



## Dead Ringer

*Mary Burton*

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## **Dead Ringer** Mary Burton

Some Nightmares...

Beside each body, he leaves a simple charm bearing a woman's name. Ruth. Martha. Judith. The victims were strangers to each other, but they have been chosen with the utmost care. Each bears a striking resemblance to Kendall Shaw, a local anchorwoman. . .each brutally strangled by a madman whose obsession will never end...

Don't Fade. . .

In front of the cameras, Kendall is the picture of stylish confidence. But at night she's haunted by nightmares in which she is young, alone, and filled with fear. Are these memories--or omens? Despite warnings from Richmond Detective Jacob Warwick, Kendall can't stop investigating the recent string of murders. She knows she holds the key to catching an obsessed psychopath--if he doesn't get to her first. . .

With Daylight

The deeper Kendall and Jacob dig into the victims' backgrounds, the more terrifying the discoveries. For from the shadows of the past, a legacy of evil has resurfaced. Every murder, every moment has been leading to Kendall. And this time, nothing will stop the killer making her his final victim. . .

## **Dead Ringer Details**

Date : Published July 3rd 2012 by Zebra Books (first published January 1st 2008)

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Author : Mary Burton

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

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## **From Reader Review Dead Ringer for online ebook**

### **Amberly Reilly says**

I'll be honest and admit that this is the fifth book I've read by Mary Burton. I should have gone to her printable book list and read them in order but didn't start that until after I had finished one of her other series. This is the second book in this series and I love it! I cannot wait to start the next one! It has the same two detectives that I started to love in the first novel; Kier and Warwick. It's amazing how I never did guess who the bad guy was until I found out. Normally I have a good idea before the end but not with this author. Family can be defined as many things....blood, friends, ex-in laws, and etc. This book shows you the extremes that some people take to have and keep a family. It is amazingly written and has characters that you will love and want to have in each additional book. I would recommend this author to anyone who enjoys mysteries, thrillers, or suspense!!

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### **joannrux says**

#### **Great read**

Was a wonderful book. Quick read. Suspensful, Scary . I was enthralled the entire time. Couldnt put it down. Love Mary Burton . She holds your interest every page.

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### **Connie Charron says**

#### **Definitely a page turner!**

I have definitely found a new author to read. Fantastic job Mary Burton! I'll be reading more of your books soon. Thank you for writing such a great story.

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### **Sally Brandle says**

Good suspense book. Realistic creepy killer, but I had him pegged fairly early on. Enjoyed reading it.

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### **Nancy says**

Well, I really wouldn't describe it as "riveting" but it was a fast easy read for a gloomy rainy Saturday afternoon.....

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## **Mojca says**

The first book by this author I read didn't really convince me, so I was pretty "nervous" as to how this one would pan out. And I was pleasantly surprised.

Good suspense, wonderful tension (also between characters), great mystery, good pacing...I was satisfied with this reading experience. Pity, the heroine was a journalist, though. They always come across as vultures willing to do anything to get their story. While I might admire the zeal in other circumstances, murder isn't one of those.

Still, the strange connection Kendall felt with the victims helped in making her distance herself from her profession, and humanize the victims for her.

Good story.

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## **Ruth says**

Reporter Kendall Shaw nearly died at the hands of a serial killer last summer. Since returning to work, she's done her reporting from the safety of the anchor's desk. But when a young woman is found strangled by the James River, Kendall feels compelled to cover the story. She wants to prove that she can handle the tough stories – not only to herself, but also to her demanding boss and former boyfriend, Brett.

Homicide detective Jacob Warrington and his partner Zack Kier have little to go on at the murder scene. The killer left no physical evidence and the only clue they have is a small gold charm engraved with the name 'Ruth'.

When more victims are discovered, each with a gold charm of their own, an unsettling pattern emerges. Each victim was killed in the same manner, and they all bear an uncanny resemblance to Kendall Shaw. As Jacob tries to keep Kendall from becoming the next victim, he finds himself fighting a growing attraction to her.

Does the killer have his sights set on Kendall? And could a mystery from her past be the key to solving the crime?

While I enjoyed *Dead Ringer*, I felt two of the subplots should have been more fully developed. One promising subplot with Kendall's boss Brett saw no real resolution. Another subplot, this time involving Kendall's roommate Nicole and one of her photography clients, was more fleshed out, but it didn't feel believable to me. However, *Dead Ringer* offered up some great twists, an interesting protagonist, and a terrifying killer. These three elements made it a difficult book to put down.

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## **Ruth McCoy says**

### **Great book!**

This is a thrilling roller coaster ride! Just when you think you know what will happen, you get turned upside down!

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### **Tracy says**

3.5

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### **Jane Stewart says**

Ok for mystery suspense with an adoption undercurrent. Serial killer is strangling women.

#### **STORY BRIEF:**

A serial killer is strangling women who look similar to Kendall, a TV news anchorwoman. Jacob is the homicide detective working the case. He is attracted to Kendall but feels she is out of his league. Nicole is a pregnant single woman who lives with Kendall. The issues of adoption are an undercurrent. Kendall was adopted and decides to learn more about her past. Nicole is deciding whether or not to give up her baby for adoption. Kendall has been having nightmares and doesn't know if they are memories or omens.

#### **REVIEWER'S OPINION:**

This was ok. It was typical for mystery and suspense. I had no major problems with it. The weaknesses were: I didn't feel an emotional connection somehow. There was almost no romantic relationship development. I would have liked more. The story was mostly the solving of the mystery as opposed to Jacob and Kendall interacting with each other. I also would have preferred a little more interesting conversation or things that surprised or delighted me.

#### **DATA:**

Story length: 380 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: none. Number of sex scenes: 2. Total number of sex scene pages: 3. Setting: current day Richmond, Virginia area. Copyright: 2008. Genre: mystery suspense with minimal romance.

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### **Laurel says**

Not really any clues to hint at a suspect in the book. Some random characters who could be involved, but nothing serious to indicate them. Almost a Scooby Doo-esque reveal, but it was done fairly well. Pretty indifferent overall.

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### **Lainy says**

Time taken to read - 2 days

Publisher - Penguin books

Pages - 416

## Blurb from Goodreads

Beside each body, he leaves a simple charm bearing a woman's name. Ruth, Rachel, Judith. The victims were strangers to each other, but they have been chosen with the utmost care. Each bears a striking resemblance to Kendall Shaw, a local anchorwoman, each brutally strangled by a madman whose obsession will never end.

## My Review

Kendall Shaw is a reporter, ruthless and does what it takes to get her story. However, being a survivor of a serial killer and a near death experience her outlook and approach has changed. Jacob Warwick is a homicide detective, linked to Kendall from the serial killer who almost killed her. On opposite sides of the job, they keep falling into each others paths with a mixture of emotions toward the other. Women are dying, a serial killer is on the loose. They bear a striking resemblance to Kendall, is it a coincidence or is Kendall at risk once again and how far will Warwick go to keep her safe?

This is a great crime story, the pace is fast and there are surprises and twists throughout the story. If you have read the previous book you will recognize a few of the characters, I read the previous book last year and I remembered a few things and characters which isn't like me. It is a busy story, lots of different things going on with the characters. Kendall for example is dealing with her boss who is also her ex who has decided maybe they aren't over. Kendall is having nightmares that are becoming more frequent and she can't make head nor tales of it. She has covered many murders yet something about this one is having a profound effect on her.

There is attraction and sexual chemistry between some of the characters, there is some sex within the book although not is reeks of graphic content however it is worth noting it is in there. Overall it kept my attention, pulls you in from the prologue and keeps you guessing along the way as to why the killer is doing what he is doing and who is it. 3/5 for me, I would read this author again, she has a good style and engages the reader quickly.

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## CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I should have written this review right after I finished or left myself better notes as I'm struggling to remember everything. I really liked the supporting cast in this book and I loved the combination of the current day plot to an historical crime.

There were however, a number of times that I was pulled out of the story which for me dropped the rating some.

From my notes:

In the beginning of the book, a foster parent is able to immediately pull a yearbook for a foster child she hasn't had in a few years. She's had over a dozen kids go through her home. I couldn't guarantee that I could do that for one of my own two kids.

Ok really? She has the key to unlock the deadbolt on the front door but doesn't lock the door and the bad guy

is chasing them. It would have gained them all the time they needed. Then she doesn't lock the car door. Again what part of locking the bad guy out is difficult?

Although my preference in romantic suspense is more suspense plot than romance, I do think romance fans we be disappointed in the lack of development in Kendall and Jacob's relationship. There is very little development leading to the HEA and therefore it's hard to completely buy in.

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### **Liviania says**

The police discover the body of a woman strangely wearing a charm decorated with a name that's not her own. Soon, another woman with similar facial structure and coloring is found dead. Detective Jacob Warwick notices their resemblance to reporter Kendall Shaw who really gets under his skin.

At the same time Kendall has her own concerns. The Stranger (the killer in *I'M WATCHING YOU*) kidnapped and terrorized her and now she's having nightmares. Oddly, they aren't of her recent experience but of a little girl and baby hiding in a closet. This renews her interest in her adoption. Her parents never wanted to talk about it, but now both of them are dead and she's curious about her ancestry. Of course, her curiosity is also encouraged by her roommate Nicole Piper's pregnancy.

Nicole doesn't know whether she wants to keep her child or give it up for adoption. She does know she doesn't want her creepy customer anywhere near her or the baby. (And that might not be the only creeper after her.) Burton knows how to keep multiple storylines with multiple shady characters in play.

She also knows how to develop a relationship well. Kendall and Jacob are both very independent, career-driven people. With that in common it's hard for them to make connections. It takes them awhile to take steps toward a relationship, but it's satisfying when they do. There are interesting side relationships going on as well. Burton offers glimpses into the life of reunited couple Zach and Lindsey, the hero and heroine of *I'M WATCHING YOU*. They don't get more screen time than necessary, but they do get enough to show that their marriage has improved.

In addition, Nicole begins a very sweet relationship with widowed policeman Ayden. Well, they don't actually begin a relationship, but they clearly like each other. Nicole deserves it after all she's gone through in this duology. I believe this relationship is the focus of Burton's novella in the *SILVER BELLS* anthology, which makes me want to pick it up. I'm a sucker for cute, sweet romances. And a cute, sweet romance is exactly what *DEAD RINGER* needs at points.

Burton doesn't shy away from dark material, which is needed to make a romantic suspense suspenseful. In the end I find the killer a bit overly capable. Just how did he manage to find all his victims? (For that matter, why did they all live so close together?) However, she kept the story moving and I didn't begin to think about these questions until the end.

If you aren't into romantic suspense, this likely won't be the book to convert you. If you are, it's a good one to pick up. It's not too gory and it's there's plenty of lighter stuff to balance out the killers.

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### **Katherine says**

I like Mary Burton's books and generally rate them at 3.5. This one just gets a 3 because of some descriptive inconsistencies that were jarring. Otherwise, the story is good and the suspense is great.

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