



Let's Do Mysteries!

Prepared by Daryl Ransom
the Staff of the Cudahy Family Library
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This is a highly selective list of mysteries. All of the authors included have written other books that were not listed; check CountyCat for additional titles. This is by no means a complete listing of all the great mystery novels – it's just a starting point for your journey into great sleuthing.

Bruce Alexander – *The Color of Death*

Eighteenth Century London judge Sir John Fielding is wounded in the shoulder while investigating a murderous gang of robbers, all of whom are black men!

Bruce Alexander – *The Price of Murder*

Sir John Fielding and his young protégé Jeremy are drawn deep into the Seven Dials section of London, where they must contend with the most sordid inclinations of both the working class and the London aristocracy.

Nancy Atherton – *Aunt Dimity, Vampire Hunter*

Aunt Dimity is a Detective chasing vampires in London.

M.C. Beaton – *Death of a Gentle Lady*

Hamish Macbeth is a low-tech Scottish policeman investigating an aristocratic death.

Rhys Bowen – *In Dublin's Fair City*

Molly Murphy is a detective in this series full of rich historical detail and enchanting turn-of-the-century personalities.

Fiona Buckley – *The Siren Queen*

In England 1569. a plot is hatched to put Mary, Queen of Scots on the English throne while Ursula Blanchard, illegitimate half-sister of Elizabeth I, tries to save everyone she loves.

Stephen Cannell – *Three Shirt Deal*

Detective Shane Scully fights to save a man railroaded for murder while he also fights to save his own marriage.

Natasha Cooper – *Gagged and Bound*

In this mystery featuring Trish Maguire, the barrister is up against a gang that gags and suffocates anyone who tries to

expose them. Cooper explores the full destructive power of the wrong words spoken at the wrong time.

Natasha Cooper – *Keep Me Alive*

When a journalist investigating the British food industry's death is called a suicide, her friend turns to Trish Maguire, whose involvement becomes a personal crusade, bearing down on a dark side of contemporary life.

Patricia Cornwell – *Book of the Dead*

Kay Scarpetta, private forensic pathologist has dealt with many brutal and unusual crimes before, but never a string of them as baffling or as terrifying as the ones facing her now.

Patricia Cornwell – *From Potter's Field*

Dr. Kay Scarpetta, in the midst of a late-night autopsy gets a call: Gault, the sadistic psychopath who has eluded capture for years, has struck again. For Scarpetta, her worst nightmare returns.

Lindsey Davis – *One Virgin Too Many*

In the temples of Rome, piety is a cousin to madness, and lust and religious fervor are just a hair's breadth apart. Enter Rome's top shamus, Marcus Didius Falco.

Lindsey Davis – *Scandal Takes a Holiday*

Set in ancient Rome, the mysteries of Lindsey Davis feature the sleuth Marcus Didius Falco, "Sam Spade in a Toga," Falco finds that his sleuthing will put him on a perilous road, which may end in the cold chambers of the grave.

P. C. Doherty – *Corpse Candle*

Sir Hugh Corbet, keeper of the King's seal, arrives to the Abbey of St. Martins-in-the-Marsh to investigate the brutal

murder of Abbott Stephen, a personal friend of King Edward I, and unearths secrets hidden for too long.

P. C. Doherty – *Ghostly Murders*

Two parish priests discover grisly murders and strange disappearances when they commence to relocate the old church graveyard for a new one in 1389.

Tim Dorsey – *Atomic Lobster*

Serge A. Storms and his drug-addled sidekick try to out-manuever federal agents and a fugitive murderer.

Carola Dunn – *Rattle His Bones*

In the summer of 1923, Daisy Dalrymple and her fiancé Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard unravel a most baffling case of missing gems, European royalty, and professional rivalry.

Umberto Eco – *The Name of the Rose*

In 1327, a series of seven bizarre deaths send Brother William of Baskerville on an investigation in a wealthy Italian abbey where “the most interesting things happen at night.”

Aaron Elkins – *Little Tiny Teeth*

Gideon Oliver finds out that in the Amazon jungle, humans may be the deadliest predators.

Margaret Frazer – *The Clerk’s Tale*

Ms. Frazer sets her mysteries in the fifteenth century, and her sleuth is the famous Dame Frevisse. In this tale, a murder has been committed in a nunnery.

Margaret Frazer – *The Reeve's Tale*

The high-born nun Sister Frevisse investigates the brutal murder of two villagers and tends to the sick during a measles epidemic in medieval England.

Diana Gabaldon – *Lord John and the Private Matter*

In London in 1757, Major Lord John Grey, a nobleman and high-ranking officer in His Majesty's army, finds himself ensnared in a web of treachery that touches every stratum of English society.

Lee Goldberg – *Mr. Monk and the Two Assistants*

Based on the television series, Monk is afflicted with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, which complicates his sleuthing style. Here he tries to keep his two female assistants happy while going up against a killer that seems to have a peculiar insight into Monk's personality.

Juan Gomez-Jurado – *God's Spy*

Police Inspector Paola Dicanti is called in to solve the murders of several mutilated Cardinals; helped by Father Anthony, a former American Army Intelligence Officer, their investigation leads them to powerful Church officials.

Heather Graham – *The Death Dealer*

A killer obsessed by Poe's macabre tales selects his victims from a literary society.

Lyn Hamilton – *The Chinese Alchemist*

Antiques dealer Lara McClintoch is being targeted by ruthless criminals in Beijing as they all try to recover a silver masterpiece that holds secrets.

Charlaine Harris – *Dead Until Dark*

The first Snookie Stackhouse novel; Ms. Harris introduces Snookie Stackhouse, a cocktail waitress in small-town

Louisiana. Her new boyfriend turns out to be a vampire. Then her co-workers begin to disappear.

Reginald Hill – *Death Comes for the Fat Man*

Detective Superintendent Dalziel tracks the mysterious Templars, who are responsible for an enormous explosion that severely injured him. Where the long arm of the law cannot reach, their work begins and Andy Daziel seeks the source of their power.

Sheri Holman – *The Dress Lodger*

A historical thriller with a distinctly modern voice, *The Dress Lodger* tells the story of those who were sacrificed so that medicine might advance; their corpses were provided for medical schools. A “dress lodger” is a young prostitute.

Stuart Kaminsky – *People Who Walk in Darkness*

Inspector Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov is a one-legged policeman and one of the last honest civil servants in a very corrupt post-Soviet Russia. He is sent from Moscow to the frozen wastes of Siberia to look for a cache of smuggled diamonds. There are ghost children and all the perverse dysfunctions of modern Russia.

Michael Killian – *A Killing at Ball’s Bluff*

Harrison Raines, gambler, horse trader and investor to the people of Washington City, is really a captain in the US secret service and finds himself in trouble with both the Confederates and the Federals.

Ross King – *Ex-Libris*

Sweeping the reader into the maelstrom of Europe after the English Civil War, Issac Inchbold, bookseller and antiquarian, moves in a treacherous game of underworld spies and smugglers as he restores a magnificent library and searches for a missing manuscript.

Alanna Knight – *The Missing Duchess*

Inspector Jeremy Faro discovers a corpse at a banquet in the sinister Wizard's House near Edinburgh Castle. Later, at the house of the Grand Duchess of Luxoria, her maid has a chilling tale for Faro.

Sarah Love – *Dantes' Inferno*

Forensic psychologist Dr. Sylvia Strange is called in to evaluate notorious bomber John Dantes in a hypnotic heart-pounding journey to the soul of madness.

Peter Lovesey – *Bertie and the Crime of Passion*

In this novel of Edwardian detection, we find Bertie (AKA the Prince of Wales) in Paris showing off his talent for snooping by investigating a murder at the Moulin Rouge.

Peter Lovesey – *Bertie and the Seven Bodies*

Billed as a Victorian Mystery Novel, the main character, "Bertie," is really Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales; here he plunges into a dangerous and potentially sensitive murder case.

Edward Marston – *The Malevolent Comedy*

Someone has killed an actor in a London theatre in sixteenth century England; Nicholas Bracewell comes to the rescue to save his beloved company from disaster and identify the killer in the bargain!

Leslie Meier – *St. Patrick's Day Murder*

In Tinker's Cove, Maine, barkeeper Old Dan Malone is found dead and intrepid reporter Lucy Stone wants to know why.

Julia Navarro – *The Brotherhood of the Shroud*

Department Chief Marco Valoni leads a crack team of investigators in a race to solve a crime that he is certain

will shock the world: someone is planning to steal the Holy Shroud of Turin.

Eliot Pattison – *The Skull Mantra*

Veteran Police Inspector Shan Tao Yun of Tibet deals with murder, demons and the many layers of tragedy inflicted by China on his country and people.

Sharon Kay Penman – *Cruel as the Grave*

A poor peddler's daughter is murdered in London; what might her killing have to do with Eleanor of Aquitaine or her son, Richard the Lionhearted? Justin de Quincy, in the employ of the queen, will find out.

Stef Penny – *The Tenderness of Wolves*

The year is 1867. In an isolated settlement in Canada's Northern Territory, a man is brutally murdered. A variety of outsiders are drawn to the township and to the crime but do they want to solve it or exploit it?

Anne Perry – *Pentecost Alley*

Charlotte Pitt, female detective, is sleuthing around nineteenth century London.

Elizabeth Peters – *Silhouette in Scarlet*

Vicky Bliss begins on the trail of a priceless fifth-century chalice, placing her at the mercy of a ruthless gang of villains with their eyes on an even more valuable prize.

Elizabeth Peters – *Street of the Five Moons*

Vicky Bliss, a brain with a body like a centerfold, knows her stuff, and she's a master at solving mysteries that turn the art world upside down.

Ellis Peters – *The Rose Rent*

Former Crusader and man of the world Brother Cadfael is a sleuth unrivaled, with keen powers of observation and a lively intelligence which he uses to unearth scoundrels and crack open murder mysteries.

Ian Rankin – *Fleshmarket Alley*

An Inspector John Rebus novel. On a notorious street where propriety and decadence clash, in the basement of a newly-renovated bar, the bones of a woman and child are discovered beneath a cement floor.

J. D. Robb – *Innocent In Death*

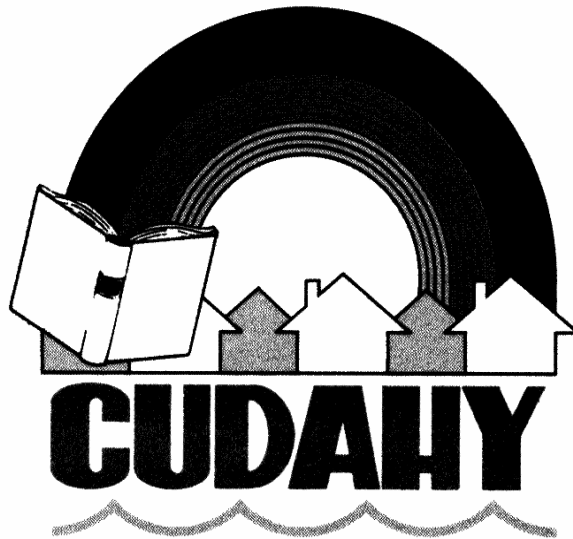
This futuristic crime series features NYPD Lt. Eve Dallas, who has murders to investigate while also watching her husband, whose ex-girlfriend is back on the scene.

Laura Joh Rowland – *The Secret Adventures of Charlotte Brontë*

Brontë is in London to clear her name of a plagiarism charge when she witnesses a murder and gets caught in a whirlpool of dangerous events.

Stuart Woods – *Beverly Hills Dead*

This novel features an ex-police officer, the Hollywood studios, deception, murder and the Red Scare that hit the country in the early 1950s.



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3500 Library Drive
Cudahy, WI 53110
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