

Hercule Poirot, the Black Stiletto, and Fat Cat: What's new in Mysteries

A mystery features a detective (amateur or professional) solving a crime or series of crimes. The crime is usually murder, and the killer almost never gets away with it.

A **traditional** mystery is a 'who done it.' The crime is committed and the detective (and the reader) must follow the clues to solve the riddle. (Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle)

The **cozy** has an unpopular victim dispatched in a manner which is not described in great detail. No animals or children are harmed. (Mary Daheim, Tamar Myers, M.C. Beaton)

A **Detective/private eye** may be licensed or not, and may work in conjunction with the police. (Sue Grafton, Rex Stout, Robert B. Parker's Spenser)

Police procedurals feature the police, detective, medical examiners, and district attorneys bringing the perp to justice. (Ed McBain, James Patterson, J.D. Robb)

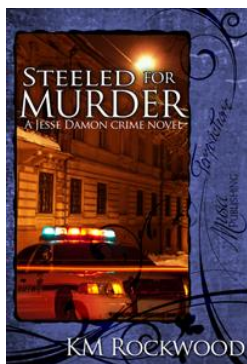
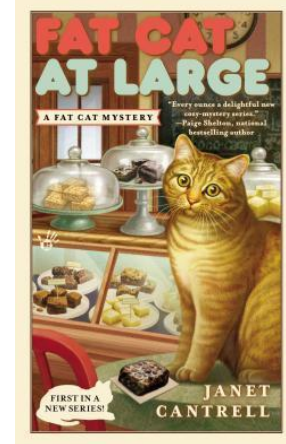
In a **thriller**, instead of the sleuth pursuing the criminal, the protagonist is the one being pursued. Here the question "How will the main character stay alive?" (Lee Child, Vince Flynn)

The **amateur sleuth** tries to solve the murder of someone close. Either the police have tried and failed or misread the murder as an accident/suicide. (Donald Bain, MC Beaton's Agatha Raisin)

Historical mysteries can be set in prehistoric times or the 1980s—pick your era. (Charles Todd, Anne Perry, Elizabeth Peters)

Furry detectives may speak or otherwise communicate clues that help to solve mysteries. (Lilian Jackson Braun, Rita Mae Brown)

Other sub genres include religious, legal, culinary, supernatural, exotic settings, and the caper novel.



What to look for when selecting

Plot, characters, and action. Is the book part of a series? Combined sub genres or genres? What circulates in your library? Take a look at the list of most circulated mysteries in the Winnefox system.

Selection tools and review sources, including websites to keep up on new releases (other than Library Journal or Kirkus)

Sisters in Crime (sistersincrime.org) This website features new titles by member authors. Enter their “We Love Libraries” contest for \$1000 to spend on books. A winner is picked each month.

Mystery Writers of America (mysterywriters.org) Each month publishes a list of new books by member authors. Sponsors the annual Edgar awards.

Berkley newsletter (berkleysignetmysteries.com) Sign up for the newsletter and enter the contests. Heavy on the cozy genre but also publishes suspense and police procedurals.

RT Book Reviews (<http://www.rtbookreviews.com>) Primarily romance, but also covers mysteries.

Mystery Scene magazine (<https://www.mysteryscenemag.com>) Reviews, articles, interviews.

Blogs like **Buried Under Books** (cncbooksblog.wordpress.com)

Jungle Red Writers (<http://www.jungleredwriters.com/>)

Killer Crafts & Crafty Killers (<http://anastasiapollack.blogspot.com/>)

Cheap Sunglasses (my blog) (<http://bluefiat79.blogspot.com/>)

Stop You’re Killing Me (<http://www.stopyourekilllingme.com>) Lists all the award-winning titles, new releases, and series.

Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com>) Recommendations “inspired by your purchases.”

Bookbub (<https://www.bookbub.com/home/>) Free and discounted ebooks, a mix of new and older titles.

Goodreads (<http://www.goodreads.com>) Keep track of books you’ve read; recommendations; forthcoming books.

Be a friend—my name on Goodreads is “Chi Dubinski” (my former cat’s name)

Dorothy-L (<https://www.kovacs.com/dorothy/>) Large and long-standing mystery lovers listserv.

Fantastic Fiction (<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/>) Lists new releases in hardbound, paperback, audio and Kindle. Also lists forthcoming.

Library Thing (<https://www.librarything.com>) Early reviewers, book talk, costs \$

Conferences

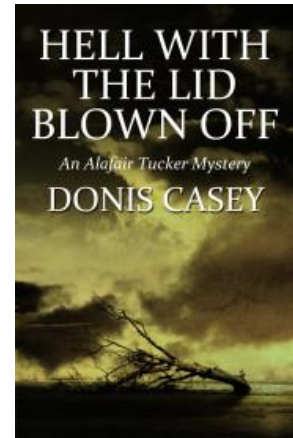
[Murder and Mayhem](#) in Milwaukee

[Love Is Murder](#) (Chicago)

[Magna Cum Murder](#) (Indianapolis)

[Malice Domestic](#) (Bethesda)

[Bouchercon](#) (different city each year)



New & upcoming titles by popular authors and in series

The Crossing (Harry Bosch) by Michael Connelly

The Promise (Elvis Cole/Joe Pike) by Robert Crais

Crimson Shore (Pendergast) by Lincoln Child and Douglas Preston

The Guilty by David Baldacci

Tricky Twenty-Two by Janet Evanovich

Pharaoh's Secret by Graham Brown and Clive Cussler

All Dressed in White by Alafair Burke and Mary Higgins Clark

Display ideas for marketing your mystery collection

Use props like crime scene tape, fingerprint cards, evidence bags, and old Clue board game, Wanted posters. Do tie-ins with TV shows or movies (Downton Abbey, NCIS) or feature mysteries written by or having a celebrity as a sleuth. A Sherlock Holmes or TV/movie detective quiz to draw readers to your display.

New (and not so new) authors to watch out for

Traditional Sophie Hannah's "The Monogram Murders," the new Hercule Poirot; G.M. Malliet; C.S. Challinor; Alan Bradley

Cozy Edith Maxwell (foodie); Leslie Budewitz; Christine DeSmet (foodie, Wisconsin); Julie Hyzy; Avery Aames (cheese shop); Diane Vallere (fashion); Sparkle Abbey (furry); Gail Borger (Wisconsin)

Detective/Private eye James L. Jackson (financial crimes); Gary Phillips; Steve Hamilton; Laura DiSilverio

Police Procedural Ann Cleeves (British); William Kent Krueger; Frankie Bailey; Craig Johnson

Espionage/thriller Raymond Benson (vigilante, James Bond); Jamie Freveletti; Allison Brennan

Amateur sleuth Hank Philippi Ryan (journalist); MJ Williams (Wisconsin authors, older); Naomi Hirahawa; Timothy Hallinan

Historical Rhys Bowen, Jacqueline Winspear; Charles Finch; Catriona McPherson

Others Michael Stanley(Africa); Janet Cantrell (fat cat); Debbie Viguie (religious)

Takeaway for readers advisory

Make a list of everything you read (from Vicki Vandenburg)

Offer one mainstream choice; one to stretch boundaries (from Liz Dannenbaum)

Have some sure-bet titles to fall back on (from Nancy Pearl)

Some of my “sure bet” authors: Joseph Finder (Business thriller); Donis Casey (historical); Tarquin Hall (exotic location); David Handler (three different series, amateur sleuth and private eye); Jeffrey Deaver (thriller); S. J. Rozan (private eye); Maddie Hunter (cozy); Liz Lipperman (cozy).

Some of the top books I’ve read this year

Rockwood, KM. Steeled for Murder

Challinor, CS. Murder of the Bride

Ulfelder, Steve. Wolverine Bros. Freight and Storage

Zevin, Gabrielle. The Storied Life of AJ Fikry

Rader-Day, Lori. Little Pretty Things

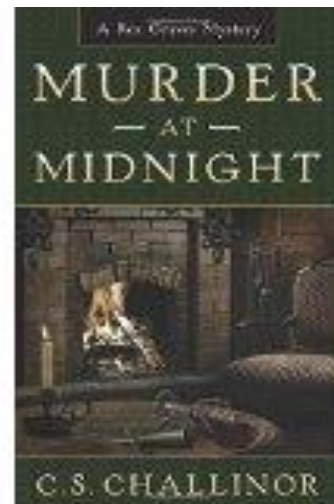
Fischer Hellman, Libby. Nobody’s Child

DiSilverio, Laura. Swift Justice

Goldsborough, Robert. Murder at the Ballpark

Parshall, Sandra. Broken Places

Hallinan, Timothy. Little Elvies



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