



Hangman

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Detective Emily Baxter travels to New York to solve a murder case that police suspect is a copycat of the Ragdoll killings—the follow-up to the international bestseller *Ragdoll*

Detective Emily Baxter is still reeling from the Ragdoll case, and from the disappearance of her friend William “Wolf” Fawkes. Despite her reluctance to jump into another gruesome case, she’s summoned to a meeting of a new FBI/CIA/UK law enforcement task force in New York. There, she is presented with photographs of the latest copycat murder: a body contorted into a familiar pose, strung up from the Brooklyn Bridge, the word “BAIT” carved deep into its chest.

As the media pressure intensifies, Baxter is ordered to assist with the investigation and attend the scene of another murder, again with a victim inscribed with a word—“PUPPET.”

The murders continue to grow in spectacle and depravity on both sides of the Atlantic, and the team helplessly plays catch-up. Baxter must shake off the grief and fear that have paralyzed her for the last year so she can stop another terrible killer before it's too late.

Hangman Details

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Author : Daniel Cole

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From Reader Review Hangman for online ebook

Amy says

4.5/5

I guess this is the summer of highly anticipated series for me, I feel like I've read several second installments lately and they've all lived up to their predecessors, which is always so fantastic! Ragdoll was the first book and it absolutely blew me away, from it's gripping prologue to it's massive cliffhanger ending, I loved every single page. So if you haven't read the first book, I highly recommended it and then you won't have long to wait to read this one.

This book had a slightly different feel to it than the last one and I think it's mostly due to the fact that things are not told via Wolf's point of view at all. This is Emily's story to tell and as much as I love Wolf, I have room in my heart for a character as complex as Emily Baxter. It's set internationally as she finds herself in New York City when a case in London has ties there. This was one complicated investigation that has her working alongside both the FBI and the CIA and introduced some fantastic new characters that added more depth to an already deep story.

While there were some exciting differences the same sarcastic sense of humor was present as was a very dark, gritty plot and writing style. Cole is a really intelligent writer and he creates these insanely intricate and harrowing storylines that shock and awe in equal measure. The ending blew my mind and now I'm desperate for the next book, as much as I love cliffhanger endings it's SO hard to wait!

Hangman in three words: Clever, Dark and Sardonic.

Laura von Eden says

Knapp ein Jahr ist es her, dass ich den ersten Teil „Ragdoll“ gelesen habe und ich habe mich sehr auf die Fortsetzung gefreut. Klappentext und Cover haben bereits im Vorfeld überzeugt, besonders das Cover fand ich hier sehr gelungen.

In „Hangman“ begleiten wir Chief Inspector Baxter, die von London nach New York beordert wird, denn eine grausam zugerichtete Leiche erinnert alle Beteiligten an die Ragdoll-Morde. Baxter soll hier nun zusammen mit dem FBI und CIA den Fall aufklären. Schnell überschlagen sich die Ereignisse, denn nicht nur in New York werden Leichen gefunden...

Ich muss gestehen, dass mir der Einstieg etwas schwer gefallen ist, denn obwohl ich den Vorgänger vor nicht mal einem Jahr gelesen habe, ist scheinbar nicht viel hängen geblieben. Ich erinnerte mich zwar, dass ich das Buch insgesamt toll fand, jedoch waren mir viele Dinge entfallen.

Da die Ereignisse aus „Ragdoll“ immer mal wieder aufgegriffen werden und vor allem wie alles ausging, konnte ich mich nach einiger Zeit besser in die Story einfinden. Gerade an Baxter konnte ich mich kaum erinnern, obwohl sie nun in Teil 2 definitiv einen bleibenden Eindruck hinterlassen hat. Baxter kommt sehr unfreundlich rüber und hat eine sehr ruppige Art an sich, die es einem schwer macht, sie zu mögen.

Insgesamt fand ich die Story einigermaßen schlüssig erzählt, es gab viele Verstrickungen, jedoch ohne zu konstruiert zu wirken. Der Thriller enthält wieder mal eine gehörige Portion Action, baut diese Szenen aber so ein, dass sie nicht zu stumpf wirken. Die Szenen, in denen es spannend wurde waren allesamt sehr gut beschrieben, so dass man sich die Geschehnisse gut ausmalen konnte.

Die letztliche Auflösung, warum alles so passiert wie es passiert, fand ich etwas un kreativ. Hier muss ich sagen, dass mir das nicht so gut gefallen hat. „Ragdoll“ fand ich auch vom Fall selbst her etwas interessanter als „Hangman“. Insgesamt ist „Hangman“ ein recht solider Thriller, der sicherlich einige überzeugen kann. Meine Begeisterung ist etwas verhalten, da ich den Vorgänger einfach ein wenig spannender und rasanter fand.

Stephen Collins says

Set in a Flashback in 2015 18 months after Ragdoll who is now prisoner. This a sequel & it's not because it is a different person - DCI Emily Baxter & Agents Curtis female & Rouche male a Mulder & Scully style FBI because part is in New York & part in London where police are murdered BAIT & PUPPET is carved into there chests.

My first thing I don't like about this is you CANNOT READ THIS WITHOUT READING RAGDOLL as the name of the murder in Ragdoll is in this .

This good but isn't as good as the first one & as yet I don't get the title.

This has lot more murders in it but it still has not got the grip that Ragdoll had & lot of it is set in US than the UK.

This is crossover book April to May .The copy I have has a different cover too. Boring one of dirty white with blood stained string raped around it.

As get near to Royal wedding while read this heard of a Hotel in New York that is offering \$58,810 weekend dinner party all in Inc Union. Jack free condoms! Which just goes to show how blood stupid Americans are that and idea of giving Donald Trump the Nobel Peace Prize two reasons that prove he should not of set this in The USA when hotels cost \$58,810 a room & give condoms with Union Jack Spoils the feel of this Makes it joke of it all.

Now when I think of Hangman I think of what happened as I read it.

This advertised as William Fawkes #2 but he is only in it for 1-2 pages this would been better if removed all Ragdoll references & just left Ragdoll as one off & this as another one off but no very silly it's neither one thing or other & makes me wonder what the next so called volume 3 will be advatised for next May that must be writing.

Look out for The Mark Gatiss joke.

I still think Puppet would been much better title. See you May 2019

Emma says

When I saw that this wasn't going to be a straight follow up to Ragdoll with Wolf in it, I was disappointed. Was I wrong? Hell yes. This is outrageously good and one of the funniest books i've read in ages. If you think that humour doesn't mix with serial murder, you are mistaken, and the proof is right here. Baxter is the Queen of snark and i'm not lying when I say this really is laugh out loud funny. I LOVE her. I'd read about her all day long; in fact, that's precisely what I did with this book. There are times where it heads into the farcical (that spider scene) but I was having so much fun that Cole could have whipped out a chorus line of

serial killers dressed as schoolgirls doing the conga and I would have said: sure, ok, i'm in. There's lots of deaths and danger and thrills and all that jazz, but it's all about the characters for me.

An easy 5 stars.

And then the author hits you with that last section on top of it all....????? Bring it, Cole!

ARC via Netgalley

Matt says

Daniel Cole is back to continue his thriller series that had readers gasping at the cliffhanger ending. Riding the wave of his debut success, Cole presents this follow-up that appears to lack the intensity and grit of DS William Fawkes' initial case. With Fawkes away and on the lam, all eyes turn to newly-promoted Detective Chief Inspector Emily Baxter. While the Ragdoll killer is safely locked away, the case lingers and everyone remains on edge. When a call come in from New York City, where a body identified as 'William Fawkes' has been found, Baxter agrees to travel and investigate this oddity. Before she makes it out of the country, she visits Belmarsh once more to see the Ragdoll, only to be trapped in the middle of an event that leaves him dead and Baxter significantly spooked. Upon her arrival in NYC, DCI Baxter liaises with some of the local and federal authorities as more murder scenes emerge, victims bearing 'puppet' and 'bait' inscriptions on the body. Might there be a connection to Ragdoll that's crossed the Atlantic? Baxter is equally baffled when news from the Met reaches her that other killings of a similar style have been taking place in the UK. How can all these killers be connected without a clear threat to bind them? As Baxter continues to investigate, she follows a lead that turns the case on its head, but media outlets have chosen to broadcast it before it can be properly analysed. Might there be a central leader who has ordered these murders, as odd and unrelated as they seem? Witnesses have recounted that the killers seem almost detached from the events, leading many to wonder about some form of mind control. Religious symbolism and the talk of cultish behaviour begin to flood Baxter's investigation, forcing her to come to terms with the fact that this might be more than just tracking down a killer, but someone who holds a handful of strings and can make followers dance on command. Cole surely has devised an interesting way to 'string along' the reader, though to substance of the story is not as strong as I would have hoped. Fans of the debut will likely want to take the plunge, if only to discover what Cole has planned, but all the hype this book has received is lost on me.

It is disappointing to find a writer dedicate so much of their time to a debut that skyrockets, only to find the follow-up limp along. I was captivated by Cole's first piece and could not wait to get my hands on this one (which had been getting some great reviews), but found it fell short of the mark. The story had potential, as did the characters, but delivery of both seems to have been rushed or not cultivated enough to pique my interest. With DS Fawkes gone (spoiler alert?), the narrative pulls DCI Emily Baxter into the spotlight. She has strong ties to Fawkes, but is also trying to make a name for herself in the Met, where women are still rapping on the glass ceiling. Her energetic attitude and interest in getting dirt under her nails is unequally balanced by her desire to fill shoes that do not fit. I found myself constantly trying to like Baxter as a character and investigator, but nothing stuck for me, either in her personal or professional life. This is unfortunate, as the protagonist is the one who leads the reader along through the case at hand. A smattering of other characters on both sides of the ledger also lacked the complexity that I felt this book needed, especially with the set of crimes being offered up to the reader. I needed to feel angst and confusion as well as determination to let nothing stop justice from making its mark. Instead, I felt things kept circling the drain, hoping to find some action or sicko moment that would spring the narrative to life. Cole had all the

ingredients for success, but the mix did not work for me. Others will surely agree and I can defer to them. The story had much possibility, especially utilising two venues, but fell flat and left me wanting more and needing to feel a stronger connection. Even the central mastermind became beige, leaving me wishing I had known this before rushing to seek enjoyment with this second novel. Perhaps I needed to let Ragdoll ferment before rushing into this one, but whatever it was, this did not work and I am sorry. A third novel in the series is surely a while off, so I will have time to gather my thoughts before then.

Kudos, Mr. Cole, for attempting to keep things running effectively. If you had to have a less impactful novel, thankfully it was this second, as your debut is the net that will catch you many fans. As I know your potential, I'll likely come back for another read and hope for better things.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Stephen Collins says

This the copy of Hangman I got of Libuary

Roy says

2.5*

I absolutely loved Ragdoll. The humor, the quick fast paced writing, Wolfs character and the trills. I feel like this was just missing everything that hooked me in book 1. Wolf isnt the main character, and Emily becomes the main focus with crimes in both NYC/London. The crimes are just as gruesome, the writing just as easy to read, however the plot just felt a little meh. It just didnt work for me. The humour was still there. I feel like Cole knows that he's writing a novel thats over the top and includes this black humour writing style throughout that works well for his style of story. Cant quite put my finger on what it was but just didnt engage me as well. I guess having a change in main character could be the main factor.

Liz Barnsley says

Ha ha I LOVED this again. Despite the strangely ridiculous storylines both this and Ragdoll are WILDLY entertaining. Everything you want when you like a rather dark edge to your reading but also want to have a giggle. Hangman was very vividly dark, but also occasionally laugh out loud funny. The hotel room and the spider...I'm just saying.

I can't give it anything less than a highly recommended tag because I banged through it, grasshopper on acid fashion, both laughing and grimacing along the way. Also because that last line...

Anyone waiting to see Wolf again will have to wait a little longer as this one is ALL about Emily (and

Rouche who I ADORED) and a rather dastardly plot. The death scenes and “set pieces” in Hangman are brilliantly done, racking up the tension to the highest degree, interspersed with some genuinely hilarious moments to give you the chance to settle a little before we are off again.

It is often jaw droppingly horrifying, which is something else I love about it, descriptively speaking it hits hard in all the right places. Is it far fetched? Yes obviously a bit, but while you are in it, it feels very very real. It does read like a movie and I hope one day it IS a movie – there’s a scene in a church that would definitely have me watching from behind a cushion and firmly ensconced under my axe proof duvet.

Sometimes you just want to rock along to a book, let the world go and envelop yourself into a rollicking good tale. Daniel Cole writes books that you can rock along to....

So, therefore, Highly Recommended. Not for the faint of heart!

Sandy says

3.5 stars

Sooo...book #2. A daunting task, particularly when the first one was a huge hit. But this author really upped the ante by leaving out his popular MC William “Wolf” Fawkes & switching the focus to another character.

That would be DCI Emily Baxter. She worked the Ragdoll case with Fawkes & is still reeling from the fallout. To make matters worse, her professional life is a nightmare. Fawkes is AWOL, former colleague Edmunds transferred to Fraud & she got promoted. She just wants to forget it ever happened but it seems the universe has other plans.

FBI Agents Curtis & Rouche land on her doorstep with news of a copycat murder in the US. It’s a double homicide designed to attract maximum attention & they want her help. They don’t know it yet but it will be the first of many in New York & London as they join forces to find the mastermind behind the carnage.

So here’s the deal. I loved Ragdoll. From the first page, I was firmly in its grip & became seriously cranky if interrupted. Alas, I can’t say the same about this one. I think part of the reason was how much I enjoyed the black humour served up by Fawkes’ character. It gave the reader little moments of humorous relief from the grisly tension & I keenly missed his presence here.

Baxter is a compelling character but she’s also a physical & emotional hot mess. I desperately wanted to take Thomas (her doormat...er...boyfriend) out for a chat over a pint. She & Rouche spend the majority of their time haring around New York & London as a legion of bodies pop up on both sides of the pond like some macabre game of Whack-a-Mole. Bruised & bloody from multiple attacks, it’s defies belief they’re even breathing let alone leading a multi-agency manhunt.

One thing that hasn’t changed is Cole’s ability to come up with new & inventive ways for people to die. Practice your “ewwww”...you’re gonna need it. I was happy to see Edmunds return & enjoyed his input as Baxter secretly keeps him in the loop. But i just didn’t find Baxter to be fleshed out or layered enough to be the star of the show. Without a strong MC to hang the story on, it became a succession of frenzied action

sequences until the final chapters revealed all.

As always, it depends on what keeps you turning the pages. For me there was a certain spark or something that was missing. But if you're a fan of full on action, grab this & settle in for a fast paced read.

Phrynne says

In a very brave move on the part of the author this book is written entirely about only one member of the series title. Baxter carries the whole story, with the help of a cast of characters some old some new, and Wolf (Fawkes) is off somewhere on the run. At first I must admit I missed him but once things hot up there is no time to worry about individuals!

Baxter has a new temporary partner in Rouche who is suitably strange and matches her for black humour. As was the case in Ragdoll the book needs to be a movie. It is solid action and very visual, and also very brutal and gory in parts. When things get too black then the author inserts a humorous incident or conversation between various characters.

This is an excellent and gripping read, not quite as good as the first book but that may be due to the absence of Wolf. It seems he may be back in the next one. Fingers crossed.

Laura says

Book reviews on www.snazzybooks.com

I was so excited to read the follow up to the hugely successful Ragdoll - and Hangman, the second in the Detective William Fawkes series, definitely doesn't disappoint! Much like the first, it's a rollercoaster of a ride of tension, mystery and general craziness as the focus turns to Baxter this time, and a string of gory murders in the US which have worryingly familiar elements to them...

I have to say, at first I was a little worried that I wouldn't get to read about Fawkes, who I loved in the last book - however, Baxter more than makes up for it, truly shining with her cutting comments and no-nonsense attitude. I absolutely loved reading about her, and some new characters to add to the mix in Curtis and Rouche who, although very different to Baxter, is another brilliant character who kept me wanting to read on. The characters are really what makes this story such addictive reading; that mixed with brilliant humorous scenes (with a heavy dose of black humour, which I loved) and fantastic situations (some completely crazy and unbelievable, but who cares?) which kept me laughing throughout. It may have even beaten Ragdoll for me (no mean feat!), as I felt like I had more of a grasp on what was going on in this novel - well, to some extent - there was plenty to craziness to keep track of!

I'd forgotten how brilliantly entertaining Daniel Cole's writing is, and Hangman left me desperately wanting more - that ending too! Bring on book 3 (and quickly, please!).

* Many thanks to Orion for providing a copy of this novel on which I chose to write an honest and unbiased review. *

Kate~Bibliophile Book Club says

I loved Ragdoll, the first book in this series, so I was delighted to be able to read and review Hangman. I had been dying to read it from the moment I finished Ragdoll, and its safe to say it was worth the wait. Hangman was just as good, if not better.

Focusing on DCI Emily Baxter in this one, she's called to investigate a copycat murder. A body found hanging, with BAIT carved into its chest, in America. When another body turns up, this time with PUPPET carved into the chest, it becomes a race against time to decipher the message as the body count rises on both sides of the Atlantic.

Hangman is such a clever thriller. I absolutely flew through it because I was so caught up in the characters and the investigation that I just had to keep reading to find out what was going on.

Daniel Cole has a knack for writing serial killer thrillers, and he showcases it brilliantly in these books. They are addictive, thrilling and so utterly absorbing that you just have to keep going until the very end.

If you like twisted killers, great characters and a cracking plot then add Hangman to your TBR as soon as possible, you won't regret it.

Highly recommended!

Lisa says

Hangman by Daniel Cole is a dark gritty novel that gets you in from start to finish the pacing is right up there & the characters are well written, the conjecture between Emily Baxter & her new partner Rouche was utter magic they really stood by each other no matter what both had each others backs. There are new characters introduced as well as old I loved every minute it is over the top at times but that made it just more entertaining.

You see Baxter's soft side especially when one of her own who is like a father to her gets killed this spurs Rouche Edmunds who is now head of another department gets involved the plot really takes shape put together a unlikeable character Lethaniel Lamasse the ragdoll killer & Dominic Burrell or (bouncer) as he is known & you have an awesome police procedural, Baxter & Rouche are looking into multiple murders with PUPPET or BAIT carved into their bodies its quite hideous & dark but enjoyable but when both Lamasse & Burrell are found dead Burrell hanging from the prison rafters then one of their own Detective Robert Kennedy is murdered Baxter tells Rouche & Edmunds they could be related its takes them to a new height into what is going on . This is macabre at its best so if you love dark gritty police procedurals this is for you. There is a lot of twists & turns that will keep you guessing & so many questions that need answering.

Paromjit says

Daniel Cole brings us the sequel to *Ragdoll*, and it is a surefire adrenaline ride with a phenomenal body count set in New York and London. It is blackly humorous and more than a little over the top bonkers, so providing you are prepared to suspend your disbelief, then this a thrill ride of an action packed read. DCI Emily Baxter is newly promoted and believed to be responsible for the apprehension of Lethaniel Masse, the *Ragdoll* killer, except she wasn't, Alex Edmunds, now working in Fraud is. She is burdened by the weight of her less than truthful account of what happened and her nightmare is exacerbated when Special Agents, Elliot Curtis and Damien Rouche want to interview Masse in Belmarsh Prison after a banker, William Fawkes, in a murder-suicide in NYC connects with the *Ragdoll* killings. Emily's fears of the truth emerging are laid to rest after Masse is killed in spectacular circumstances.

The NYC and London killings both have the killer scarred by the word puppet and the victim with the word bait on their bodies. Baxter, the woman who is never without a scowl on her face, travels to NYC to help the FBI and NYPD track down the person responsible. With elements not welcoming her presence and determined to keep her from key evidence so that she is not seen to crack the case, Emily works with Rouche and Curtis, as they slowly becoming a tight knit team. Presented with horror after horror, the investigators rail at their inability to get closer to the truth. After a catastrophic failure to prevent a major terror attack which leaves multitudes dead, a traumatised Baxter returns to London. There are fears that a similar incident will occur here, and with the help of Rouche and Edmunds, Baxter works round the clock to prevent this as London goes on full alert.

The novel begins with Baxter being questioned about what happened in NYC and London, and yet again, as we discover what happened from start to finish, we see Baxter once again glosses over what actually happened. This is a blood drenched and macabre sequel to *Ragdoll*, full of tension, and utterly gripping, shot through with wit and humour. Baxter is a charismatic creation, a woman that sees the worst of humanity. Unsurprisingly she has huge trust issues, her relationship with her boyfriend, the lawyer Thomas, is fragile and she is only close to Edmunds. However, she inspires both trust and loyalty from those around her, such as Fin and Rouche, as well as Alex Edmunds. This is a brilliantly compelling read for those who are not put off by a huge body count and willing to overlook the OTT aspects of the story. Many thanks to Orion for an ARC.

Kirsty 📚📖♥? says

I had really high hopes for this book as *Ragdoll* was one of my favourite books of last year. It took me a chapter to get into the story but after that it didn't disappoint.

In my review of *Ragdoll* I wondered how they were going to continue after the conclusion of that book and the answer was to focus on Emily Baxter. William Fawkes is barely mentioned throughout and so we have a whole new cast of characters as the book flips between London & New York.

We have crazed killers, mysterious cult leaders and a lot of buildings being blown up. I'm never happier as a reader than when the author throws the whole kitchen sink into the story. As long as the end ties everything up the more outlandish the story the better. And I was not disappointed.

It's a real roller-coaster and although the twist when it came was a bit obvious and had been foreshadowed

earlier I still enjoyed it and looked forward to where the reveal would take me.

Definitely emerging as one of my new favourite authors. I really enjoyed this and would recommend.

Free arc from netgalley
