

Mysteries

A Mystery is novel, short story, play, or film whose plot involves a crime or other event that remains puzzlingly unsettled until the very end. This is one of many lists. It has a wide range of writing styles, themes and reading levels.

Author and theme where available

1. Harold Adams –Depression era
2. Charlotte Armstrong
3. Jo Bannister - Psychological suspense
4. Robert Barnard - Satirical, twisty mysteries
5. Stephanie Barron
6. John Billheimer - country crimes
7. Lionell Black
8. Charity Blackstock
9. Lawrence Block - Modern noir
10. Stephen Booth
11. Gerry Boyle
12. Anthony Bruno
13. Fiona Buckley - Lady-in-waiting solves crimes
14. James Lee Burke
15. Jan Burke - reporter in tense tales
16. John Carr
17. Raymond Chandler - Defined hard boiled noir
18. G.K. Chesterton
19. Margaret Chittenden - sleuthing and romance
20. Francis Clifford
21. Harlan Coben - sports & witty modern noir
22. Manning Coles
23. Beverly Connor - forensic anthropologist
24. K.C. Constantine
25. Tom Corcoran
26. Patricia Cornwell - forensic examiner
27. George Coxe
28. Philip Craig - Ex-cop turned fisherman
29. John Creasey
30. Barbara D’Amato - reporters & police
31. L.P. Davies
32. Dorothy Davis
33. Jeffery Deaver
34. Davis Dresser
35. John Dunning - cops & book collectors
36. Mignon Eberhart
37. Lesley Egan
38. Aaron J. Elkins
39. Kathy Lynn Emerson - Elizabethan era
40. G.H. Ephron
41. Loren Estleman
42. Ruth Fenisong
43. Antonia Fraser - reporters
44. Shelley Freydon - dance world
45. Kinky Friedman
46. Erle Stanley Gardner - Perry Mason
47. Jonathan Gash
48. Dorothy Gilman
49. Philip Gooden - Shakespearian era theater
50. Alan Gordon - 13th century
51. Elizabeth Gunn - Small town police
52. Jane Haddam
53. Carolyn Haines -unconventional detective
54. Parnell Hall - crossword puzzle themed
55. Lyn Hamilton - art world
56. Steve Hamilton - retired city cop
57. Dashiell Hammett - Sam Spade noir
58. Karen S. Harper
59. Charlaine Harris
60. Jamie Harrison - small town
61. Robin Hathaway - medicine
62. Steven Havill
63. Jeremiah Healy
64. Patricia Highsmith
65. Hugh Holton - supernatural elements
66. Susan Holtzer - computers
67. Fred Hunter
68. Roderic Jeffries
69. Clarence Kelland
70. Jonathan Kellerman - psychological thrillers
71. Toni L.P. Kelner
72. Karen Kijewski - Woman P.I.
73. Michael Kilian - Civil War
74. Daniel M. Klein - Elvis Presley as detective
75. Charles Knief - Navy SEAL turned detective
76. Jane Langton – history themed
77. Virginia Lanier
78. Joe R. Lansdale - gruesome but humorous
79. Martha C. Lawrence - P.I. with psychic powers
80. Donna Leon
81. Robert S. Levinson
82. Laura Lippman - reporter becomes detective
83. Richard Lockridge
84. Mary Logue - single mother is deputy
85. John D. MacDonald - tough guy P.I. tales
86. Marianne Macdonald - booksellers
87. Rett MacPherson - skeletons in the historical closets
88. David Manuel
89. Irene Marcuse - social workers
90. Margaret Maron
91. Nancy Martin - sisters and society mysteries
92. Harold Masur
93. William P. McGivern
94. Jill McGown - partners and lovers
95. G.A. McKeveitt - Ex-cop Adventures
96. Ann McMillan - Civil War
97. Leslie Meier – holiday themed
98. Maan Meyers
99. Margaret Millar
100. Denise Mina
101. Camille Minichino
102. Deborah Morgan - Ex-FBI agent
103. John Mortimer
104. Walter Mosley – current issues
105. Patricia Moyes
106. Marcia Muller - female private eye
107. Katy Munger
108. Magdalen Nabb - police stories
109. Barbara Neely - features cleaning woman
110. Kris Nelscott
111. Carol O’Connell - tough woman cop
112. Abigail Padgett
113. Katherine Hall Page
114. Robin Paige - Victorian era
115. Sara Paretsky
116. Robert B. Parker
117. T. Jefferson Parker - police procedurals
118. P.J. Parrish
119. Owen Parry - Civil War historical
120. James Patterson - police procedurals
121. Iain Pears
122. Arturo Perez-Reverte
123. Nancy Pickard
124. David Pirie
125. Bill Pronzini
126. Ellery Queen
127. Mary Reed & Eric Mayer
128. Helen Reilly
129. Ruth Rendell
130. Craig Rice
131. Cynthia Riggs
132. Ann Ripley
133. J.D. Robb – romance tinged action
134. Les Roberts
135. Elliott Roosevelt - Eleanor Roosevelt as detective
136. David Rosenfelt
137. Dan Ross
138. Lawrence Sanders
139. John Sandford

140. Walter Satterthwait - historical characters
141. Beth Saulnier
142. Corinne Holt Sawyer
143. Dorothy L. Sayers
144. Justin Scott
145. Barbara Seranella - mechanic and amateur sleuth
146. Sarah Shaber - history professor
147. John Shannon - lost children
148. Robert Sheckley
149. Connie Shelton
150. Randall Silvis - Edgar Allan Poe solves crimes
151. Georges Simenon
152. Frank Smith
153. Bart Spicer
154. Mickey Spillane - Classic tough guy
155. Richard Stark
156. Rosemary Stevens - regency mysteries
157. Rex Stout - Nero Wolfe
158. Andy Straka
159. Virginia Swift
160. Marcia Talley
161. William G. Tapply - fishing & criminals
162. Josephine Tey - golden age classics
163. Elise Title
164. Rebecca Tope
165. P.J. Tracy
166. M.J. Trow
167. Andrew Vachss
168. Elaine Viets
169. Ayelet Waldman
170. David J. Walker - humorous
171. Thomas Walsh
172. Joseph Wambaugh - police stories
173. Valerie Wilson Wesley
174. Kate White
175. Randy Wayne White - ex-spy & marine biologist
176. Phyllis Whitney

177. Paula L. Woods - racism, sexism and criminals
178. Sally S. Wright - 1960s academic mysteries

Themed Mystery

Amateur Sleuths

1. Dorothy Cannell
2. Amanda Cross - Feminist
3. Monica Ferris – needle crafting
4. April Henry - Oregon
5. Marlys Millhiser - Hollywood agent
6. Lynne Murray

Animals & Pets

1. Carol Lea Benjamin - New York crime and dogs
2. Laurien Berenson - crimes on the dog show circuit
3. Michael Bond - French food & dogs
4. Lilian Jackson Braun - mysteries with cats
5. Rita Mae Brown - Cat/pets help solve crimes
6. Susan Conant - dog lovers
7. Laura Crum - horse lovers
8. Carole Nelson Douglas - Cat capers
9. Dick Francis – horse racing settings
10. Alex Matthews - psychotherapist sleuths with cats
11. Skye Kathleen Moody - Undercover Wildlife agent
12. Shirley Rousseau Murphy - Cat becomes detective

Church and Religion

1. Mignon Ballard - guardian angel
2. Veronica Black - English nun
3. Margaret Frazer - Medieval nun
4. Lee Harris - Ex-nun as detective
5. Faye Kellerman - Jewish community
6. Harry Kemelman - Rabbi as detective
7. William X. Kienzle - Catholic priest solves mysteries

8. Rochelle Majer Krich - Jewish crime
9. Ellis Peters - 12th century English monk as detective

Food

1. Cleo Coyle – Coffee House
2. Diane Mott Davidson
3. Joanne Fluke – Baking up murder
4. Peter King - Gourmet detective
5. Joanne Pence
6. Phyllis C. Richman
7. Lou Jane Temple - Culinary crimes

Funny

1. Nancy Bartholomew - series
2. Simon Brett
3. Tim Cockey - Baltimore mysteries
4. Tim Dorsey - Zany, comic, serial killer
5. Janet Evanovich - screwball
7. Jerrilyn Farmer - Hollywood fun
8. Robert Ferrigno - Fast-paced
9. Joe Gores - Fast adventures with cars
10. Martha Grimes
11. David Handler - romantic
12. Sparkle Hayter-
13. Joan Hess -
14. Bill James - darkly humorous, British
15. Laura Levine -
16. Gregory McDonald –
17. Lev Raphael - humor and pop culture
18. Ben Rehder -
19. Sarah Strohmeyer -
20. Betty Webb - female detective
21. Donald Westlake - comic capers

Gardening

1. Susan Wittig Albert - Herbalist
2. Janis Harrison -

Native American

1. Margaret Coel - on the reservation
2. James D. Doss- Tribal cop
3. Tony Hillerman - Navajo reservation
4. William Kent Krueger
5. Kirk Mitchell - Indian Affairs
6. Aimée Thurlo – reservation
7. David Thurlo – Navajo

Mysteries From Around the World

Africa

1. Alexander McCall Smith - Botswana woman opens detective agency

Australia

1. Jon Cleary
2. Shane Maloney witty mysteries

Canada

1. Gail Bowen - investigations
2. Maureen Jennings - late 19th century Toronto
3. Kathy Reichs - crimes & forensic science
4. Eric Wright - Toronto police

China

1. Robert Van Gulik - Ancient China
2. Eliot Pattison - crimes in Chinese labor camp

Dutch

1. Janwillem Van de Wetering - Amsterdam

Egypt

1. P.C. Doherty - Edwardian England and Ancient Egypt
2. Lauren Haney- ancient Egyptian police
3. Elizabeth Peters -Victorian era Egyptologist

French

1. Sharan Newman - woman sleuths in 12th century Paris
2. Charles O'Brien - French Revolution

Great Britain

1. Bruce Alexander - 18th century London
2. Rhys Bowen - Constable in North Wales
3. Emily Brightwell - 1890's
4. Gwendoline Butler - South London

5. Agatha Christie – classic
6. Deborah Crombie – English settings and romance
7. Colin Dexter - Inspector in Oxford
8. Arthur Conan Doyle – Classic
9. Ruth Dudley Edwards
10. Carola Dunn - 1920s England
11. Kate Ellis - archaeological
12. Roberta Gellis - 12th century London
13. Elizabeth George - modern Scotland Yard
14. Caroline Graham - village mysteries
15. Ann Granger - relationships and murders
16. Susanna Gregory – Doctor in 14th century Cambridge
17. Cynthia Harrod-Eagles - London police
18. Simon Hawke – William Shakespeare as detective
19. Lauren Henderson
20. Reginald Hill - Yorkshire police

21. P.D. James - psychological classics
22. Kate Kingsbury – WWII
23. Gillian Linscott - 20th Century Britain
24. David Liss - 18th Century London
25. Peter Lovesey - English
26. Barry Maitland - Scotland Yard
27. Ngaio Marsh - classic
28. Edward Marston - historical
29. William J. Palmer - Charles Dickens as detectives
30. Michael Pearce- secret police
31. Sharon Kay Penman - 12th century
32. Anne Perry - Victorian & WWI London
33. Candace Robb - Medieval Welshman spies
34. Peter Robinson - Yorkshire police
35. Kate Ross - 1820's
36. Kate Sedley - 15th Century
37. Sally Spencer - 1950s and 60s

38. Graham Thomas
39. Charles Todd - WWI & Scotland Yard
40. Peter Turnbull - Yorkshire police procedurals
41. Minette Walters - strong female leads
42. Sara Woods – A barrister

India

1. H.R.F. Keating - Inspector in Bombay, India

Ireland

1. Bartholomew Gill - Dublin police
2. Peter Tremayne -7th century Celtic
3. John Brady -Irish police & political intrigue
4. Ken Bruen - Irish noir

Italy and old Rome

1. Marshall Browne - Southern Italy
2. Lindsey Davis - crime in first century Rome
3. Michael Dibdin – Italy
4. Steven Saylor - a private eye in Rome, circa 56 B.C.

5. John Maddox Roberts - Historic Roman

Japan

1. Dale Furutani - samurai sleuths in 17th century Japan
2. Sujata Massey - Tokyo
3. Laura Joh Rowland - Samurai investigation in 17th Century Japan

Puerto Rico

1. Steven Torres - Puerto Rican Police

Scotland

1. Gerald Hammond - hunting and fishing Scotland
2. Ian Rankin - Scottish noir

Spain

1. Rebecca Pawel -post-Civil War Spain (late 1930's)

Sweden

1. Henning Mankell - Swedish Police

United States

1. Ace Atkins - gritty South
2. Linda Barnes - Boston
3. Nevada Barr - national parks
4. Eleanor Taylor Bland - Gritty Chicago
5. J.S. Borthwick - Maine
6. Peter Bowen - Montana
7. C.J. Box - Wyoming
8. Edna Buchanan - Miami
9. Michael Connelly - corruption in LA
10. Robert Crais - L.A. private detective
11. Bill Crider - western
12. James Crumley - western
13. Dianne Day- early 1900s San Francisco
14. Ed Dee- NYPD
15. James Ellroy - L.A. of the 40s and 50s
16. Earl W. Emerson - Seattle
17. G.M. Ford - Seattle
18. Eric Garcia - LA private eye
19. Carolina Garcia-Aguilera - Miami
20. Anne George - southern sisters sleuthing
21. Edward Gorman - Midwestern 50s and 60s era
22. Sue Grafton - California
23. Sarah Graves- home repair and murder in Maine
24. Andrew Greeley - Chicago
25. Barbara Hambly - 1830s New Orleans
26. Donald Harstad - Midwestern America
27. Sue Henry - Alaska
28. Chester Himes - Harlem noir
29. Stuart Kaminsky - old time Hollywood
30. Dennis Lehane - Boston
31. Ross Macdonald - Classic L.A. detective story
32. Charlotte MacLeod - Massachusetts
33. Allana Martin - western
34. Archer Mayor - Vermont police
35. Ed McBain - American police
36. Lise McClendon - WWII-era Kansas City

37. Sharyn McCrumb - Appalachian stories woven into mysteries
38. Michael McGarrity - Santa Fe police
39. Mardi Oakley Medawar - 1860s Oklahoma
40. Larry Millett - Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota
41. Miriam Grace Monfredo - librarian in mid-19th century America
42. Barbara Parker - Miami
43. Ridley Pearson - Seattle
44. Clyde Phillips - San Francisco
45. Robert J. Randisi - NYPD
46. Susan Slater - modern New Mexico
47. Karin Slaughter - Georgia
48. Barbara Burnett Smith - Texas
49. Julie Smith - New Orleans
50. Julia Spencer-Fleming - New York
51. Patricia Sprinkle - Georgia
52. Dana Stabenow - Alaska
53. John Straley - Alaska
54. James Swain - Vegas
55. Jon Talton - past and present Phoenix
56. Victoria Thompson - murder by gaslight NY
57. Betsy Thornton - violence in the Arizona desert
58. Margaret Truman - Washington D.C.
59. Judith Van Gieson - librarian in Southwest
60. John Morgan Wilson -1960s era San Francisco
61. Deborah Woodworth - Sister solves murders in Shaker community