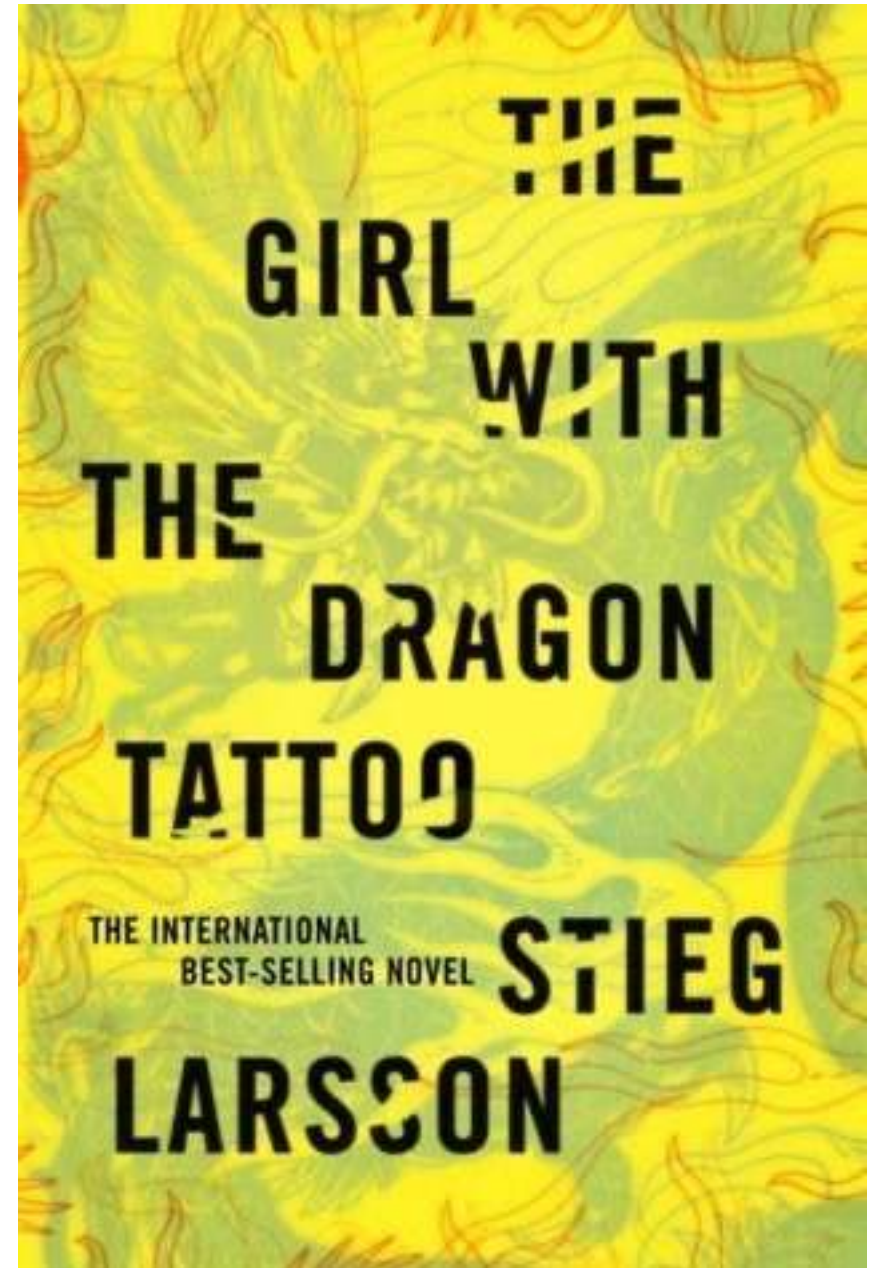


Noir Mysteries

Mysteries like these are atmospheric, stark, and gritty. Classic Noir protagonists are complex characters who are flawed, risk takers and often self-destructive. They involve a character investigating a crime in a corrupt and unfair society, and the line between who is morally good and bad is unclear.

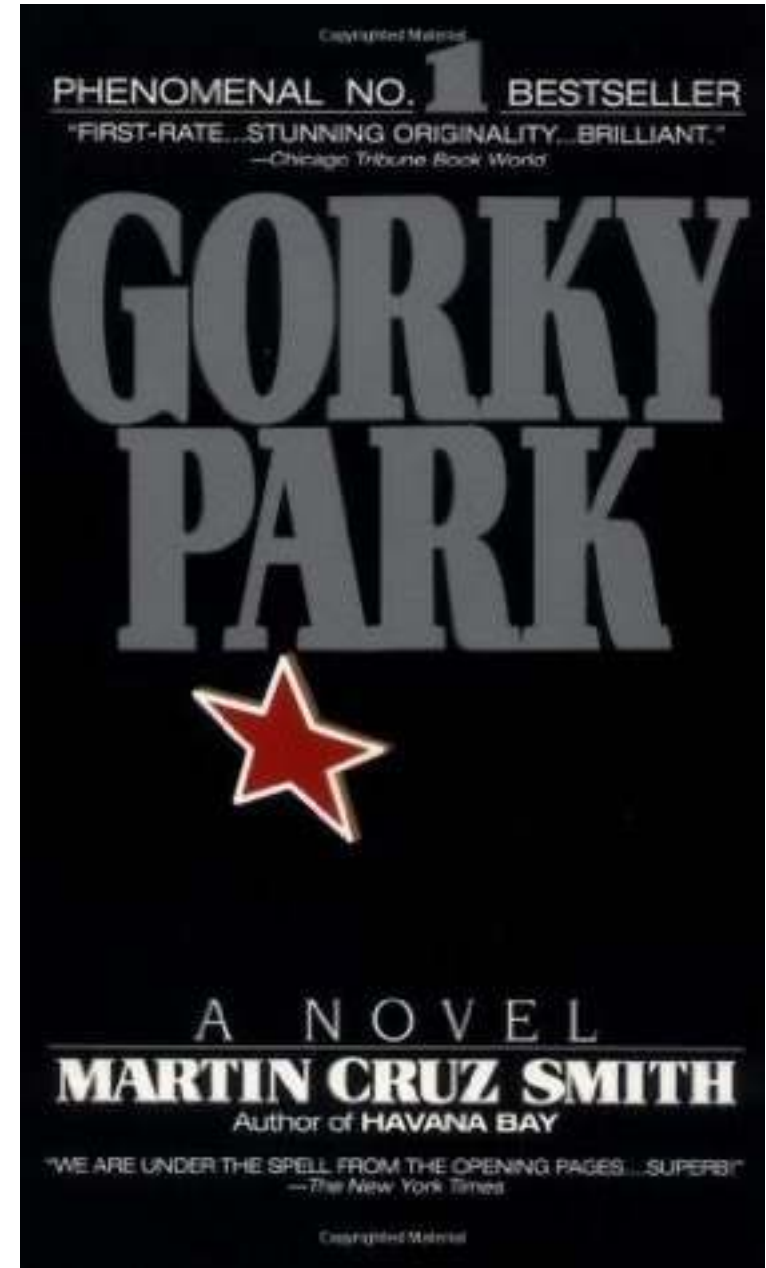


*The Girl with the
Dragon Tattoo* by
Stieg Larsson





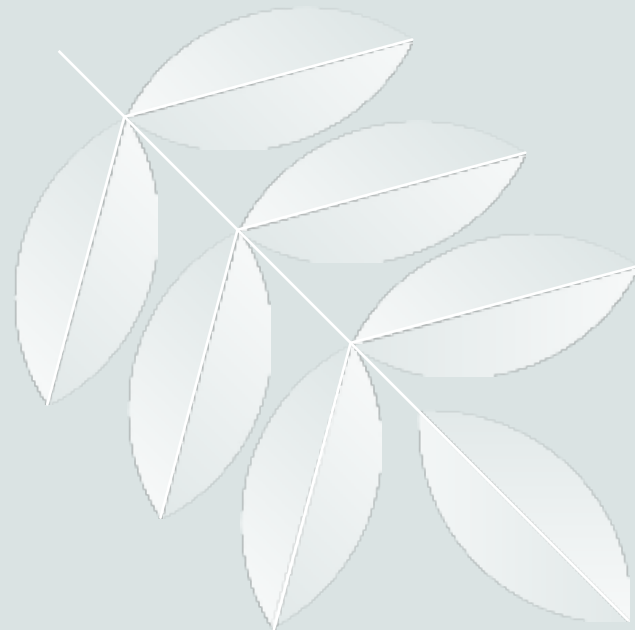
Gorky Park by
Martin Cruz Smith





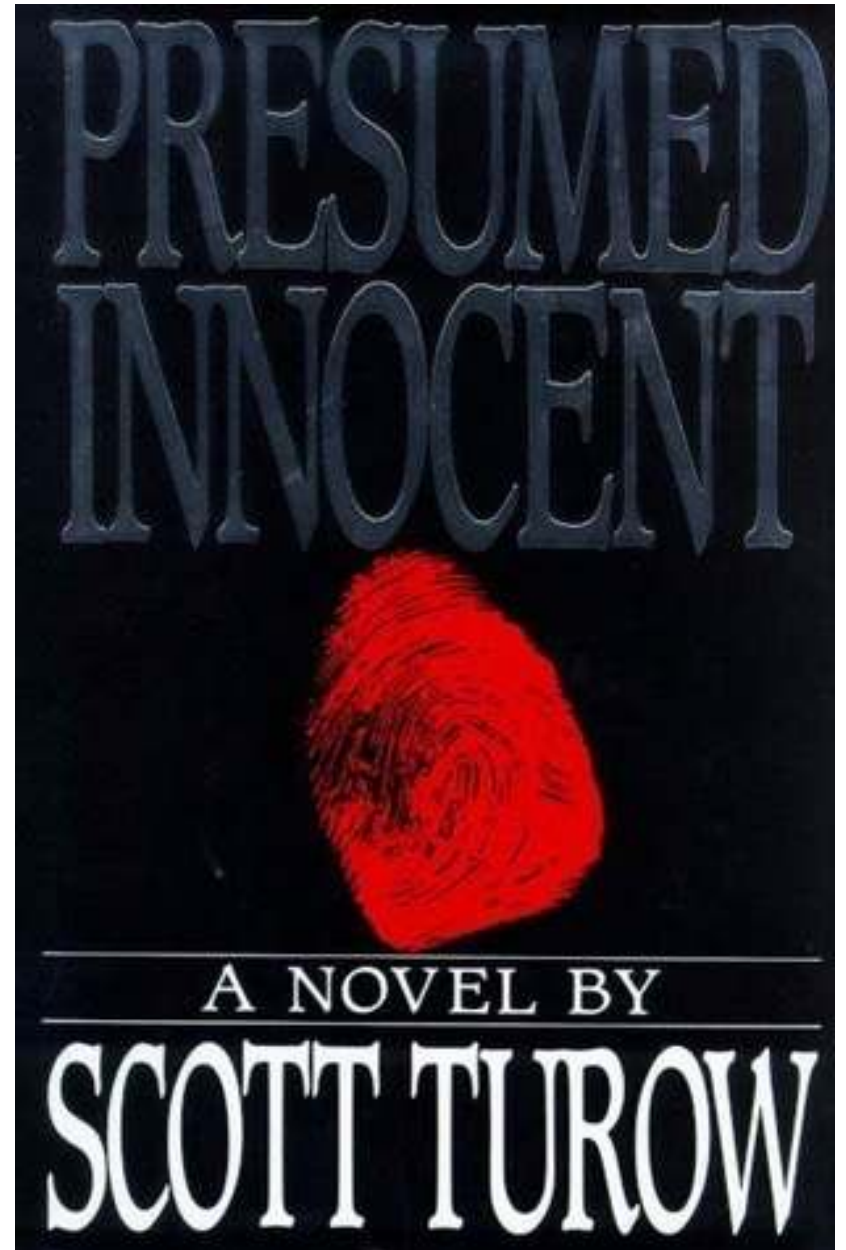
Courtroom Mysteries

Courtroom mysteries are set around a legal case in which the protagonist, usually a lawyer, investigates to uncover the truth behind questions surrounding the crime. The sleuth's daunting task is to not only solve the crime but argue their case in court.



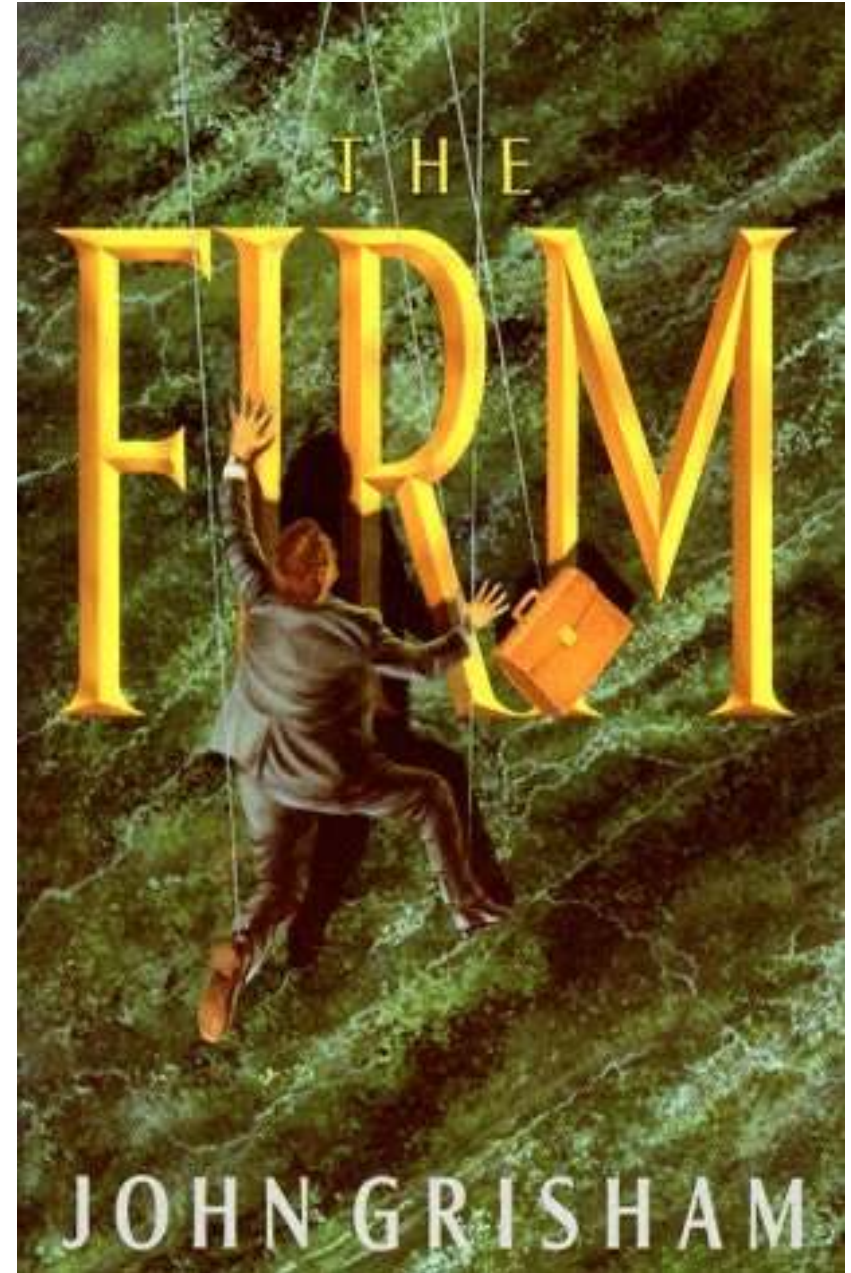


Presumed Innocent by
Scott Turow





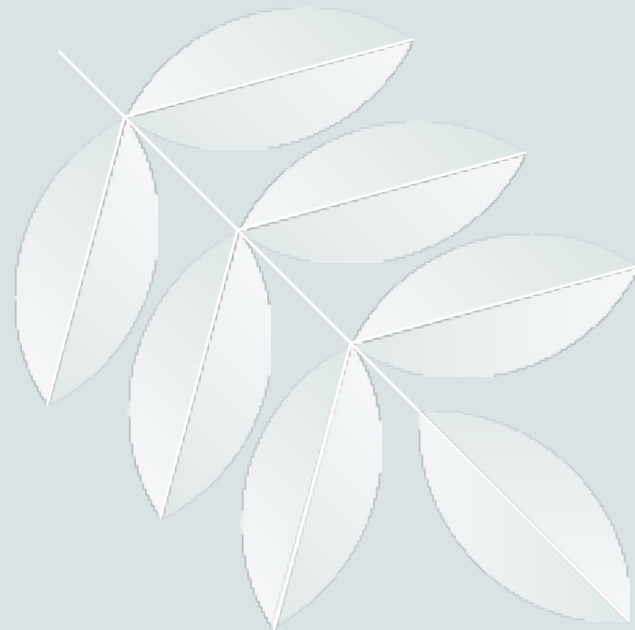
The Firm by
John Grisham





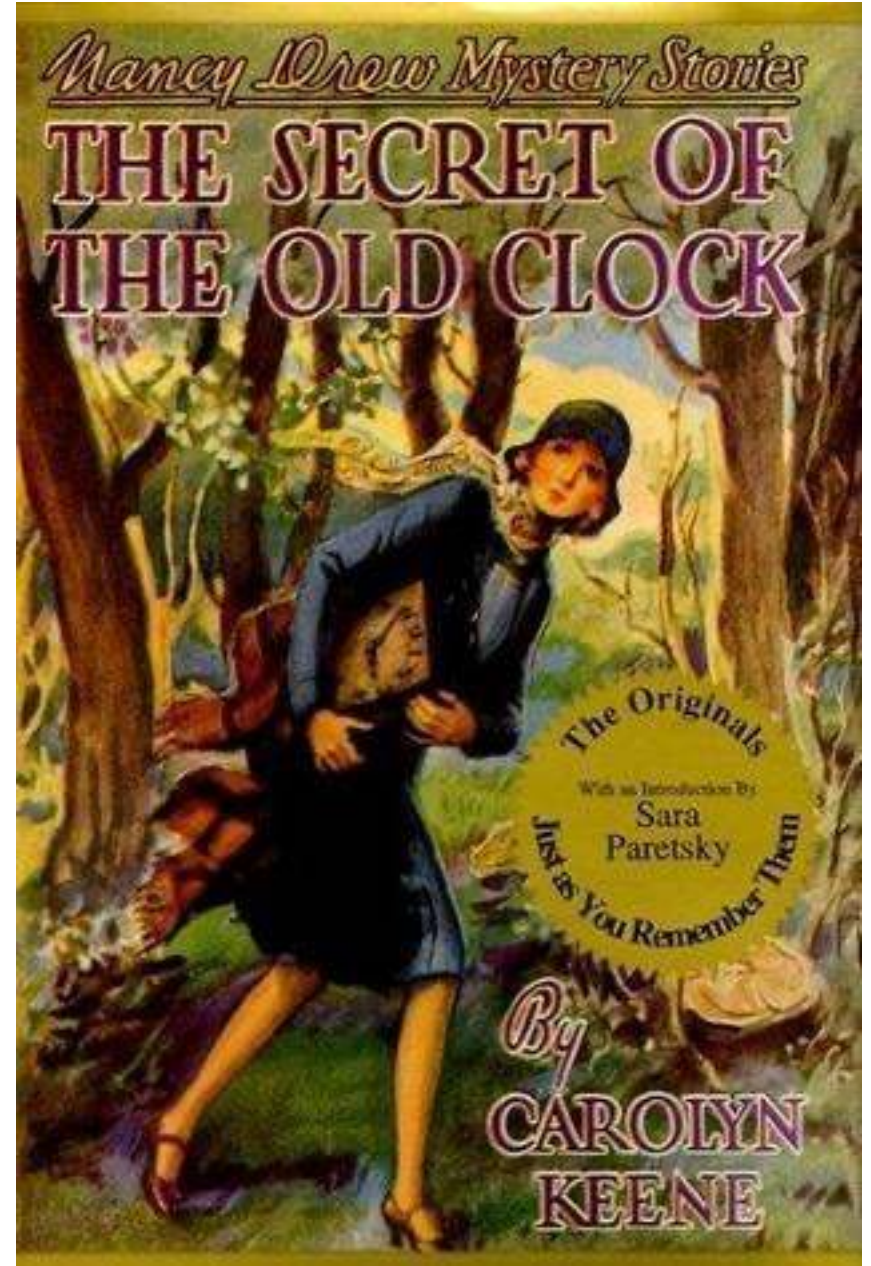
Amateur Sleuth

This sub-genre encompasses all mysteries that center a sleuth who is not a private or police detective solving a crime. The protagonist often uses skills from their profession, hobby, or lived experiences to search for clues.



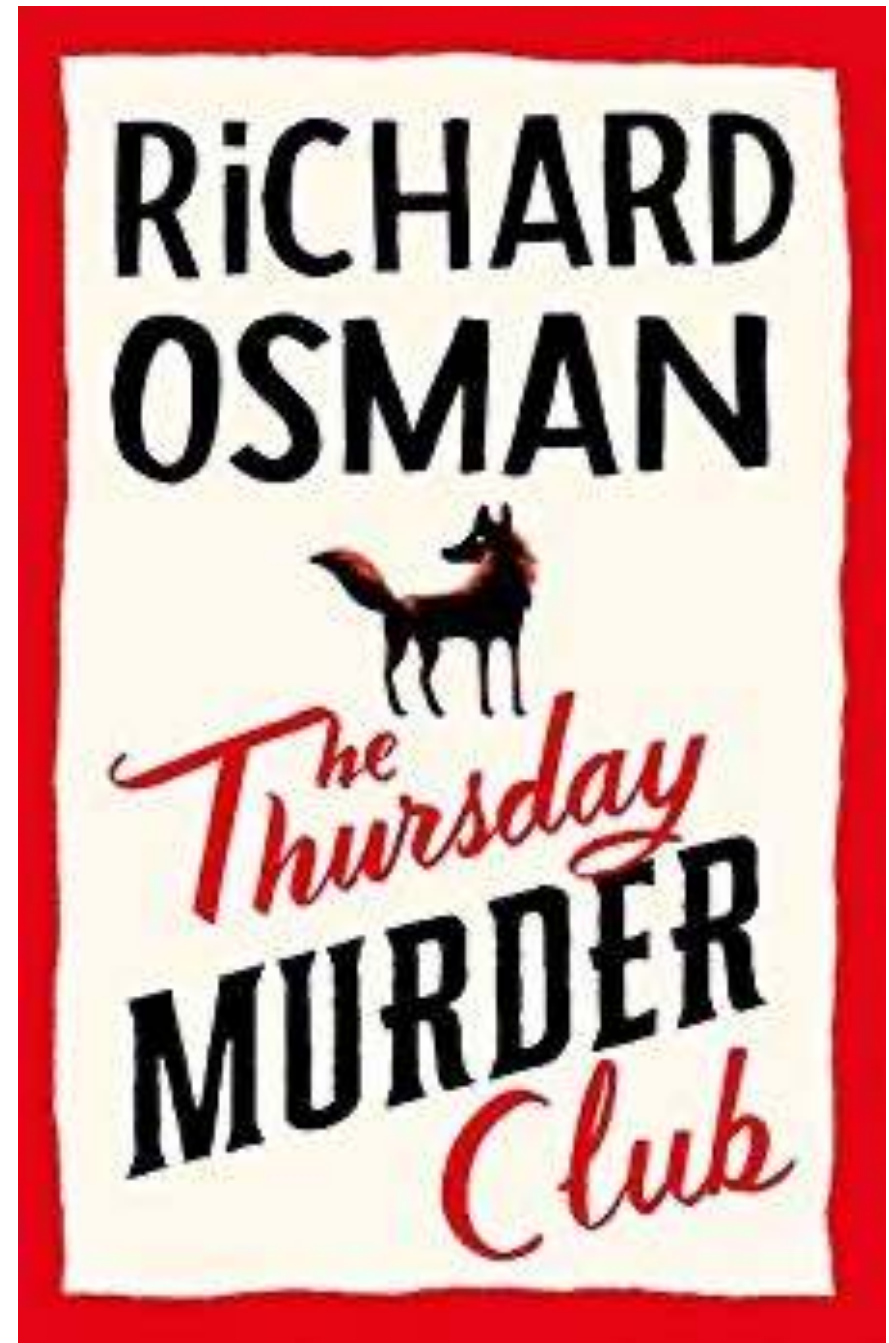


*The Secret of the Old
Clock by
Carolyn Keene
(Nancy Drew)*



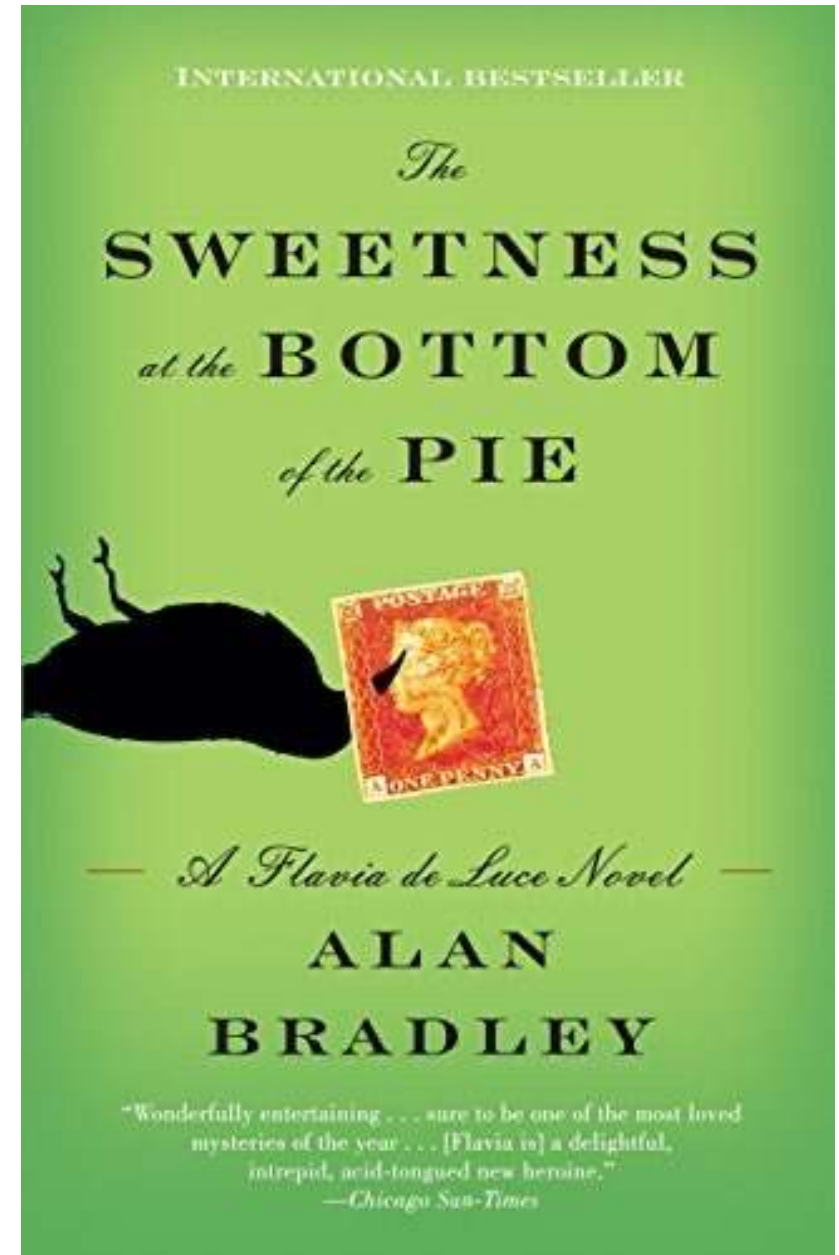


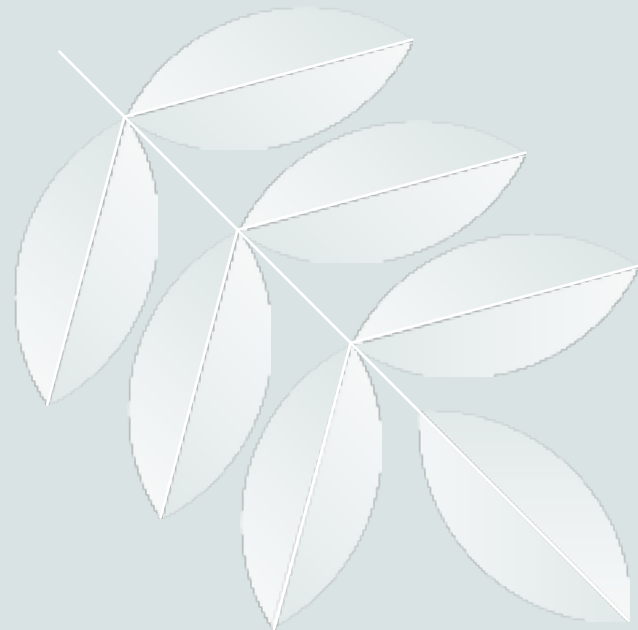
*The Thursday Murder
Club* by
Richard Osman





*The Sweetness at the
Bottom of the Pie* by
Alan Bradley



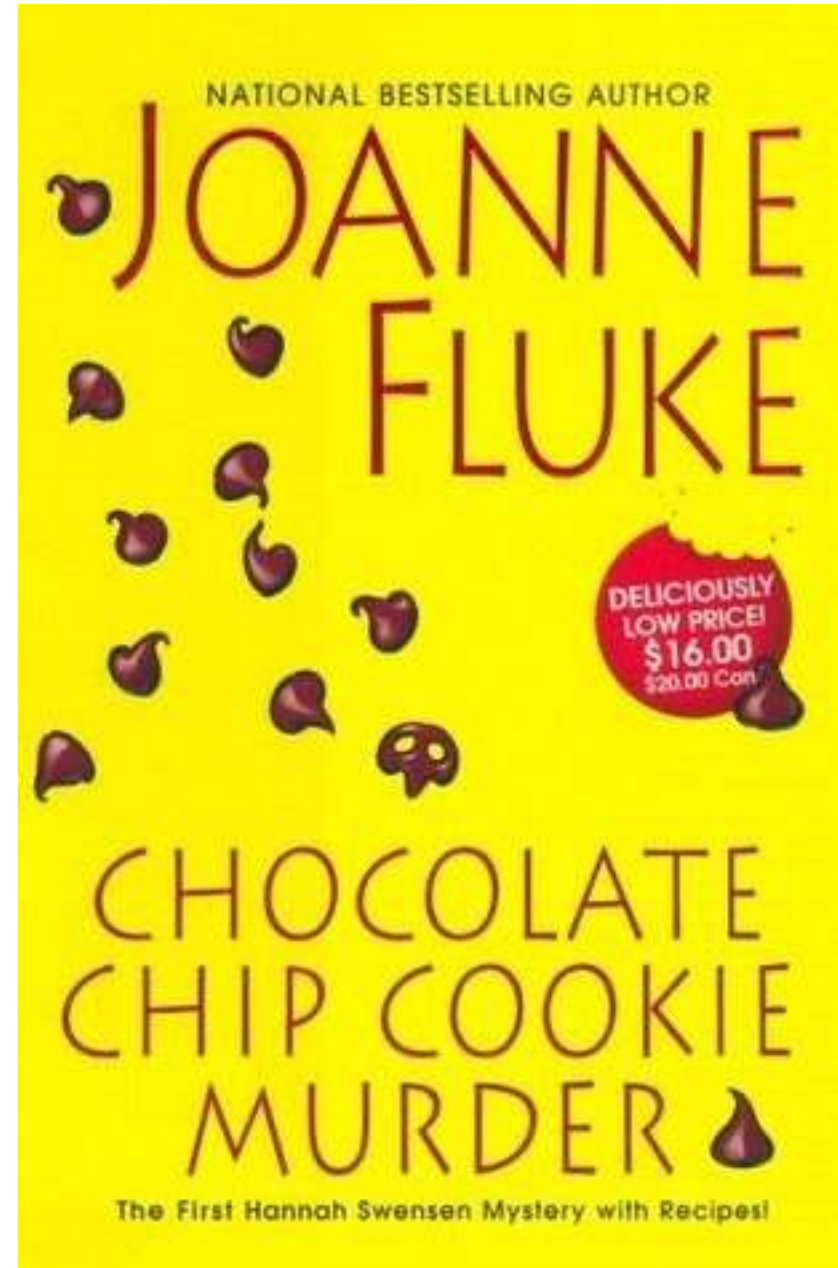


Cozy Mysteries

Like classic mysteries in that the crime will take place around a small or closed setting, for instance an inn or summer house. They may involve a specific set of people like crafters, bakers, or knitters or otherwise stick to a theme. The mystery is solved and perpetrator caught at the end of the story. Cozy mysteries are defined by their lack of graphic violence, explicit sex, or foul language. The tone can be serious but often is lighthearted, playful, or humorous.

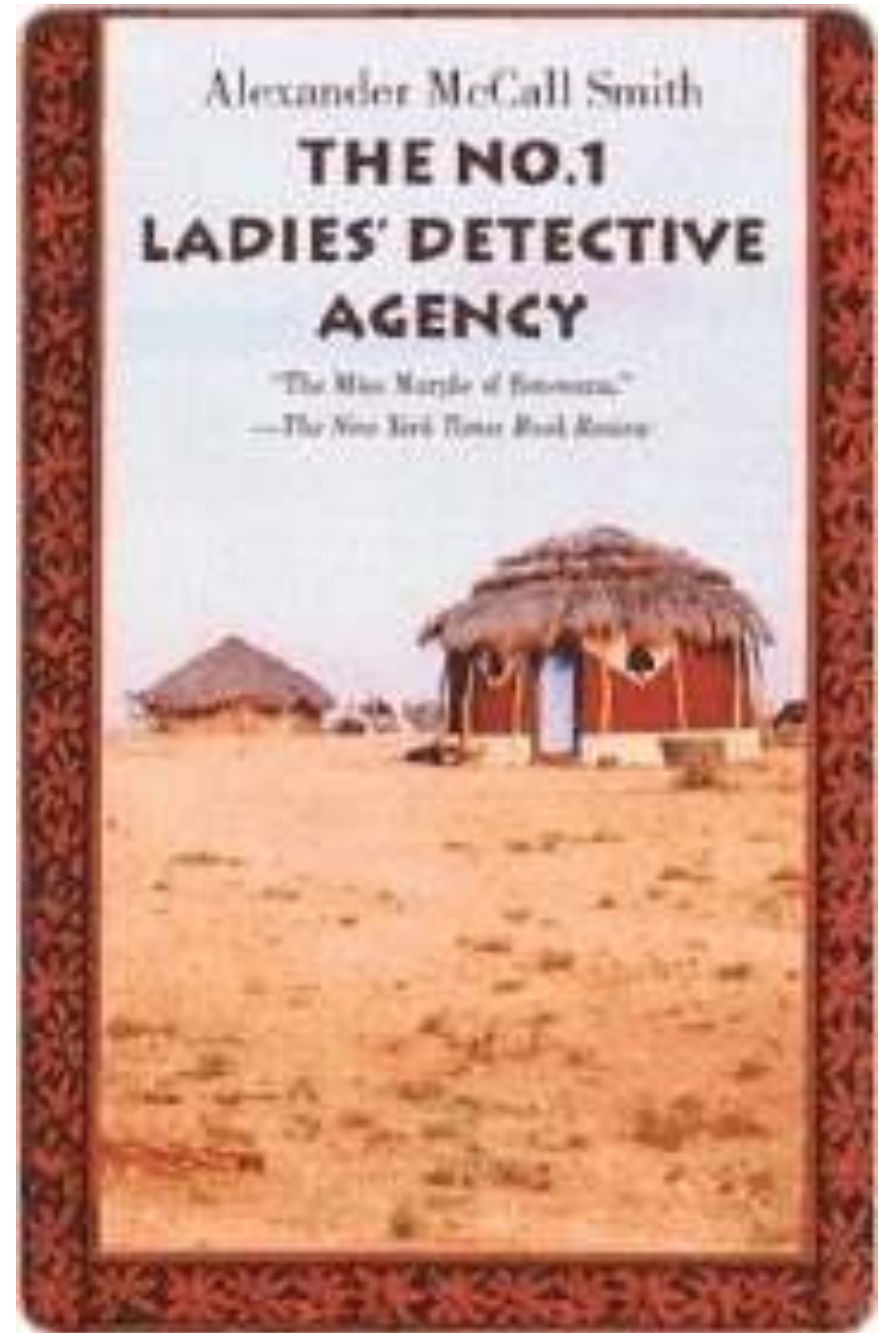


*Chocolate Chip
Cookie Murder* by
Joanne Fluke
(Hannah Swensen)



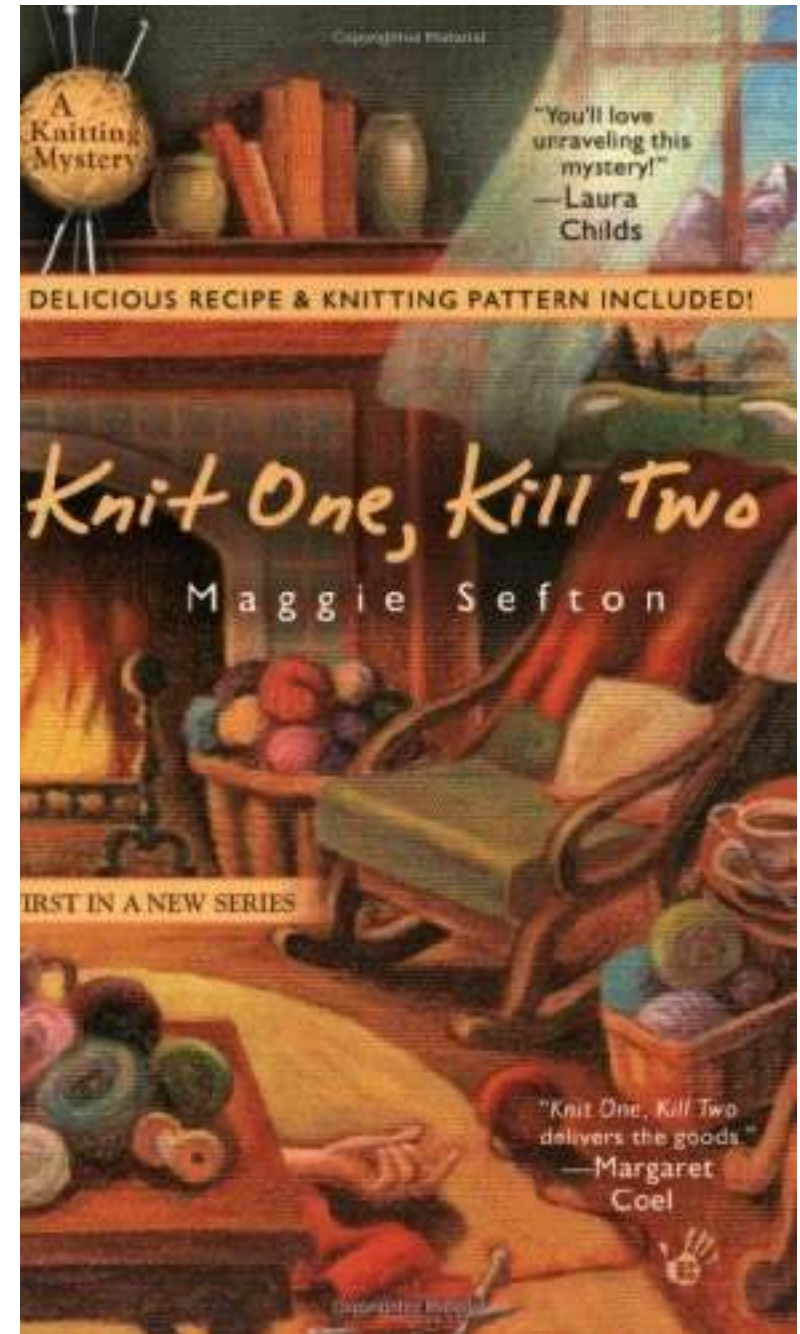


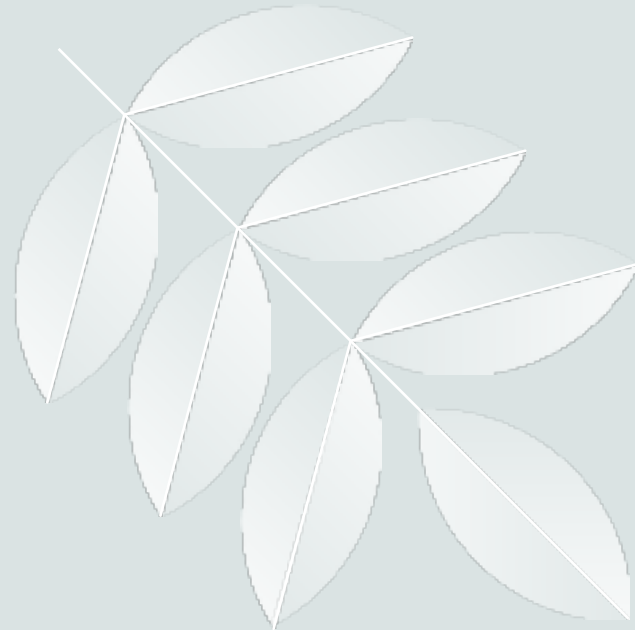
The No. 1 Ladies'
Detective Agency by
Alexander McCall
Smith





Knit One, Kill Two by Maggie Sefton



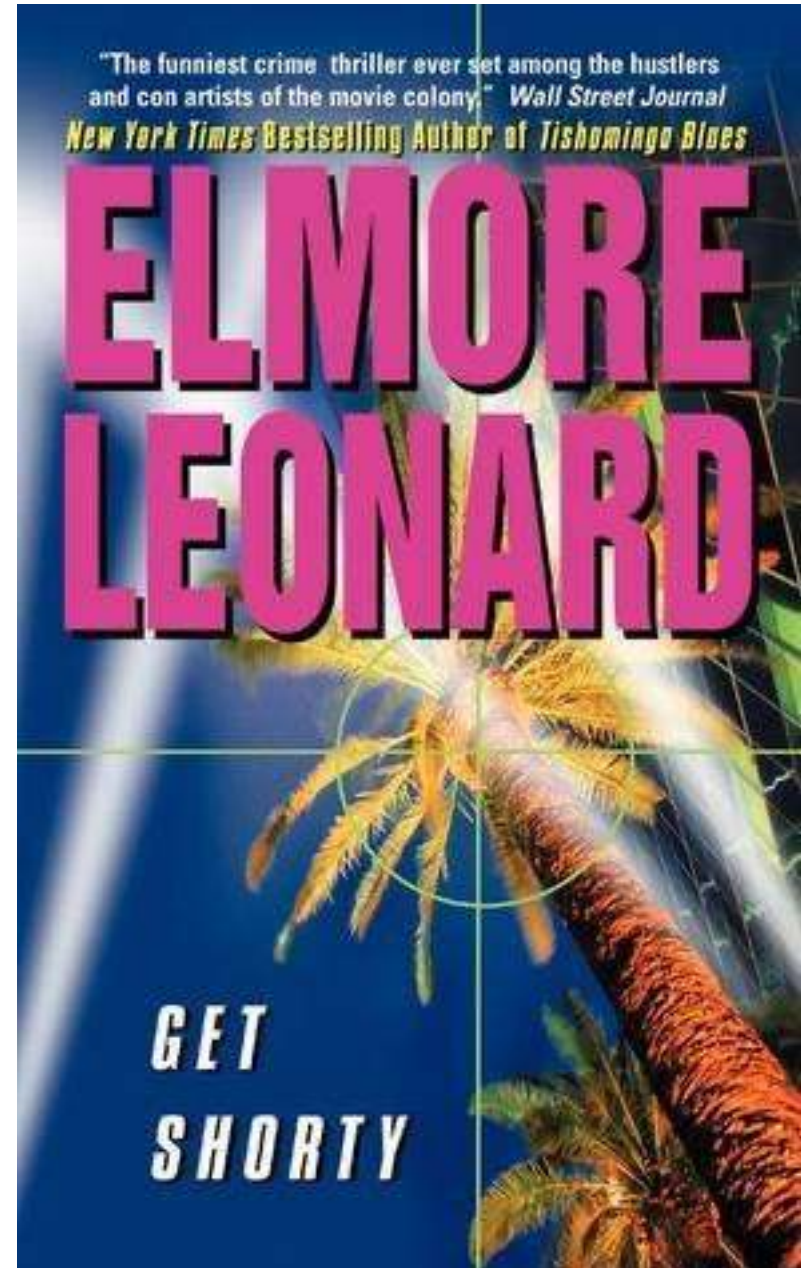


Caper Mysteries

They include one or more crimes that are open to the reader, they happen in plain view. Often the crooks are a bunch of colorful misfits and the police or authorities are inept or bumbling. Planning and the execution of the crimes, like theft, kidnapping or swindling is the story focus, not the solving of the crime.

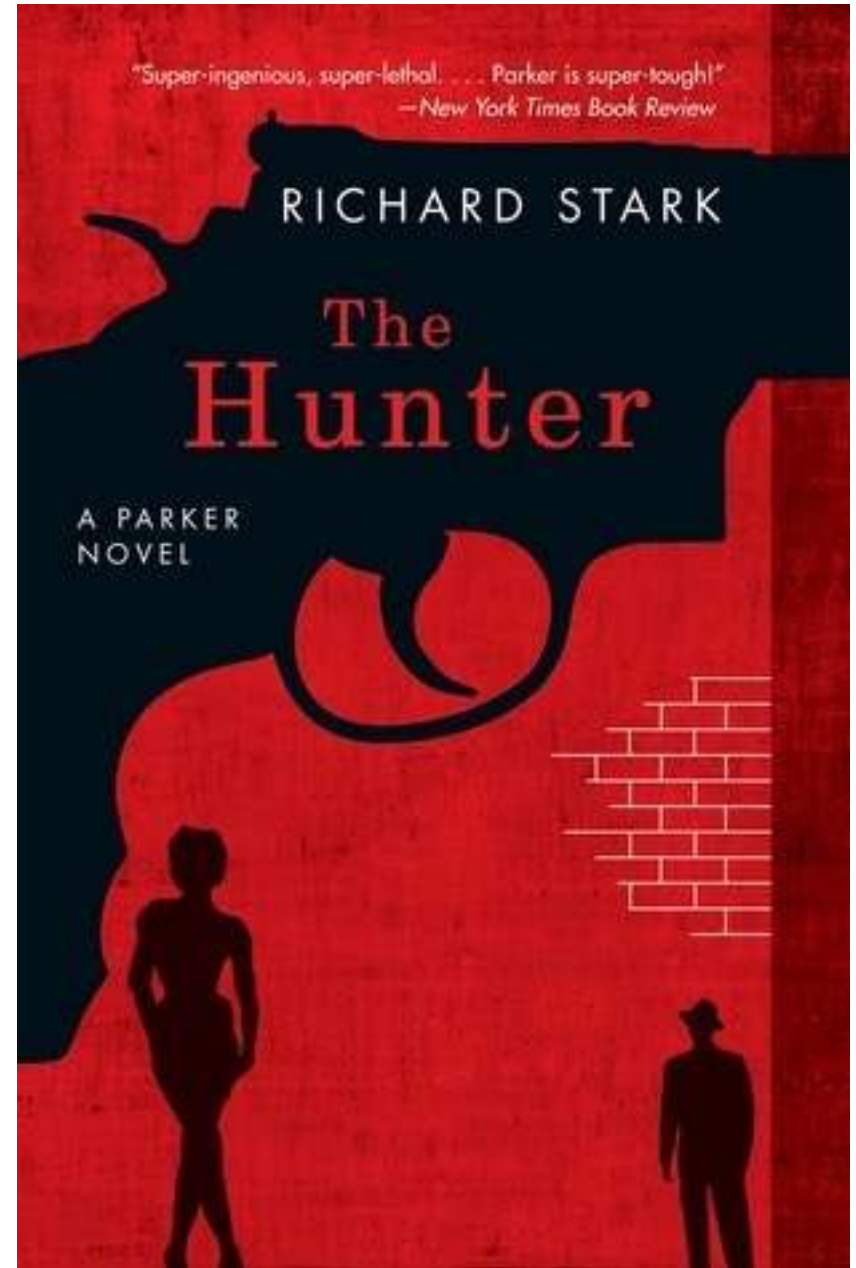


Get Shorty by
Elmore Leonard



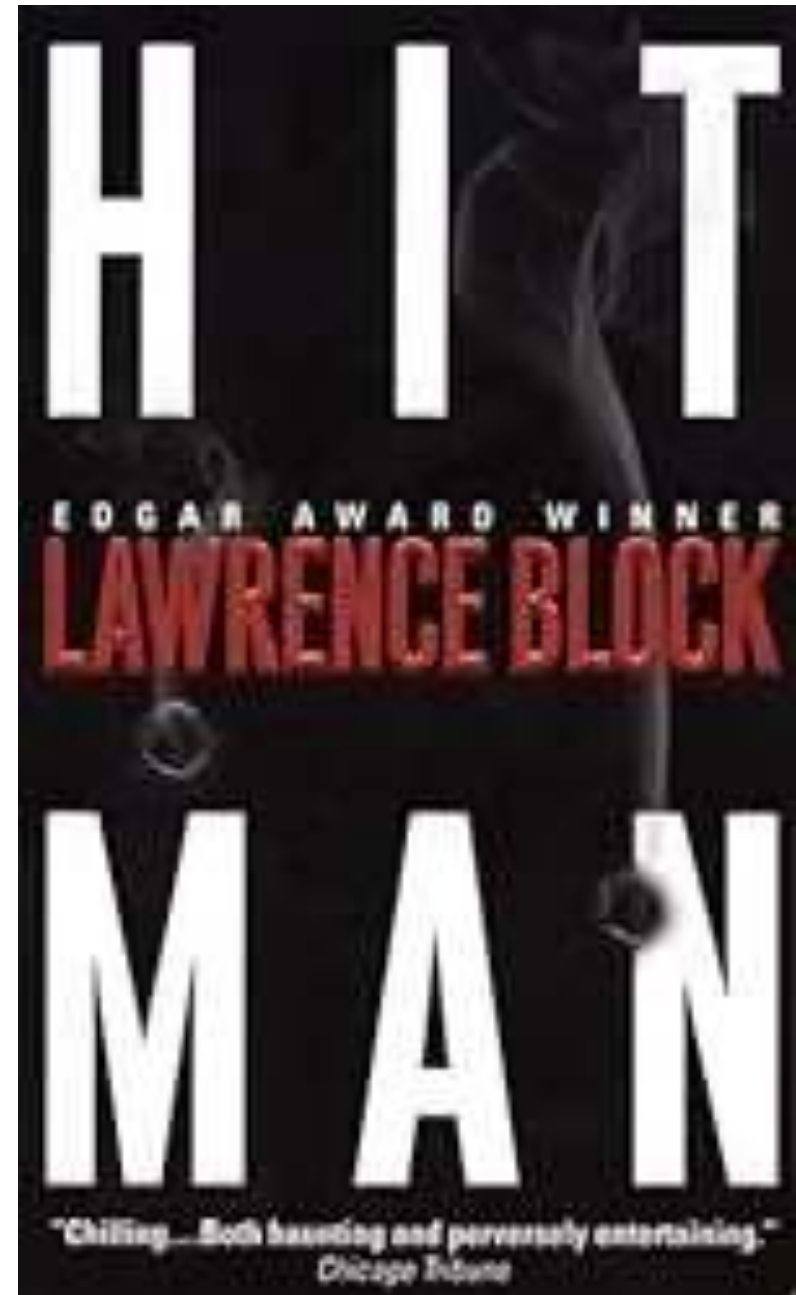


The Hunter by
Richard Stark
(Parker)





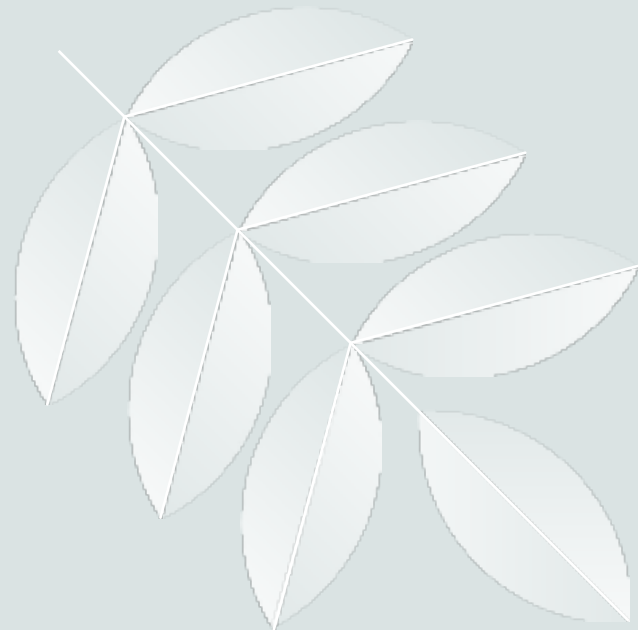
Hit Man by
Lawrence Block





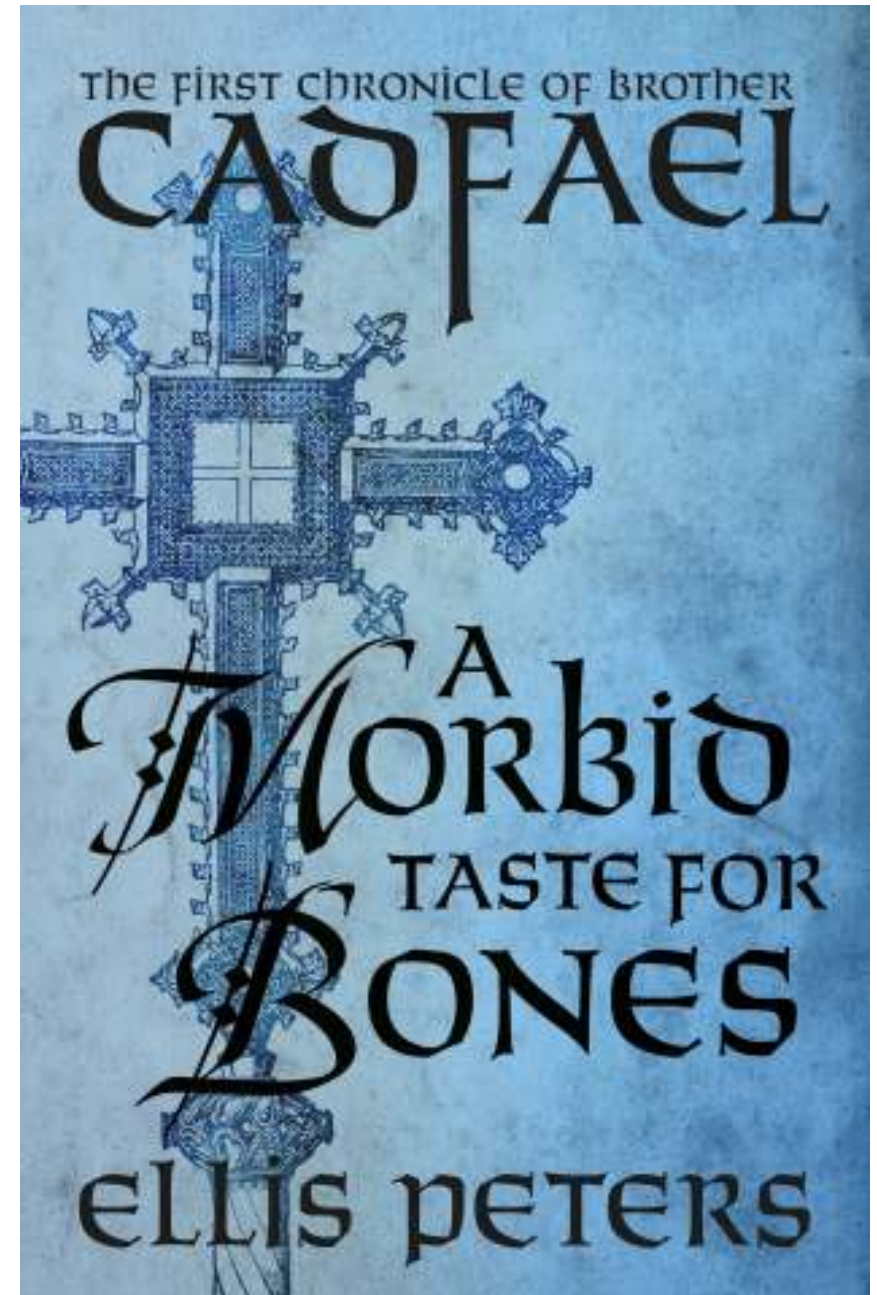
Historical Mysteries

Historical mysteries are set, as you might guess, in the past. According to the *Historical Novel Society*, books are considered historical fiction if they take place either 50 years before the present or are written by an author who was not yet born during the time period the story is set.



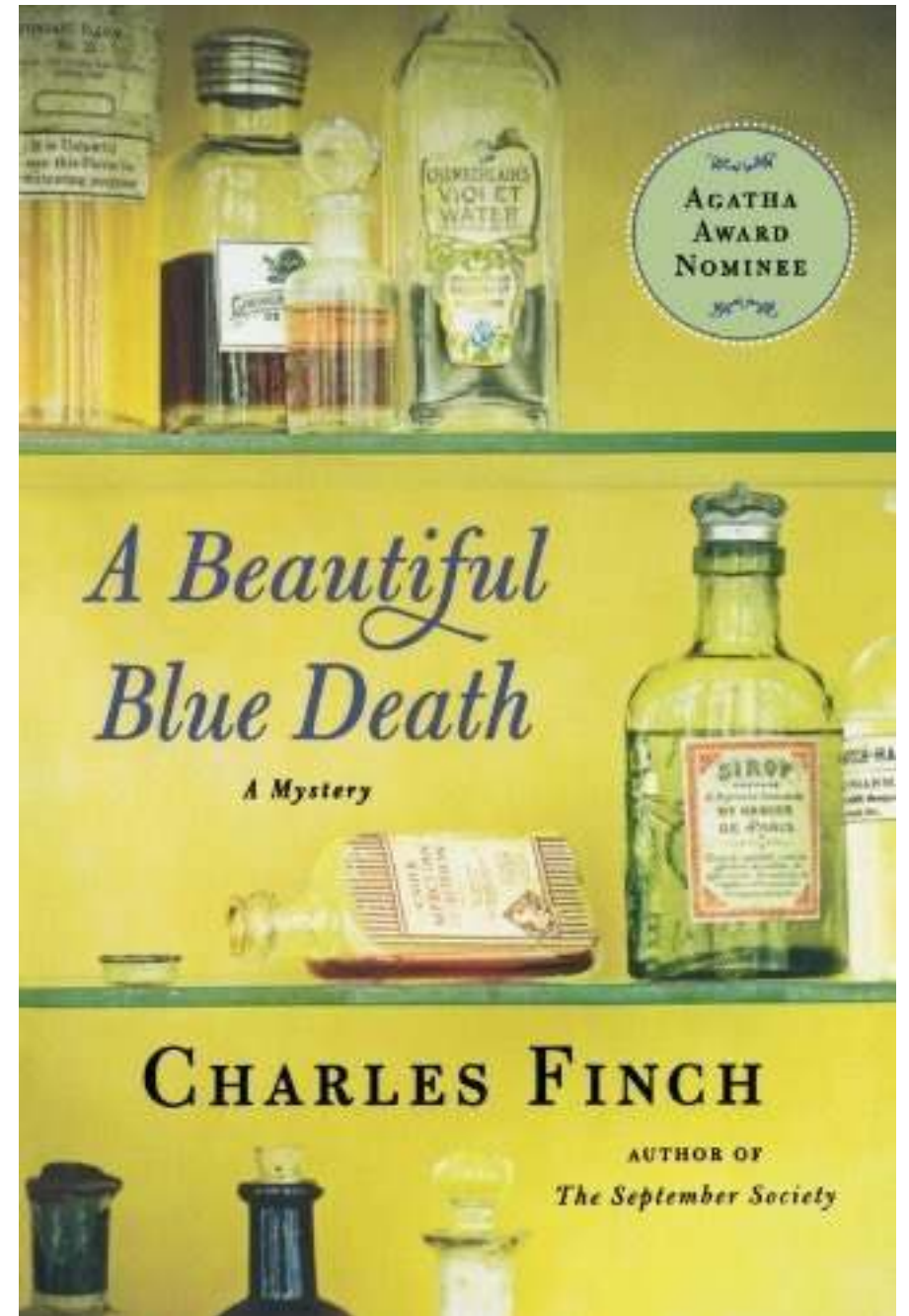


*A Morbid Taste for
Bones* by
Ellis Peters
(Brother Cadfael, 1137)



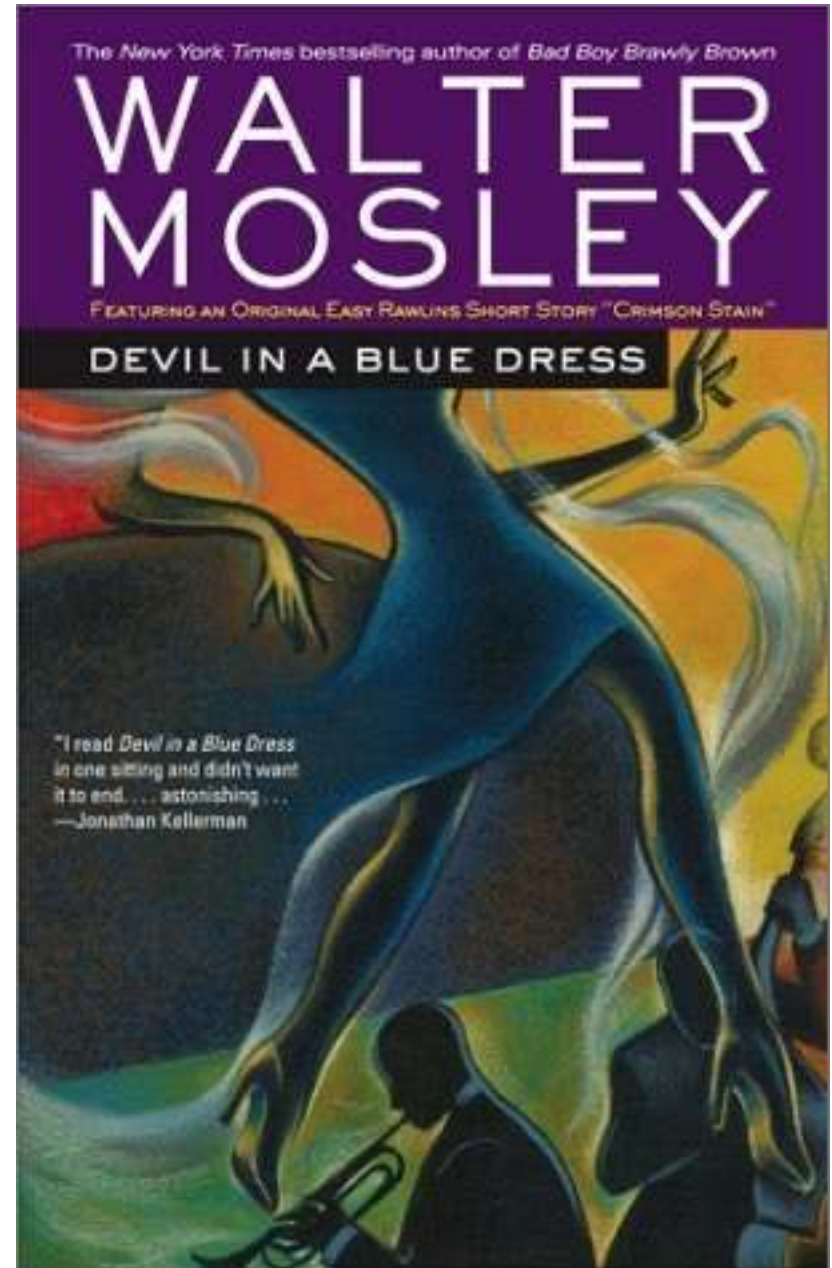


*A Beautiful Blue
Death* by
Charles Finch
(Charles Lenox, 1860s)





Devil in a Blue Dress
by
Walter Mosley
(Easy Rawlins, 1940s)

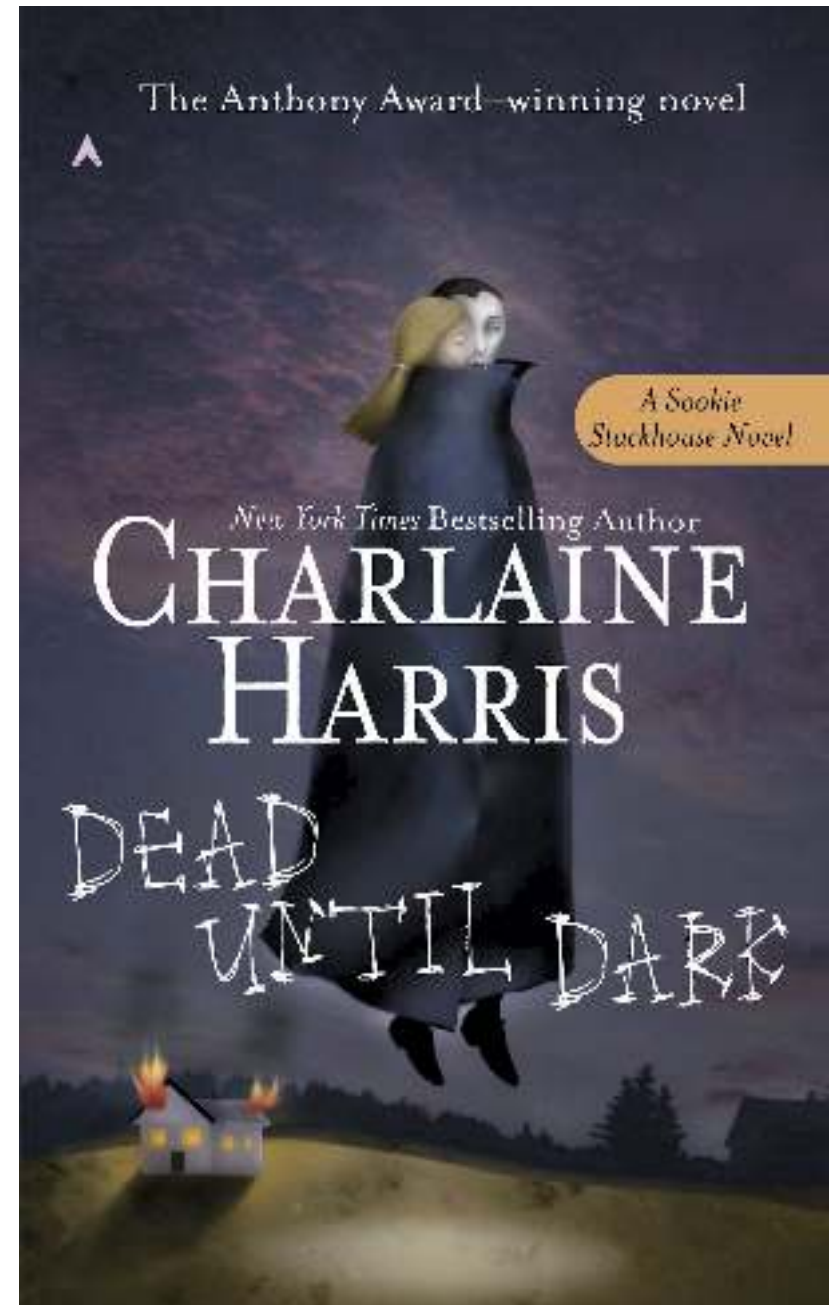


Categorize
These
Mysteries



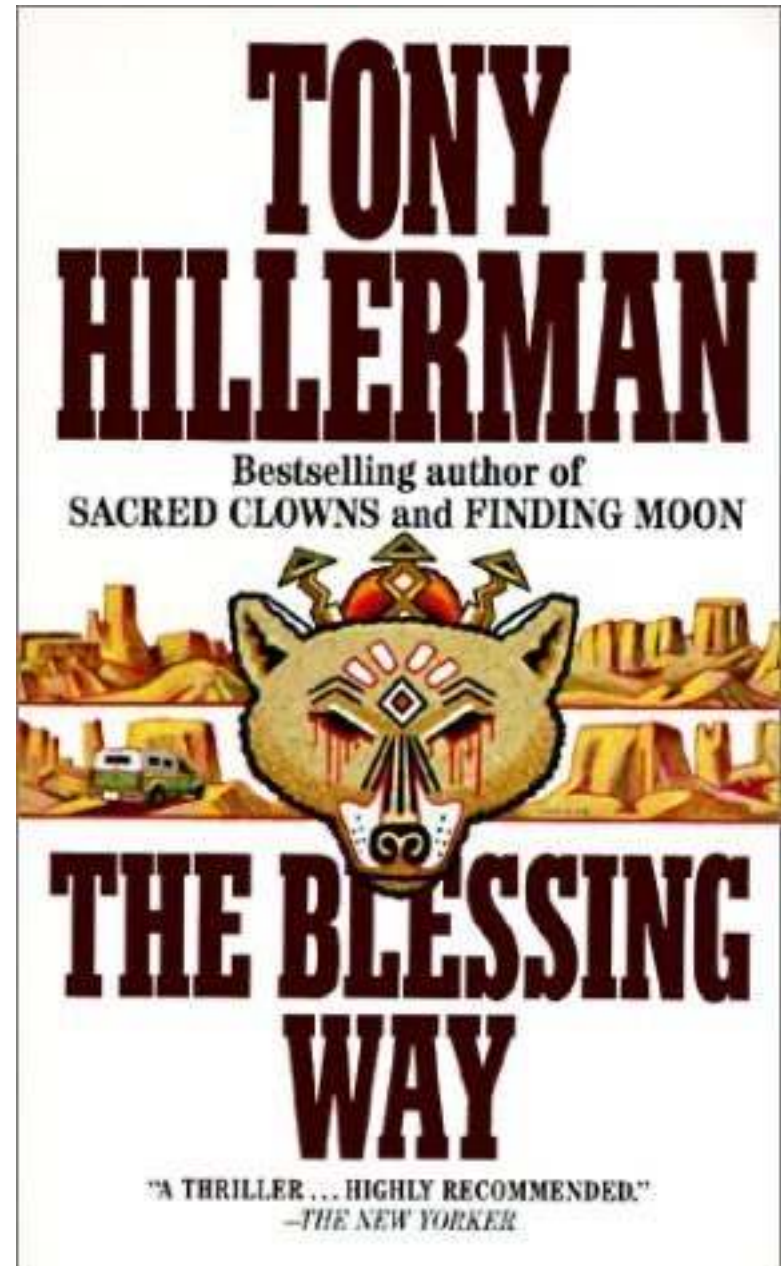


Dead Until Dark by
Charlaine Harris
(Sookie Stackhouse)



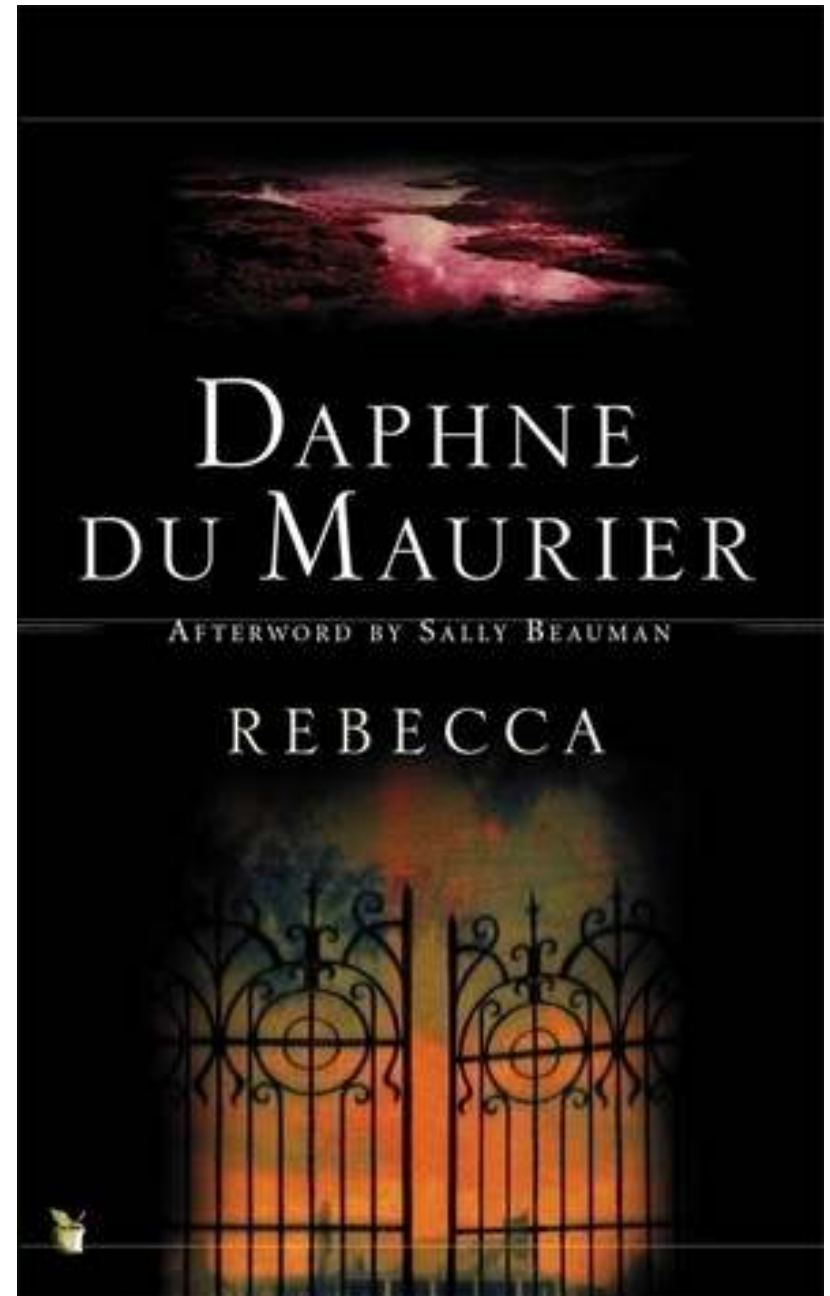


The Blessing Way by
Tony Hillerman
(Leephorn & Chee)





Rebecca by
Daphne du Maurier



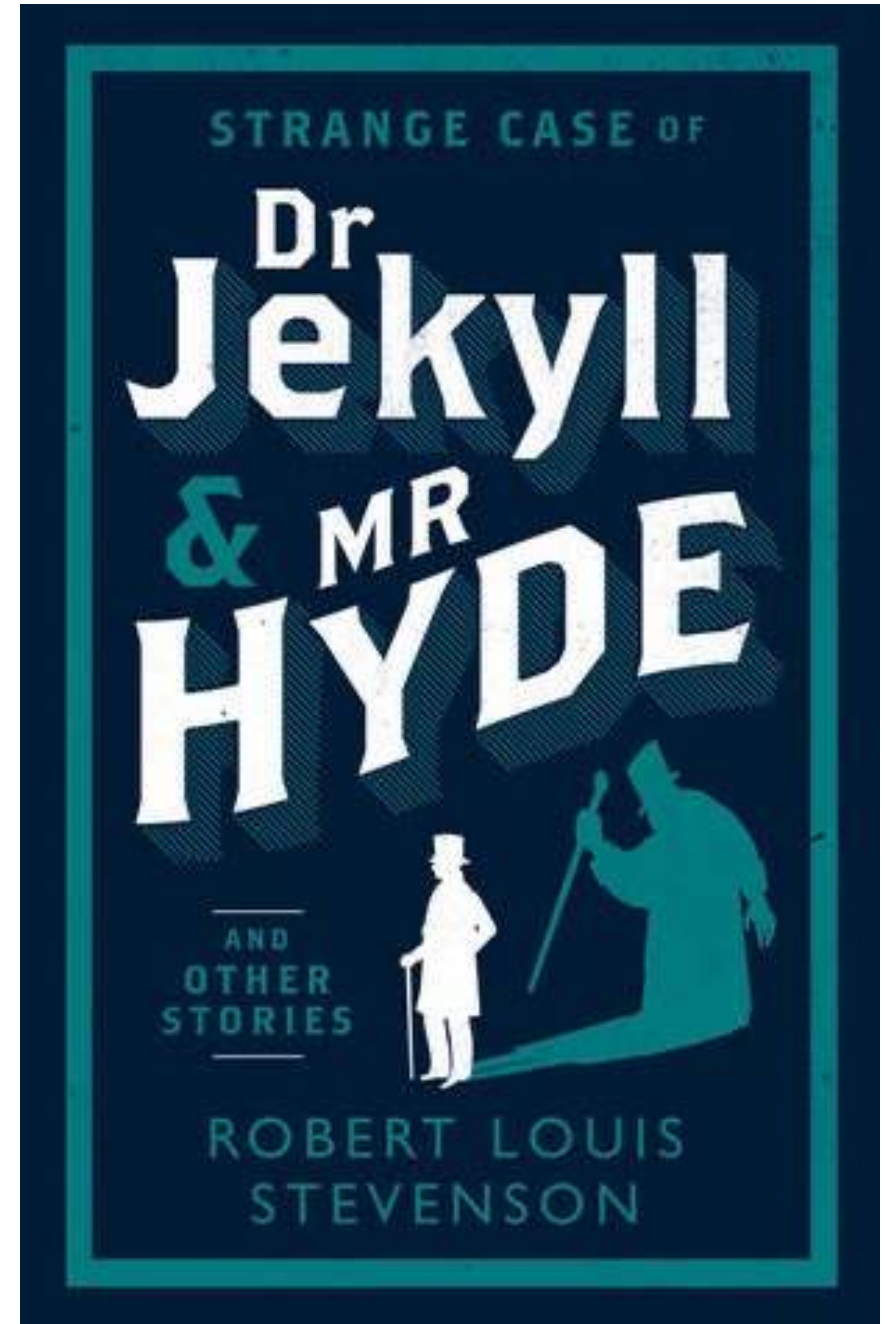


One for the Money by
Janet Evanovich
(Stephanie Plum)





*The Strange Case of
Dr. Jekyll and Mr.
Hyde* by
Robert Louis
Stevenson



Mysteries without Murder?





No Murder!

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon

"The Shadow of the Wind" by Carlos Ruiz Zafron

"The Moonstone" by Wilkie Collins

"The Tale of Hill Top Farm" (Beatrix Potter) by Susan Wittig Albert

"Along Came a Spider" (Alex Cross) by James Patterson

"Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore" by Robin Sloan





Thank you!

Jan McClintock

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