmans root. Certainly makes for an interesting storyline...and method to kill someone.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Did not like it and did not finish it.

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### **Debbie says**

This series is great and I'm so glad I happened upon it. Each book has been better than the last and I'm so glad it's a long running series because the characters are so interesting.

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### **Janilyn Kocher says**

With every book, I enjoy this series more.

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### **Patty says**

Even though I was thinking I would get tired of China Bayles, Susan Albert has changed up the many mysteries of murder and mayhem in Pecan Springs, Texas. China is never far from her original profession which was the law and in this third book of the series, China decides to help her cat loving friend, Dottie, the chief suspect in a suicide made to look like murder. "...not in court, but if you're in trouble, I'll give you the best advice I can." And she wouldn't be compelled to discuss any of their conversations.

The victim, a medical researcher, was not a nice man and plenty of people besides the animal rights protesters were happy he met his end. China, the friendly, knowledgeable herb-shop proprietor spends lots of time tracking down the truth with the help of her sidekick, Ruby, the owner of the New Age shop next door. A fun and a smart quick read when I need it most.

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### **Trish says**

This worked much better than the previous one in the series. This time, China actually had a legitimate reason to be investigating and the murderer wasn't telegraphed as obviously.

I'll try a couple more to see if they improvement keeps up.

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### **Brook says**

I loved that I could not guess 'who-dunit' in this book involving animal abuse and animal lovers. I loved that I learned a little tiny bit of the grant process for colleges, and the courtship of those who bring those grants. China Bayles, lawyer turned herbal store owner, in Pecan Springs, Texas, makes me want, more and more, to move to this imaginary town, and try and even befriend her crazy friend Ruby, a 'next-door' store owner.

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### **Kendyle says**

Fun little mystery.

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### **Linda says**

China gets involved with a professor that is being harassed by a neighbor that doesn't like her cattery next door. When the neighbor is found hanging in his office, all heck breaks out and more people are found to have wanted him dead.

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### **Wayne says**

This was such a great read! The mystery was an intricate puzzle involving several people. Untangling the threads of the mystery was so much fun. I read three or four of the books in this series back in the nineties but not in order. Reading them now in order is a treat.

Hangman's Root is a story that has several subplots that fill in the gaps for the solving of the initial mystery. Susan Wittig Albert expertly lays down the path of clues the reader follows to bring him or her to the conclusion. As it turns out, I became so interested in the subplots, I lost track of the real killer. I had suspicions but they weren't solid.

The China Bayles series is very well written. Lurking in the background of the mysteries is the exploration of China Bayles the woman, someone filled with a need to protect herself emotionally even if it means keeping those she cares about at a distance. That aspect of the series is slowly being uncovered with each book

which, of course, makes me that much more eager to read the next installment in the series to see what will happen. I highly recommend this book and the series.

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