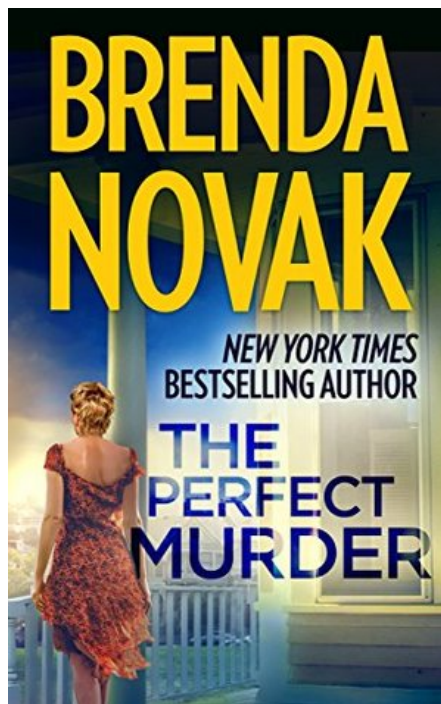




## The Perfect Murder

*Brenda Novak*

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# The Perfect Murder

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**The Perfect Murder** Brenda Novak

**The Perfect Murder by Brenda Novak**

**The Last Stand (Book 6)**

***“Features a host of skillfully developed characters and intricate, multilayered plotting...Novak writes gripping romantic thrillers.”—Library Journal***

For more than a year, Sebastian Costas has been trying to unravel the truth behind the murder of his ex-wife and son. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, he’s convinced that her second husband—a cop—committed both murders, then faked his own death. Now Sebastian has followed the slimmest of leads to Sacramento...and that’s where he finally gets the break he needs. Jane Burke, an investigator with The Last Stand, calls him in connection with a separate crime—a crime that could lead him straight to the man he’s been looking for.

Once married to a serial killer, Jane has spent the past five years rebuilding her life. And with Sebastian she finally has a chance at happiness. But the man they’re after is after them, too. For him this has become a personal battle, one he’s determined to win. Whatever it takes...

*Originally published in 2009*

## The Perfect Murder Details

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Author : Brenda Novak

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## **From Reader Review The Perfect Murder for online ebook**

### **Sara says**

The perfect conclusion to the series as the stories have come full circle starting with the Burke's and ending with Jane Burke. I loved this series and this book kept me on the edge of my seat. A lot of times in novels like this the revolution becomes very clear by the first half and you can easily predict what will happen. What makes Brenda's books so wonderful is that even though sometimes you can guess part of the mystery or part of the solution you'll never guess the complete ending. As I read I kept thinking, How can this possibly end, how will they get him?" Even in the last chapter I was wondering how our heroes would survive.

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### **Myra Marquis Johnson says**

Oh my I am not sure how Brenda Novak does it..with each new book I start I think to myself.."She can't top the last one"..and yet she does!

This is the final book in the Last Stand Series and I am sad to see it end. I have grown fond of the major characters and feel like I am saying goodbye to good friends. This is a sign of a great author.

"The Perfect Murder" made me laugh, cry, bite my nails, and lose sleep.

Thank you Brenda for finishing this book with style.

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### **Aspasia says**

Este es el primer libro de Brenda Novak que leo y debo decir que me gustó mucho y me ha hecho sufrir a partes iguales. Cuando digo que me ha hecho sufrir es porque la trama de suspense atrapa. Quiero añadir que no suelo leer novela romántica de suspense o de misterio (no sé qué etiqueta es la que se estila) con lo cual quizás no haya apreciado determinados detalles.

Los protagonistas tienen un punto a mi favor y es que son adultos "maduros". No son veinteañeros o treintañeros. Son guerreros curtidos en mil batallas y con unas heridas profundas que del todo no han cicatrizado. Heridas serias. Porque estamos hablando de temas muy serios,

Jane es viuda y víctima de un violador en serie y un perfecto mentiroso que consiguió engañar a todo el mundo. Ahora es una superviviente en todos los sentidos. Ha conseguido salir adelante, no sin esfuerzo, y ahora trabaja ayudando a otras mujeres en situaciones de violencia. Jane se ha concentrado en ella misma como madre y como investigadora. Ahora tiene la oportunidad de demostrar su valía profesional con el caso del secuestro de dos jovencitas. Lo que tenía que ser un caso más (dentro de la gravedad de los hechos) la acabará poniendo en contacto con Sebastian.

Sebastian Costas ha sufrido un duro golpe. Su ex mujer y su hijo fueron asesinados a manos de un monstruo. Ha convertido su vida en la búsqueda incansable del asesino de su familia. Es un hombre que se ha

transformado no sólo físicamente, si no sobretodo mentalmente. En el caso de Sebastian al dolor se añade la culpa : aunque estaba divorciado de la madre de su hijo no supo ver claramente la clase de monstruo que era el padrastro de su hijo.

Hablando de la trama para mí ha sabido mantener el suspense sobre los avances en las investigaciones. Porque la de Jane y la de Sebastian están relacionadas. No os diré cómo exactamente. En “Crimen perfecto” la cuestión es cómo atraparan al criminal. No saber su identidad. A medida que vamos conociendo el pasado de Jane y el de Sebastian, también vamos descubriendo un submundo de delincuencia y sobre cómo se puede llegar a manipular lo que consideramos verdad. En este caso pruebas sobre una investigación policial.

La investigación y las diferentes pistas que van apareciendo, hacen que Jane y Sebastian se vayan conociendo mejor. Me ha gustado mucho que la historia de amor vaya surgiendo poco a poco y no se quiera disfrazar como un “instant love”. Jane y Sebastian sienten atracción física al conocerse. Es cierto. Pero se enamoran poco a poco, a partir de sus encuentros y de las situaciones a las que se van enfrentando y de los sentimientos que esa convivencia que despierta.

Como no me veo capaz de explicaros más detalles sobre la novela sin desvelaros la trama os animo a leer “Crimen perfecto” de Brenda Novak si queréis disfrutar de una buena historia de suspense y romántica.

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### **Nuria Llop says**

Es lo primero que leo de esta autora y me perdí un poco con los nombres al principio, porque es la quinta entrega de una serie, pero se puede leer independientemente. Un buen suspense romántico que engancha bastante, tanto la trama de intriga como la historia que une a la pareja protagonista. Si bien en extensión comparten más o menos el mismo espacio, la intensidad de la trama romántica y la personalidad de ambos, así como el pasado que arrastran consigo adquiere una presencia mucho mayor.

La estructura fílmica típica de thriller, con varios puntos de vista incluido el del asesino, dinamiza la novela y te permite conocer lo que piensa cada personaje y los motivos de su comportamiento. Algunos de esos pensamientos y actitudes son realmente inquietantes, y los culpables de que adjudique 3 estrellas a la novela en lugar de 4. Porque mi mente, cuando leo romántica, no está muy predispuesta a la violencia ni a los trastornos mentales de los asesinos, y en esta novela hay bastante de esos dos temas, por lo que ha habido momentos que no he podido disfrutar de la lectura. Pero si no tenéis ese problema, adelante, es una buena novela y bien escrita, salvo algunas confusiones en los nombres que descentran de la lectura y que deben de ser fallo de traducción o corrección. Muy recomendable si os gustan los thrillers con una historia de amor interesante y muy bien resuelta.

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### **Pam says**

Great series of books I recommend them

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## **Pepa says**

3.5 no es mi favorito de la serie pero engancha como los anteriores

No sé si catalogarlas de suspense, porque, al menos en este serie, desde el primer momento se conoce la identidad del asesino pero sí de investigación o policial. porque todo transcurre para conseguir pararle los pies y engancharle

No voy a decir que esta entrega esté dentro de mis favoritas. Hay cabos que no me han gustado, sobre todo un papel muy importante de un secundario que apenas aparece hasta el final y que no he acabado ni de entender ni de creerme.

Pero en general, con un estilo fluido y ágil te atrapa en su red aún sabiendo quien es el asesino, a mí es algo que me encantan. Sobre todo teniendo en cuenta que en la mayoría de novelas de suspense me da mucha rabia lo predecibles que son. Por eso aquí lo encuentro mucho mérito.

Lo mejor, creo la evolución de esa ama de casa que al principio no terminaba de convencerme y que al final creo que sí ha estado a la altura.

Ella aparece como secundaria en la primera novela Confía en mí. No es imprescindible leerla porque la autora explica a grandes trazos qué paso y lo que ella vivió. Pero está claro que el dramatismo es mucho mayor para las que leímos sus vivencias.

En esta entrega el romance no tiene tanto peso como en otras anteriores. Pero aún así y como es habitual el héroe deja casi toda la importancia a la heroína y se muestra como un hombre encantador. Es una relación muy de igual a igual, algo que no siempre encuentro en las contemporáneas americanas.

Me gustan mucho los protagonistas de esta serie y, aun cuando la relación entre ellos siempre me da la sensación de que es el punto de partida a una relación....

Eso me gusta, porque funciona como una explicación y le resta instalove dejándolo en una fortísima atracción y una compatibilidad que todavía se tiene que explotar, aunque está claro que quedará en un sí

Una serie muy recomendable

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## **Georgiann Hennelly says**

Sebastian Costas has been trying for more than a year to unravel the truth behind the murder of his exwife and son. He,s convinced that her second husband who was a cop committed the murders than faked his death. Sebastian has followed one of the slimnest leads to Sacramento. He finally gets a break which leads him to Jane Burke an investigator with the last stand she called him in connection to another crime. Jane was once married to a serial killer and has spent the last five years trying to rebuild her life. With Sebastian she has a chance at happiness . But the man they,re after is after them too. For him this has become a personal battle. one he is determined to win no matter what.

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## **Sheri says**

The Perfect Murder (Brenda Novak)

Romantic/suspense. Jane Burke, once married to a serial killer is trying to put her life back together. She works as an investigator of The Last Stand. She starts her very first "solo" case with the disappearance of two young ladies.

Sebastian Costas lost his ex-wife and son. For the past year he has been on a mission to find her husband

Malcolm Turner, a cop who was found dead after this crime. Sebastian is convinced that Malcom not only murdered his ex and son, but faked jis own death.

Soon Jane and Malcolm meet and it seem the two cases may be tied in together. As Jane races against time to find these missing woman, her life and Malcolm's are in danger. Fast page nail biter, filled with edge of your seat suspense, up until the end. I intend to read more from Brenda Novak.

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### **Julie Lemonds says**

Loved it.. it was so awesome!!!

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### **Dee Sauter says**

This is the first book I have ever read by Brenda Novak and I have to say I loved it! It captured my attention from page one and it just kept getting more intense. I also loved that although this is the last of the trilogy it was a stand alone book. Had I had to have read the first books before this one I may not have done that. I would have forgotten the name of the author and what books I needed to read. Now I will make a concentrated effort to look for her other books. In fact if her other books are this good she will become a new favorite.

Because both Sebastian and Jane had lost someone they deeply loved by someone they seriously underestimated I could see how they became attracted to each other. I think they romance went a little bit fast, but on the other hand it is easy to see that because of their past it make sense that they would want to grab the brass ring right away.

My only criticism would be that Jane still seemed a little naive. It would seem that being attacked by her serial killer husband and then working in the field she does that she would automatically park in a lighted area, and also look in the back before getting in the car.

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### **Colleen says**

This book was so good. I read Trust Me, the first book in the Last Stand series and loved it. When I found out that The Perfect Murder was about Jane the wife of the rapist and victim of Trust Me, I decided to read it next and I was glad. It keep me on my eyes glued to the book and I didn't want to put it down. I was glad to see that Jane was doing better and working for the Last Stand organization. The Last Stand series is about the organization started by Skye and her two friends. Skye saved Jane from her serial murder and rapist husband. She invited Jane to work in the office and as a volunteer. Jane happened to be there alone when a young lady came in to get help finding her two half sisters since no one else would help and didn't believe the girls were kidnaped. So Jane decides she will investigate this case that the kidnaper has her running into Sebastian who is looking for the cruel murder who killed his ex-wife and 14 year old son. Sebastian will not stop to find the cop who was married to his ex-wife and who faked his own death. I knew Brenda Novak wrote great romances but these suspense romances were just as great. All her books are good. Try one.

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### **Sharon Gallup says**

i still can not decide if i like this book or not. it was a crooked police officer that likes to kill and he killed someones son who's dad was determined to bring him to justice. but the violence was more then i had planned on reading. i like a good mystery but when a book makes me look at a law enforcement as more to fear then being helpful it digs at my good judgement. this story is a deep reading with more murder then mystery then this is a book for you. it definitely is not a bedtime reading.

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### **Marianchu says**

¡Impresionante! Cuando supe que Jane Burke tenía su propio libro no pude dejar de pensar en cómo alguien que ha pasado por todo lo que le ha sucedido a ella, podría mirar al futuro con un mínimo de cordura. Tanto Sebastian como Jane son dos protagonistas carismáticos unidos por una trama perfecta. Un broche de oro para una serie que me ha encantado.

Quiero mencionar la traducción de todas las novelas, felicito a la editorial y a la traductora por un trabajo excelente.

Mi puntuación 9,5.

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### **Pamela says**

Sebastion Costas has spent more than a year looking for the man who killed his ex-wife and son. He supposedly then killed himself but Sebastion is positive he's alive.

Jane Burke is trying to locate two missing girls and believes the man Sebastion is looking for is the same man who abducted the girls.

The story itself was quite interesting. What really bugged me was the character of Jane. Here we have a woman who almost died at the hands of her supposedly perfect husband. So after not dating for five years because she cannot trust any man, she ends up in bed with Sebastion. Fine, whatever. But a few days later she's already head over heels in love. Give me a break! Not only that, in the middle of trying to find the killer, Sebastion and Jane discuss whether or not she's pregnant and eventually take a pregnancy test. What the hell? Talk about ridiculous. That's why I couldn't give this book any more stars.

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### **Vfields Don't touch my happy! says**

Now this was exciting.

Jane was a character from the first book in this series and I love what this woman has become.

Sebastian was a determined man longing to get honest revenge. I liked him so much and he was as hot as any of Novak's male characters.

The mystery was on point for me.

The romance was again for me, the hottest in this series.

Jane's daughter talked and acted her age.

I think this is as thorough a job as Brenda Novak can do at integrating previous characters. It was a tiny peek into how everyone from the past is faring.

The bad guy was complex and a total crap-master.

(view spoiler)

The pacing was pretty good.

If this is the end of this series I'd easily give it a big thumb up!

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