



Merciless

Mary Burton

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NO PITY

Each skeleton is flawless—gleaming white and perfectly preserved, a testament to his skill. Every scrap of flesh has been removed to reveal the glistening bone beneath. And the collection is growing . . .

NO COMPASSION

When bleached human bones are identified as belonging to a former patient of Dr. James Dixon, Detective Malcolm Kier suspects the worst. Dixon was recently acquitted of attempted murder, thanks to defense attorney Angie Carlson. But as the body count rises, Kier is convinced that Angie is now the target of a brutal, brilliant psychopath.

NO ESCAPE

Angie is no stranger to the dark side of human nature. But nothing has prepared her for the decades-long legacy of madness and murder about to be revealed—or a killer ready to claim her as his ultimate trophy . . .

“Terrifying . . . this chilling thriller is an engrossing story.” —*Library Journal*

“Convincing detective lingo and an appropriately shivery murder venue go a long way.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Mary Burton's latest romantic suspense has it all—terrific plot, complex and engaging protagonists, a twisted villain, and enough crime scene detail to satisfy the most savvy suspense reader.” —Erica Spindler, *New York Times* bestselling author

Merciless Details

Date : Published September 26th 2017 by Pinnacle (first published January 1st 2011)

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Author : Mary Burton

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Mystery, Crime, Thriller

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From Reader Review Merciless for online ebook

Joanna says

SPOILER ALERT

Another fantastic book by Mary!!! I never saw the twist coming that Micah was the one killed in the fire! loved the suspense and the twists and turns along the way. Also, couldn't be happier about Angier and Malcolm, they deserve to be happy with each other. Great book if your looking for something that will hold your attention right to the end... and that's nearly impossible to put down.

Teri says

I am really enjoying Burton's novels. I am reading them in order and I especially like that she uses all the same characters but each book features two different ones with the others appearing briefly. Great mystery/serial killer novels.

Linda Strong says

This is a re-read for me. It's been over a year since I read it, but I kept it on my shelves knowing I wanted to read it again sometime.

Merciless is the sequel to SENSELESS and is the story of Angie Carlson and Detective Malcolm Kier. Young women are disappearing and they happen to be clients of Angie, who is a defense attorney. The bodies are found a few days later .. well, actually, it's only their bones that are found, usually artfully arranged in very public places.

Angie and Malcolm are no strangers to the things that human monsters can do. The story really gets interesting when the thread seems to lead back to murder and madness 20 or so years in the past. And the closer Angie gets to the truth, the more danger she's in, and the more protective Malcolm gets.

Lots of twists and turns in this one ... with a major one that's explosive. I enjoyed the characters of Angie and Malcolm. Malcolm does not like her at all. She's a defense attorney who got a vicious rapist set free. He's always sniping at her, but she's got thick skin and gives as good as she gets.

The bad guys are just plain evil! And just when I thought I had it all figured out, up would pop another of those twists to send me down a different road.

Highly recommended to anyone who likes a good mystery/thriller or a Romantic Suspense.

Janine says

A definite 'read in the bath' book. Not particularly taxing, formulaic and if you drop it in the water you won't really mind. I eyerolled so hard at the conclusion. Read this book if you don't want to think.

Black Butterfly says

5++*stars REALLY!

ANGIE AND HER SISTER HAVE SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS GOING ON IN THEIR LIVES, EVA ADDS A REAL BIGGY AROUND 44%. THIS BOOK HAD ME TALKIN' OUT LOUD TO THE CHARACTERS IN DIFFERENT SCENES. A LITTLE PREDICTABLE BUT NOT IN A BAD WAY LOVED THE CHARACTERS AND THE STORYLINE. INTENSE! DOUBLE CROSS?? ;D

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

The saying "Never make a deal with a scorpion, it will sting you every time" proves to be very true for Angie Carlson. "First One" and "Other" target Angie for their diabolical scheme. They are merciless--a terrifying pair.

Angie, called the barracuda by some because of her tactics as a defense lawyer, pulls out all the stops to get her clients cleared of all charges. The idealism of her youth has faded but her dedication to her clients holds strong. However, she comes to question her wisdom in getting Dr. James Dixon set free as a new series of crimes start.

After Detectives Malcolm Kier and Deacon Garrison rescue her half-sister Eva from a tortuous death, Angie is more inclined to help them when the bones of young women start showing up for all to see. When one of the victims turns out to be one of her clients, Angie becomes totally involved in the search for the criminals.

Malcolm Kier is more cynical and brusque than his partner and makes no bones about hating Angie Carlson for getting Dr. Dixon set free. Some of the names he calls her are harsh but she 'gives as good as she gets'. In time, Kier's hate morphs into an entirely different emotion that subtly weaves its way into their shaky-truce relationship. They like to spar, talk, and make love, but a permanent relationship seems impossible. Their strong attraction to each other has to duck, dodge, and sometimes hide as the bone-chilling crimes create a dangerous, terrifying environment with suspects galore.

Many of the characters in Senseless along with additional characters from Angie and Eva's past ratchet up the terror, suspense, and horrifying happenings as every aspect of law enforcement in Alexandria, Virginia works around the clock to find who is killing young women and cleaning their bones to pristine condition then displaying them in a prominent place.

Other characters like baby David and his grandmother Vivian Sweet add a new dimension to this complex story. They give Angie a different perspective on life.

Mary Burton's writing style with its realism, strong sense of place, and diverse characters makes Merciless throb with life. The twists, turns, surprises, horrors, and vast range of emotions make this story breath-taking, heart-pounding, super reading.

originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

Ishika Patel says

I hadn't realised this was book 2 in a series but I don't believe it mattered at all unless you really want to read it all from the absolute beginning and in order. It could easily be read as a standalone book given the amount of detail about the previous story and I had no idea throughout that it was actually a book 1 story, until I went to post my review.

I found the book full of twists and turns and every time I thought I knew who the killer was ...well I just didn't! The characters developed well and I could really picture them in my mind. I didn't find the descriptions too wordy - I find endless pages of descriptions a bore, so if you like that sort of thing, this isn't that.

I marked down a star because I did predict a few of the other conclusions to the story and found the ending a bit too cliché and obvious. But I was ready for it and was happy it was over in a few pages.

Great overall story and could see it being an episode or two on a crime show.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

A great follow up to Senseless and definitely if you read the first book, you need to read this one.

Although not in the series, Before She Dies picks up with some of the same characters (which I really liked) and recommend reading it after this one.

Simon says

Sorry not my cup of tea (being English of course) I do enjoy thrillers and crime but this by Mary Burton is a tad dull and too fluffy for my tastes; I would of preferred more story rather than relationship and more crime solving.

To others I know that they will enjoy it especially if you enjoy Karen Rose, Nicki French.

Jane Stewart says

Complicated spider web of mystery lacking some logic. Not much romance. Smart heroine was stupid for no good reason.

STORY BRIEF:

Defense attorney Angie is known as The Barracuda by cops. Dixon was guilty of brutalizing and beating prostitutes. He hired Angie to defend him and she got him off. Dixon formed a partnership with The Other. The Other would kidnap a victim while Dixon had an alibi. Then Dixon would rape and beat the victim. When Dixon was done, The Other would kill them, strip their bones, and carve chess pieces from the bones.

The Other later began taunting the police by leaving the bones in public places. The next two victims were two of Angie's clients.

Homicide detective Malcolm dislikes Angie. But he interacts with her due to links with the recent murders. Angie's parents are dead but there is a mystery about her parents' past which is later solved.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

This is primarily mystery suspense. The bad guys are really bad and cause pain and fear for the reader. It's gory with thoughts of beetles eating flesh and decaying smells. I was ok with that but some readers may not be. It's a police procedural with the good guys doing a thorough investigation and slowly uncovering more and more clues about the past and what's going on. This is a spider web. There are a lot of lines drawn among the various characters and their relationships and motives. When I charted out all the interactions, some things weren't logical or believable. Parents commit sins. Offspring and/or acquaintances commit similar sins years later. Too many red herrings and the connections were not logical enough (for me). The positive is that all becomes clear by the end of the book. The uncovering of clues and solving the mystery is done well. But I wasn't really captivated or entertained. At best the characters were "interesting."

The book is labeled romantic suspense, and it fits that definition because a couple does get together at the end. But the relationship wasn't romantic. He dislikes her at first, but finds himself liking her by the end. Their relationship is like coworkers, and then all of a sudden there is a sex scene. I didn't see any romantic attraction or physical desire building up before that scene. Don't expect passion. The ending is satisfying and happy.

The heroine is smart throughout the book except when she gets caught by a bad guy. She knew she was in danger. She had police security with her whenever she was not at work. But she snuck away from her security guard to go visit someone, while the bad guy followed her. There was no reason to sneak away. Her guard would have gone with her. Then on another occasion after her guard left, she went outside alone - again. Of course she got taken. That bothered me.

DATA:

Story length: 410 pages. Swearing language: strong, including religious swear words. Sexual language: mild. One sex scene 1 ½ pages long. Setting: current day mostly Alexandria, Virginia. Copyright: 2011. Genre: Mystery Suspense With Minimal Romance.

Reba Love says

Predictable from the beginning

Burton does a good job with her characters but I find the sequencing disconcerting. I read the first book in this series and from page one knew who the other was.

Hope Frost says

I can't seem to get enough of Mary Burton. Her books are so thrilling and you really have to pay attention to put the clues together. This book was no different. I loved it, and I was shocked at the bad guy (which I like).

So many twists and turns, lots of great action and a couple you can't help but want to see end together.

Barb says

Great follow-up to Senseless---many of the same characters pulled into this novel. The story continues w/ more twists and unexpected details revealed about the characters and their motivations. Once again Mary Burton delivers a hard to predict and enjoyable suspense novel.

Colleen says

Okay, I can pretty much cut and paste my review for the first book, Senseless, and put it here. Same thoughts on this one. Great suspense, but needed more romance. There were also a few typos in this one that just bothered me (for instance in one scene where Angie was resting after a swim, in one sentence it states she removes her goggles from her head, places them on the side of the pool and then two sentences later it states she pushed her goggles up on top of he head) - that stuff just bothers me when I'm reading a book.

Still a great read, but I would definitely recommend reading the first one before you read this one. Too many things that happened in the first book are brought up in this one. The author does a good job explaining everything, but you will have a better understanding of what is going on if you have read the first one.

Jovdb says

Hadn't realized this was a sequel and wondered, most of the way through, why there were so many references to previous incidents! My excuse is: I was reading this one late at night, only book available from the online library! Oh well.

I enjoyed the plot line. It kept me awake and engaged but I did figure out who done it early on.

A little romance, a little mystery, interesting characters and some "Ah!" factors.

All in all a good read. I shall have to go back and read the first one!

I agree with other comments: could have been better editing; definitely some continuity issues.
