

Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1)

By Frank E. Peretti

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They could be anyone, anywhere . . . even the person walking by you right now.

The Veritas Project is their code name?but only a handful of people know teens Elijah and Elisha Springfield have been covertly commissioned by the President to investigate strange mysteries that delve into the paranormal and supernatural. Their charge is to find out not only what happened, but why?the *veritas* (Latin for truth) behind the seemingly impossible phenomena.

Their new assignment: Hangman's Curse

In Baker, Washington, three popular student athletes lie in an incoherent coma, with loss of muscle coordination, severe paranoia, and hallucinations. It's whispered that they're victims of Abel Frye?a curse that's haunted the school since a student died there in the 1930s. Now the curse is spreading, and students are running scared. The Veritas Project must go undercover to find the truth . . . before it's too late.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Trouble is brewing in Baker, Washington. Three popular athletes have been stricken with a mysterious ailment--or phenomenon--that leaves them ranting incoherently, paranoid, and eventually comatose. Ever ready to seek truth and justice, teen twins Elisha and Elijah and their parents hop in their van, the Holy Roller, and head to Washington. As members of a top-secret presidential investigative team, the *Veritas Project*, the family must be prepared to go undercover at any moment. Soon they are deeply embroiled in a deadly mystery that involves witchcraft, bullying, the ghost of a boy who hanged himself long ago, and a most diabolical weapon.

Frank Peretti, well known for his Christian thrillers (*This Present Darkness/Piercing the Darkness*, *The Visitation*, etc.) draws from his own experiences of not fitting in as a child to create this alarming tale of vengeance. The twins and their parents occasionally turn to their faith for guidance, but the crux of the story lies in the danger that comes from treating less cool kids like second-class citizens. References to the tragedy at Columbine remind readers just how painfully real the problem is. Peretti seems to use the twins' father as a voice for his own viewpoint: "Metal detectors may keep weapons out of the schools, and security officers can maintain at least a surface tranquility, but these will not keep out the pain, anger, and loneliness that cause a child to bring a weapon to school in the first place." (Ages 13 and older) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly
Peretti, long praised for his popular Christian fiction for adults and his strong storytelling style, here turns his talent to young adult fiction with a quick-paced thriller about the evils brought by bullying and intolerance. When the star athletes of a Washington state high school are struck down by debilitating hallucinations, the Springfield family (Nate; his wife, Sarah; and teen twins Elisha and Elijah) go undercover to investigate the mystery. The Springfields operate independently, as the Veritas Project, guided by their Judeo-Christian faith to seek the truth behind strange occurrences. They even have a mobile home nicknamed the Holy Roller. But this setup never seems overly corny in Peretti's hands. As the slightly chilling story unfolds, readers learn about the ghost of Baker High a boy named Abel Frye, who supposedly hung himself in one of the old hallways in the 1930s. Throughout, Peretti paints a realistic picture of the clique-y world of high school that will be familiar to just about anyone. His comfortably paced, compelling performance consistently draws readers along. Peretti has an obvious knack sure to appeal to his intended tween and teen audience for emphasizing his beliefs without preaching. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal
Grade 6-8-Elisha and Elijah and their parents are part of a hush-hush government program know as the Veritas Project, which can best be described as an evangelical Christian X-Files. Their current assignment is to infiltrate a high school where student bullies have been stricken by a mysterious form of madness. Peretti develops the plot nicely, building in a skeptical police officer, a concerned guidance counselor, and an obnoxious gym teacher who has been encouraging the bullies. Several of the students who have been picked on have formed their own version of a witch's coven and are practicing what they think is black magic to wreak vengeance on their tormenters. As Elijah and his twin penetrate deeper into the mystery, the curses begin to go dreadfully awry, and several students die. The deadly madness is traced to a type of poisonous and aggressive spider breeding within the school walls. As the school is evacuated, Elisha finds herself in the

heart of the spiders' lair. While the members of the Springfield family do not keep their religious life undercover, it does not interrupt the flow of the story, nor does anyone get preachy. The twins and their parents use the latest scientific equipment and methods to attempt to find a rational solution to the increasingly dangerous events confronting them. Young teens should enjoy this fast-paced and atmospheric novel.
Elaine Fort Weischedel, Franklin Public Library, MA
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ella Butler:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for us. The book Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1) seemed to be making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The guide Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1) is not only giving you far more new information but also for being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1). You never feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Mary Goldstein:

Here thing why this particular Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1) are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as delightful as food or not. Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1) giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no guide that similar with Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1). It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your technique home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1) in e-book can be your alternative.

Christopher Decker:

Why? Because this Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Joseph Wilds:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Hangman's Curse (The Veritas Project Vol. 1), you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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