

Meet Mary Burton, Creator of *The Forgotten Files*

Mary Burton enjoys hunting serial killers. A *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling novelist, she's tracked them down in her hometown of Richmond, Alexandria, Austin and Nashville in books that have brought her acclaim and an ever growing readership. For the first of her *The Forgotten Files* novels, [The Shark](#), she's returned to Virginia.



Mary's been intrigued by law enforcement, investigative work and the people who do it since Virginia was stung by a string of serial killings spanning more than twenty years. It's not surprising that many of her novels, for which she's been compared to James Patterson*, Lisa Gardner** and Lisa Jackson*** are propelled by the acts of multiple killers and those who pursue them.

Mary's admiration for the skills required to pursue and arrest suspects is evidenced in her books and by her commitment to researching procedures and forensic details. She frequently attends the nationally recognized Writers Police Academy. She is also a graduate of the Richmond FBI Citizen's Academy and the Henrico County Citizens Police Academy. She has attended Sisters in Crime's Forensic University program.

Despite her emphasis on hard facts in the crimes she portrays, Mary's approach to each new novel is psychological. To begin her story she needs answers to three questions about her killers—why do they kill? What demons drive them? And how do they choose their victims? The answers are critical to her plot, she says, as they are to detectives solving a murder.

Mary, whose Richmond roots are as deep as the nation's, has made her home there for most of her life. She is a graduate of Virginia's Hollins University and worked in marketing before committing to write full time. Her first book was published in 2000.

Mary is the author of thirty published novels and five novellas. In addition to her recent books featuring the Morgan family ([Vulnerable](#), [Cover Your Eyes](#), [Be Afraid, I'll Never Let You Go](#)), Mary's other "connected" stories include [The Seventh Victim](#), [No Escape](#) and [You're Not Safe](#), featuring investigators from the Texas Rangers. Her short story, *The Keepsake*, is featured along with those by Jeffrey Deaver, Anne Perry and others in the anthology [Killer Nashville Noir: Cold Blooded](#).

She is a member of International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, Novelists Inc. and Romance Writers of America. She travels frequently for signings, book club visits, and speaking engagements at conferences, book festivals, bookstores and libraries. She is also known for her highly regarded "Unraveling Romantic Suspense" workshop and her day-long program "Writing Your Book . . . The First Step."

Mary, whose daughter and grandmother were both adopted, is also involved in issues facing adoptees and their families, many of which are reflected in her novels. She and her husband spend time alternately enjoying and lamenting their newly empty nest and spoiling their miniature dachshunds, Buddy, Bella and Tiki.

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