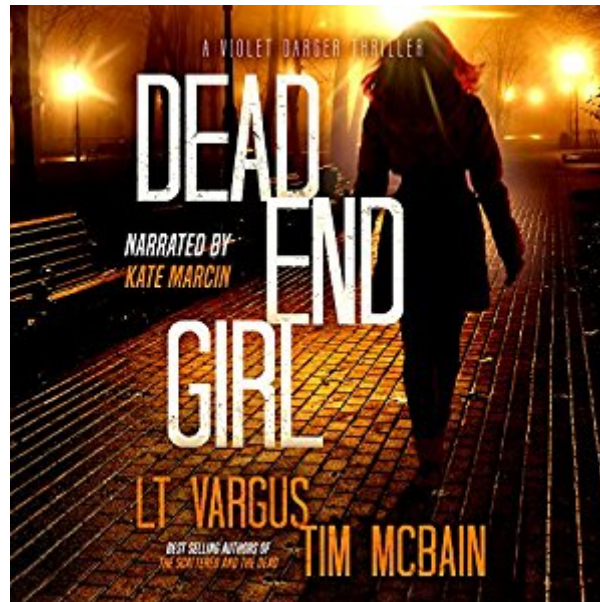




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# Dead End Girl: Violet Darger, Book 1



## Synopsis

Her body is broken. Wrapped in plastic. Dumped on the side of the road. She is the first. There will be more. A serial killer stalks women in rural Ohio. He is deranged but brilliant, known only by the grotesque nickname the media has given him - The Doll Parts Killer. The name is apt. He dismembers his victims and leaves them in garbage bags in public places. A residential neighborhood. Next to a roller rink. Behind a Burger King. The investigation is a disaster. No physical evidence. Unreliable witnesses. To make matters worse, the FBI has lost contact with the star profiler working the case. Now rookie agent Violet Darger gets the most important assignment of her career. When Darger travels to Ohio, she brings along demons of her own. Her last case ended in tragedy. The death of a 16 year old girl. Darger still has nightmares about the bloody scene, still has panic attacks when she remembers. The trauma shattered her core beliefs. Now she faces a killer unlike anything she's seen. Aggressive. Territorial. If she fails, more will die. He will kill again and again. Will this case restore her faith? Or push her over the edge? The victims harbor dark secrets. The clues twist and writhe and refuse to keep still. And the killer watches the investigation on the nightly news, gleeful to relive the violence, knowing that he can't be stopped.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dead End Girl is a tightly woven, fast-paced, tension-laced thrill ride. How do I know? Because it's 496 pages long and it felt like reading a novella. For pretty much two days I did nothing but read this book and wish it would never end. By the end of the first chapter, Violet felt like an old friend; I just

wanted to hang out and watch her solve grisly serial murders forever. Because of the serial killer and the FBI trainee with the haunted past chasing him, the obvious comparison is *Silence of the Lambs*—and don't get me wrong, if you liked *Silence of the Lambs*, you'll love *Dead End Girl*. But with the story taking an active interest in Violet Darger's life outside of the case, *Dead End Girl*—and likely all of the Violet Darger series—will also be a favorite among lovers of J.A. Konrath's Jack Daniels mysteries. At the same time, there's so much attention to detail and organic storytelling that this could easily compete with any of Stephen King's longer works. I found myself completely invested in every character, from the authorities to the killer to the victims themselves. Because blood and gore are great, and tracking down sickos is fun, but the living aren't the only characters who haunt the pages of *Dead End Girl*—the victims come to life, too. The authors have presented us with people, not Doll Parts, individuals who had names, families, flaws, senses of humor, and dreams before death turned them into front page fodder, clickbait, and short appositives that left more room for sensationalizing their grisly end. At its heart, that's what *Dead End Girl* is all about—forcing us to reevaluate our own voyeuristic interest in death, as well as the snap judgments about people that we make every day. *Dead End Girl* is an intriguing and entertaining start to what I hope is a long, long run of Violet Darger novels. If the whole series was available today, I'd buy them all and binge-read them straight through, but since it's not, I'm waiting on the edge of my favorite reading chair for the next one. If you love the serial killer genre, then this is a must-read for you.

I'm a fan of *The Scattered & the Dead* series and so was excited to see a new series from the authors. This is a pretty darn good read, although the ending wasn't too much of a surprise (if you pay attention) and my least favorite part was when the main character acts more like a petulant child than someone experienced in handling emotions. Overall, I liked it!

I really enjoyed this book! Could not put it down. While some parts were too detail ridden, the page turning suspense kept one longing for more! And, yes, it kept me guessing till the very end.

What a great story. These two authors hook you early have the chops to really create the best in character development. The story moves along and is not predictable. Can't wait for more.

I couldn't put the book down!! I loved the character of violet. She was very strong and independent. She was willing to take a risk to prove that a woman can handle herself. The writing was amazing, I

loved how gritty the book was.

This is my first experience with this author, and it will probably be my last. Enjoyed the plot at first, but then it went downhill. The descriptive language was excessive, so much so that I skipped page after page. The same story could have been told in an interesting, thought-provoking manner using half the words. I felt like I was reading a college essay that had a 500 word requirement, so the student crammed in as many useless and redundant details as possible. I'll keep looking.

It was a little slow in the beginning but about 1/3 of the way through, the characters started to reveal themselves. I loved FBI agent Violet Darger, each of the characters had a little something going for them. The Serial Killer was very creepy, the author write the first person perspective very well and it was completely believable (although, creepy).

Really excellent book. Changing perspectives keep the reader guessing right until the very end. Definitely a thriller, and a book that will grab you and not let go until you've gotten through it. I started it right around bedtime and ended up staying awake reading until 3 am. Fantastic storyline and enjoyable characters.

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