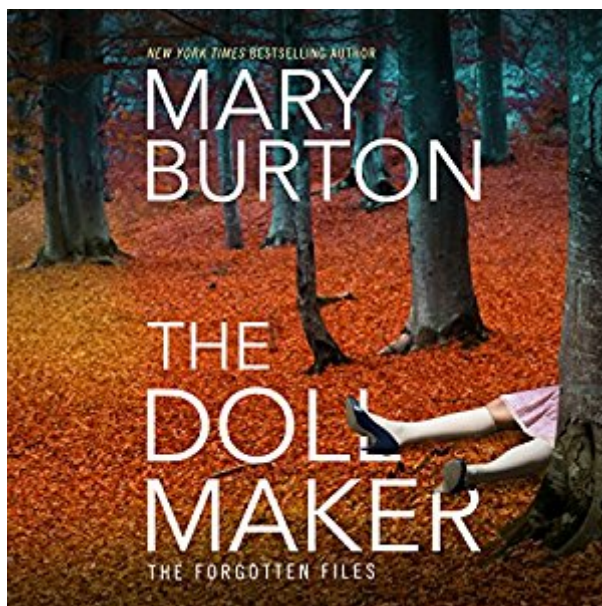


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# The Dollmaker: Forgotten Files, Book 2



## Synopsis

Dr. Tessa McGowan had never seen anything quite like it. But the mutilated bodies on her exam table tell a stunningly macabre tale: someone with a twisted mind is kidnapping women and altering their faces to resemble real, life-size dolls. As a forensic pathologist, it's her job to aid the agent leading the case - even if that agent is her estranged husband. Twelve years ago an unspeakable tragedy destroyed Dakota Sharp's world. Haunted by the ghosts of his past, he's devoted himself to capturing killers. His only regret is that it cost him Tessa. Now, as the Dollmaker case brings them together - and raises his suspicions that he's crossed paths with this deranged psychopath before - they may just have their second chance. But it seems Dakota's not the only one who wants to make Tessa his own... She may be the Dollmaker's next target, but Tessa has no intention of winding up as another toy on his shelf. Can she and Dakota stop this ghastly killer before his next deadly playdate?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was a great blend of mystery/suspense plus romance. On the suspense front, action starts right up front and that pace is perfect - kept me reading. I liked how so many details and aspects and chains of events were revealed and explored, yet I could easily understand everything as it unfolded. Legitimate clues, believable crimes, credible investigation. On the romance front, this was a surprisingly rich romance, with depth and caring. In the first book of this series, I felt the romance was super lightweight; in this book, the romance is very well done. Kudos, Mary Burton!

I won this book through the GoodReads First Reads promotion and cannot wait to start reading it!!! This series must be read in order. The first book is *The Shark*. This is the second book. I can't wait to read the next one! Tessa still loves her husband Dakota and wants to make things work so she takes a Fellowship at the Morgue. Running away from their problems was not the brightest idea, but now she is here to stay. Will working together bring them closer to each other or tear them further apart? Who is turning women into dolls and then murdering them? Who is watching her? Or is she being paranoid? Will Dakota give them another chance? Dakota has never gotten over the death of his baby sister. He has always felt like he failed her. Dying of an overdose for a girl who didn't do drugs screams murder... But the ME ruled it an accidental death. He even missed her funeral. He feels like he has no right to be happy, especially with one of his half-sister's best friends. Why is Tessa back? What does she want from him? Will he ever solve his sister's murder (if it was one)? Why does he keep thinking about her? How is what happened to her connected to what is happening now? Or is it just because her father died and left him the files on her death? Can he solve this case? Kara's? Can he keep Tessa safe?

Agent Dakota Sharp works homicide for the Virginia State Police Department. He chose this career after his half-sister Kara died from an apparent overdose of drugs. He was devastated by her loss and filled with questions nobody could answer. Kara never used drugs. Years later, while attending his step-father Roger's funeral, a private investigator approached Dakota stating he was hired by Roger to gather all the evidence surrounding Kara's death. Roger never believed Kara died the way the authorities claimed and his dying wish was to have Dakota re-examine all the information one last time. Dr. Tessa McGowan is a forensic pathologist and also the estranged wife of Dakota Sharp. She spent the last year working outside the country helping identify remains of American soldiers who went missing in Vietnam. She is ready to come home. She wants to reconnect with Dakota and save her marriage. She accepted a job in the Virginia State Medical Examiner's Office in Richmond which would force them to work together. She was best friends with his sister Kara in college and knew her death had a huge impact on Dakota but his unyielding determination to solve cases made her believe he was not committed to their marriage. After being apart and her work abroad, Tessa finally understands why Dakota becomes so obsessed in his work when trying to solve a homicide. She sees the human cost paid by victims and how important it is to bring justice to them and closure to their families. Agent Dakota Sharp has a new case. A woman's body has been found. However, the woman's face has been so mutilated she looks like a life-sized doll. He soon

learns Tessa will be part of his team to help solve this case. Pretty soon, another woman has been found and also mutilated to look like a doll. As he starts to unwind the puzzle pieces of these homicides, he begins to fear there might be some kind of personal connection from his past with this psychopath committing these homicides. Worse, Tessa might be in the cross hairs of this killer. Can Dakota and Tessa unravel the mysteries of these killings to find out how they might be involved and can they solve the past before Tessa becomes a victim of THE DOLLMAKER. I loved this book. Mary Burton is an amazing author who creates an exciting roller coaster ride of suspense and mystery that you find yourself not being able to put the book down. THE DOLLMAKER, THE FORGOTTEN FILES BOOK 2 was a chilling read and I enjoyed trying to figure out who and what is behind the actions taken by a psychopath. This book was given to me by the author in exchange for a fair review.

I'm usually really good at figuring out who the bad guy is but I totally didn't see that coming!! The Dollmaker was really good at hiding in plain sight which makes stalking and taking his dolls without anybody suspecting very easy. Will take a keen eye and dedication to bring a deranged killer to justice and get the answers to long asked questions. This is a gripping thrill ride that you won't be able to put down

Mary Burton manages every time to bring in a twisting suspense plot without cookie cutter characters and weave in an intelligent romance all in one book that entertains me without me needing to leave lights on after I go to bed. Agent Dakota Sharp is on the trail of a killer. Dr. Tessa McGowan, separated from Agent Sharp and newly hired by the medical examiner's office as a forensic pathologist, looks at a recent body and wonders how truly horrifying a killer can be. Working together, Tessa and Dakota bring in other law enforcement (and characters from the previous book in the series, "The Shark") to apprehend a person with many kills to his/her credit. I appreciate Ms. Burton's ability to describe her characters through action and stream of consciousness and not by telling me. Good job.

I have just finished book 2 in The Forgotten Files. The Dollmaker is about someone who is kidnapping women and turning them into living dolls. Tessa McGowan and Dakota Shark are working hard to stop him. I enjoyed this 2nd book of the trilogy. I have started the 3rd book in the trilogy and looking forward to another great read.

This is one of the best I have read. It has it all: romance, mystery, chilling suspense. It is a page turner and sometimes almost takes your breath away with the fast pace. I recommend it to anyone who likes mysteries, some rough language and some sex mixed with fast paced action.

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