

Jack Shuler

Discusses his new book

THE THIRTEENTH TURN

A History of the Noose

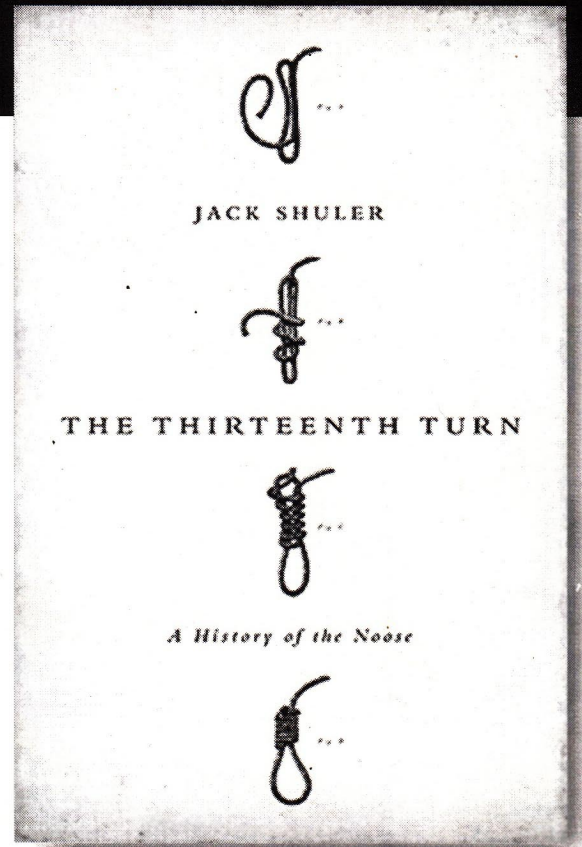
The story of a rope, a symbol, and rough justice in America.

The hangman's knot is a simple thing to tie, just a rope carefully coiled around itself up to thirteen times. But in those thirteen turns lie a powerful symbol, one that is all too deeply connected to America's past—and present.

The Thirteenth Turn (PublicAffairs, 2014) unravels these stories, from Judas Iscariot to the Jena 6, from the execution of John Brown, Perry Smith, and Richard Hickock, to the lynching of Dick Wofford in Landrum, South Carolina. In his travels across America, Shuler traces the evolution of this execution technology.

Shuler's account is a kind of shadow history of America: a reminder that vigilantes and hangmen play a crucial role in our national story. *The Thirteenth Turn* reminds us where we come from, and what is lost if we forget.

Jack Shuler is John and Christine Warner professor and associate professor of English at Denison University. He is the author of *Blood and Bone* (2012) and *Calling Out Liberty* (2009).



"*The Thirteenth Turn* is a thoughtful, profound book. Jack Shuler has taken an object we are all too familiar with in our history—the noose—and found in its story an urgent lesson on how to live."

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*

"Richly researched and beautifully written, this is an essential history of our country"—Boston Globe

"Thoroughly engaging... a finely tuned study"
—Washington Post

Monday, October 13th - 7 pm

ILA Hall

1142 Morrison Drive, Charleston, SC

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