



Senseless

Mary Burton

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Senseless is the first in a two-part series by Mary Burton - America's dark mistress of crime.

Every Serial Killer Knows . . .

The vicious burns scarring the victims' flesh reveal the agony of their last moments. Each woman was branded with a star, then stabbed through the heart. With every death, a vengeful killer finds a brief, blissful moment of calm . . .

The Perfect Time . . .

Ten years ago, Eva Rayburn and her sorority sisters were celebrating the end of the school year. That party turned into a nightmare Eva can't forget. Now she's trying to start over in her Virginia hometown, but a new nightmare has begun. Every victim is linked to her. And Detective Deacon Garrison isn't sure whether this mysterious woman needs investigating - or protecting . . .

To Make His Mark . . .

Only Eva's death will bring peace. Only her tortured screams will silence the rage that has been building for ten long years. Because what started that night at the sorority can never be stopped - not until the last victim has been marked for death . . .

Senseless precedes *Merciless* in a two-part series from Mary Burton. What does the killer pass on in his cryptic message that leads to the drama of part two?

Praise for Mary Burton: 'A twisted tale . . . I couldn't put it down!' Lisa Jackson;
'Stieg Larsson fans will find a lot to like in Burton's taut, well-paced novel' *Publishers Weekly*

Mary Burton is the critically acclaimed author of I'm Watching You, Dead Ringer, Dying Scream, Merciless and Senseless - all set in Virginia, USA, where Mary lives with her family.

Senseless Details

Date : Published January 1st 2011 by Zebra

ISBN :

Author : Mary Burton

Format : Kindle Edition 412 pages

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

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From Reader Review Senseless for online ebook

Dawn ♥ romance says

I enjoyed this complex romance with multiple threads covering lots of characters all building the intrigue. It had a good plot and plenty of action, however, the romance was weak. I liked the giving people a second chance theme and I never guessed the 'who done it.' Detective Deacon is investigating a murder case and clues lead him to Eva and the nightmare she endured ten years ago.

Cheri says

I really enjoy reading MB's books. This one had twists and turns, plots within plots, and left me befuddled until the end.

Mei says

Really good book! I love her writing style. This is a thriller more than a romance, but the story is very good. The hero and the heroine are very real and their feelings are described in a very realistic manner. Excellent!

Marilyn Rondeau says

One would think that a victim stabbed through the heart received a quick death, but the truth was, the agony the victims of this serial killer endured before the death stab was horrendous. Each woman suffered agony when they were branded several times with a four pointed burning star, only then did the killer put them out of their misery.

Ten years previously Eva Rayburn and her sorority sisters were celebrating the end of the school year. That party turned into a nightmare Eva had had to live through, not only the vicious rape and an agonizing burn to her shoulder of a four pointed star, but then being accused by her sorority sisters that she killed her attacker (a memory she couldn't remember) and then burning down the sorority house. Now, having served her time, Eva had come back to start her life over in her Virginia hometown but new nightmares just beginning once again, with the victims being branded with that same four pointed star.

*** SENSELESS was a debut read for me by this author and I was thrilled with the depth she imbued in her characters. Each person in this complex mystery was given motivation and purpose, yet the ending was a twist I didn't see coming. Ms. Burton played her cards extremely close to her vest and I didn't have a clue. Yet, the ending made perfect sense and was tied up nicely!

I loved the fact that this was had more suspense than romance (although it was wonderful to watch Burton build on the romantic aspect along the way – which, in my opinion was very well done). Detective Deacon Garrison, initially had his doubts about Eve but the more she let him in, the more he began to believe in her where she could finally allow herself to relax in the presence of a cop!

I also enjoyed the supporting cast of characters, like King, a big softie who went out of his way to give Eva (an ex-con) a chance at a new job. King himself held secrets but who couldn't love him when kindness seemed to overflow from his gestures in not only giving Eva a new beginning but also when he took in a foster kid (Bobby) and showed him the trust and kindness that had been missing from Bobby's life for a long time.

Bottom line: SENSELESS was a great read and I am looking forward to reading more from this author who knows how to put together a complex and totally engrossing romantic suspense story! This was ACES!!!

Marilyn Rondeau, for www.ck2skwipsandkritiques.com

Colleen says

I almost returned this book (and the next one, Merciless) to the library without even reading them - just so many books and only so much time.... so glad I found the time to read these! I will say the book would have been a 5 star if the romance would have been stronger and if the ending didn't seem so rushed. All of the books by Mary Burton do not seem to be strong in the romance department - so if you like a lot of romance in your romantic suspense novels - this one might not do it for you. I will say the story was very intriguing and kept me glued to the pages to see what would happen next. That part of the book was fantastic - it just needed more in the relationship part of the book, at least I wanted more from that angle. Definitely a great start to a new series!!

Anne OK says

Review to follow. Good start to a new series for Burton.

Linda Strong says

This is a re-read for me. If you're looking for a Romantic Suspense which is well-written, this is the author to follow. I actually bought this book when it came out in 2011. I read it again about once a year.

Eva Rayburn has just been released from prison. She was sentenced to 10 years behind bars (when she was just 17) for the murder of a young man. This young man raped her and branded her, and because his father was rich and powerful, Eva was served justice that shouldn't have been. On top of that, she doesn't remember killing him.

Three of her 'friends' from college lied on the stand during her trial. Now, one by one, those now-women are being abducted, branded, then stabbed to death.

Enter Detective Deacon Garrison ... who feels in his bones that all these killings are related... and Eva seems to be the catalyst.

So is Eva getting a little of her own back or is there a killer running loose who also has revenge on the mind?

The suspense builds and builds the characters are beautifully written. Eva is tough as nails and refuses help from anyone ... until danger gets perilously close to her and the people she loves. Deacon starts out as a bit arrogant, but he becomes very protective of Eva. The attraction between them starts out slowly .. there are trust issues on both sides. The intimate scenes which come closer to the end of the book are very nicely done ... a little spice which adds, rather than detracts, from the story.

I am now reading MERCILESS, which is a sequel and is the story of Angie (Eva's sister) and Malcom Kier (Deacon's partner).

I recommend this book with no reservations to anyone who likes a good mystery/thriller and/or a very well done romantic suspense.

Jane Doe says

This is the third book I've read by this author, I like her style of writing and the mystery was great. I know these books are labeled as Romantic Suspense, the romance is very light, in fact this one had the most romance in it of the other books I've read. The characters were interesting and likeable. I will be reading the next book in this series. Very enjoyable suspense with light romance.

Wendy Hines says

Ten years ago Eva Rayburn was brutally raped, burned with a star pendant and then blacked out. When she came to, she was being taken from the sorority house that was on fire, and her would be attacker, dead. Accused of killing Josiah Cross by her three friends, Eva is convicted and spends ten years of her life in prison. Now released, Eva carries the burden of ex-con on her shoulders. She is still tormented about the time she blacked out ten years ago. She feels in her bones she did not kill Josiah, but she can't remember. She lives above King's Bar and works for him as a bartender. She keeps to herself and is saving up every penny she can so she can return to college.

Deacon Garrison is a homicide detective who is having a difficult time linking the viscous murders that keep happening in his jurisdiction. The women have been branded four times with four pointed stars, and then viciously stabbed to death. His investigation leads him to Eva Rayburn, an intriguing ex-con. The women who have been identified are two of the women who testified against Eva.

Since her return, Eva had neglected to contact her sister Angela. Detective Garrison lets Angela know her sister has returned, so Eva is trying to form a tentative bond with her. During her trial, Josiah's father, a wealthy and powerful man, had threatened Angela's life if Eva tried to fight against her charges. Eva told Angela to leave and never return, even though it broke her heart.

Now, Eva is determined to fight against the suspicions about her seeking revenge on her sorority sisters and killing them. She tries to remember the memories she lost and help Detective Garrison find the killer before he finds her. She knows it won't be long until the killer is after her, but will they be too late?

SENSELESS is a edge-of-your-seat thriller that will keep you up long in the night. The characters of Eva and Detective Garrison are edgy, realistic, and very likable. The plot twists and turns that it is hard to guess who

the killer is until Ms. Burton leads us directly to whom it may be. Absolutely fantastic! Also, don't miss MERCILESS, coming out in February. Eva's sister, Angela, is the heroine, and it promises to be just as thrilling.

Sandra Holladay says

I'm reading a Kindle edition; the printed book may be different.

Too many cases of useless repetition. i.e. "The four girls sat in a circle around the stone fireplace. A hearty fire crackled and popped in the hearth, warming the room and chasing away the chill of the spring night. [paragraph] "Now as the flames flickered and cast shadows against the stone hearth, the girls sat in a circle, each a little tipsy from wine."

In addition, there were several sentences I had to read several times trying to understand them because they seemed to say the opposite of what the surrounding content appeared to imply.

When Eva was attacked in the alley "King burst through the back alley door, a meat cleaver in his hand." Then just a bit later "King clenched his bat. "I'm grateful you were here, Detective. I can swing a bat if need be, but I don't move so fast.""

Aside from needing a final editing/proofreading, I felt the major characters were well developed and likeable. The story started out a bit slow, it wasn't until the last several chapters that real suspense built. I had no clue who the killer was (the story didn't really provide clues to let the reader try to solve the case; either that or I missed them). Overall, I liked the story and will read more from this author.

Gina says

I feel bad because I judged the author before I read her. Burton, to me, is known as the mystery author whose mass market paperbacks you can buy at the grocery store, which is what I did on a weekend away. It ended up that I didn't have time to read the book and it sat on my shelf forever. I needed her book for a challenge, and I was completely shocked that it was so good. The characters were well developed and I had no idea who the "bad guy" was until he was revealed by the author. The only thing I don't like in these kinds of books is the falling in love with the detective garbage and then having sex. Hey, I'm not against sex in books. I read erotica and just got into the Calendar Girls series from Amazon. But this kind of throwaway sex was really what knocked it down from a 5 star to a 4 star for me. The girl was strong enough without the big bad detective to protect her. Anyway...great plot with a group of sorority sisters who were involved in a murder and arson during college and pinned it on the main character, who was jailed for murdering the man who raped her, Josiah Cross, who was known for his temper and "bad family". Eva, the MC, simply cannot remember the minutes after she was raped when Josiah died because he had branded her with a star pendant and she had passed out. All she remembers is waking up with him dead and the house on fire. Her supposed friends then testified against her and she was jailed for 10 years. Eva was railroaded and she knows it.

Now Eva is out of prison and back in town. However, suddenly murdered women start dropping like flies and they are related to Eva and her murder case from 10 years ago. The clues are pointing to Eva as each

murdered woman is branded with the same star she was branded with so many years ago. Is Eva back for revenge or is someone else looking for revenge against the sorority girls? Detective Deacon Garrison at first doesn't know what to believe but as he gets to know Eva and reads her trial notes, he believes too that she was railroaded by her friends....but why? What secrets are they holding? Garrison knows he must find the killer before he gets to his ultimate target, Eva.

This was a very good read and I have learned not to judge an author by where her books are sold. This is a duo series. I will definitely be reading the other book in the duo. I recommend this books to others who like mysteries and romantic suspense. And don't make the same mistake I did and just give the authors a chance whose books you can buy en masse at grocery stores and pharmacies. It doesn't mean they aren't good. 4 stars!

Tara says

This is my first Mary Burton book and won't be my last. I really enjoyed this book, the characters and twists and connections kept me from putting it down. Maybe it was just me, but I never figured out who was doing all the killing until I was smacked in the face with it and the keeping me guessing made me enjoy this even more.

I pick Merciless up from the library tomorrow and can't wait to see what happens next with these characters. If you haven't read Mary Burton, I highly suggest you start!

KKat says

Spannend bis zur letzten Seite!

Joan Schulhafer says

The fourth of Mary Burton's books I've read, this is among her best. As always, the characters pulled me right alongside the subplot and the tense opening scenes. DISCLOSURE: I'm fortunate to work with Mary on some of her titles and so I'm possibly a bit biased. BUT I do know how much I enjoyed SENSELESS and the soon to be published MERCILESS and I hope other fans of romantic suspense and crime fiction will as well.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

This was published back in 2011, but I just read this series in 7/2017. I think this is one of those books that

will age well.

The story and the characters were really well done and believable. I really like how Ms. Burton weaves current crimes to historical crimes as she has done in this book.

I'm going to cheat and say I really liked Linda Strong's review (<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>) and wished I had written it.

I have also read book #2, Merciless and a follow up book to the series Before She Dies and enjoyed them as well. I would recommend this set of books to those who like romantic suspense or crime/suspense with a little romance thrown in.
