

Joan Hess "Claire Malloy mysteries"
Small town Arizona bookstore owner and her teenage daughter light-heartedly bumble their way through mysteries.

1st: Strangled Prose

P. D. James "Adam Dalgliesh mysteries"
Sensitive, poetic, and extremely private Scotland Yard Commander guides a team of investigators through varied cases.

1st: Cover Her Face

Rett MacPherson "Torie O'Shea mysteries"
A spunky Missouri tour guide and genealogist assists the local sheriff in investigating down-home mysteries.

1st: Family Skeletons

Margaret Maron "Deborah Knott mysteries"
Ambitious North Carolina judge fights small-town politics while solving crimes.

1st: Bootlegger's daughter

Ngaio Marsh "Roderick Alleyn mysteries"
Old-fashioned Scotland Yard Inspector solves mysteries at home and while vacationing in New Zealand.

1st: A Man Lay Dead

Sujata Massey "Rei Shimura mysteries"
A Tokyo-based Japanese-American antiques dealer solves mysteries intertwined with Japanese culture.

1st: The Salaryman's Wife

Sharyn McCrumb "Elizabeth MacPherson mysteries"
Forensic anthropologist and amateur detective solves mysteries.

1st: Sick of Shadows

Kasey Michaels "Maggie Kelly mysteries"
Mystery writer gets mixed up in mysteries when her fictional Regency-era sleuths come to life in modern-day NYC.

1st: Maggie Needs an Alibi

Katherine Hall Page "Faith Fairchild mysteries"
Manhattan caterer turned small-town minister's wife divides her time between family and sleuthing.

1st: The Body in the Big Apple

Elizabeth Peters "Amelia Peabody mysteries"
Victorian-era Egyptologist and her fellow archaeologist husband collaborate on adventurous mysteries.

1st: Crocodile on the Sandbank

Ellis Peters "Brother Cadfael mysteries"
Worldly-wise and gentle 12th century English monk & herbalist skillfully solves mysteries.

1st: A Morbid Taste for Bones

Ruth Rendell Reginald Wexford in
"Chief Inspector Wexford mysteries"

Surrey policeman and family man favors intuition over procedure to solve complex puzzles.

1st: From Doon With Death

Gillian Roberts "Amanda Pepper mysteries"
Zealous Philadelphia high school teacher becomes caught up in solving mysteries.

1st: Caught Dead in Philadelphia

Dorothy Sayers "Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries"
Sophisticated pianist, book collector & criminologist skillfully solves murder mysteries in England.

1st: Whose Body

Sarah Strohmeyer "Bubbles Yablonsky mysteries"
Brassy beautician & wannabe reporter finds herself drawn into murder investigations.

1st: Bubbles Unbound

Lou Jane Temple "Heaven Lee mysteries"
Kansas City chef & restaurateur turns her amateur sleuth eye to culinary murders. The author throws in recipes as a bonus.

1st: Death by Rhubarb

Jacqueline Winspear "Maisie Dobbs mysteries"
Self-taught psychologist turned private investigator in WWI-era England uses her skills to investigate mysterious occurrences.

1st: Maisie Dobbs

COZY MYSTERIES



These light-hearted mysteries avoid graphic violence, sex, and strong language. They often take place in a small town setting, and feature an amateur detective.

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Susan Wittig Albert "China Bayles mysteries"
Big city lawyer opts out of the fast lane to open a small town herb shop, only to find that it's not quite the serene life she expected.
1st: Thyme of Death

Conrad Allen "George Porter Dillman & Genevieve Masefield mysteries"
Elegant shipboard detectives go undercover on pre-WWI luxury liners.
1st: Murder on the Lusitania

Nancy Atherton "Aunt Dimity mysteries"
English ghost collaborates with a family friend through a diary.
1st: Aunt Dimity's Death

M. C. Beaton "Hamish Macbeth mysteries"
Laid-back, charming police constable sorts through crimes in the Scottish Highlands.
1st: Death of a Gossip

M. C. Beaton "Agatha Raisin mysteries"
Feisty advertising exec retires to the Cotswolds where she tenaciously investigates mysteries.
1st: Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death

Lawrence Block "Bernie Rhodenbarr mysteries"
Smart-alecky burglar & bookseller in NYC solves crimes, mostly for his own benefit.
1st: Burglars Can't Be Choosers

Lillian Jackson Braun Jim Quilleran & his cats in "Cat Who...mysteries"
Former reporter & his cats solve puzzles together.
1st: The Cat Who Could Read Backwards

Simon Brett Carole Seddon & Jude in "Fethering mysteries"
Retired children's author reluctantly solves murders at the insistence her bohemian neighbor.
1st: The Body on the Beach

Rita Mae Brown Mary Minor Haristeen & Mrs. Murphy in "Mrs. Murphy mysteries"
Virginia postmistress (Mary) joins forces with her willful cat (Mrs. Murphy) and other pets to investigate mysteries.
1st: Wish You Were Here

Dorothy Cannell "Ellie Haskell mysteries"
Wacky interior decorator fakes an engagement for a family reunion.
1st: The Thin Woman

Margaret Chittenden "Charlie Plato mysteries"
Vivacious San Fran country-western tavern owner dives into mysteries.
1st: Dying to Sing

Agatha Christie "Hercule Poirot mysteries"
Meticulous, eccentric retired Belgian policeman solves puzzling crimes in London.
1st: The Mysterious Affair at Styles

Agatha Christie "Miss Marple mysteries"
Sharp spinster in a quaint English village intuitively unravels mysteries that baffle Scotland Yard.
1st: The Murder at the Vicarage

Jill Churchill "Jane Jeffry mysteries"
Chicago single mom tackles mysteries between PTA meetings and carpools.
1st: Grime and Punishment

Susan Conant Holly Winter in "Dog Lover's mysteries"
Dog trainer/magazine columnist and her malamute team up for dog-related mysteries.
1st: A New Leash on Death

Deborah Crombie "Duncan Kincaid & Gemma James mysteries"
Likeable Scotland Yard partners, the pleasant Superintendent Kincaid and insightful single-mom Sergeant James, grow closer while solving crimes.
1st: A Share in Death

Mary Daheim Judith McMonigle in "Bed-and-breakfast mysteries"
B&B owner snoops into the offbeat murders at her inn.
1st: Just Desserts

Diane Mott Davidson Goldy Bear Schultz in "Goldy Bear mysteries"
Scatterbrained Aspen caterer turns her hand to sleuthing between catering events and the author dishes out related recipes.
1st: Catering to Nobody

Carola Dunn "Daisy Dalrymple mysteries"
Independent, inquisitive 1920s journalist in Hampshire, England uncovers mysteries.
1. Death at Wentworth Court

Earlene Fowler "Benni Harper mysteries"
Folk art museum curator uses her intuition and quilting expertise to identify the patterns in mysteries.
1. Fool's Puzzle

Elizabeth George "Thomas Lynley mysteries"
Aristocratic Scotland Yard Inspector is partnered with the abrasive Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers.
1st: A Great Deliverance

Dorothy Gilman Emily Pollifax in "Mrs. Pollifax mysteries"
Harmless looking grandmother becomes a "tourist" spy for the CIA in exotic locations.
1st: The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax

Martha Grimes "Richard Jury mysteries"
Introspective, lonely Scotland Yard detective and his amateurish partner investigate small-town murders.
1st: The Man With a Load of Mischief

Parnell Hall Cora Felton in "Puzzle Lady mysteries"
Eccentric crossword puzzle creator delves into perplexing cases.
1st: A Clue for the Puzzle Lady

Karen Harper "Elizabeth I mysteries"
The young British queen doubles as spymaster and spearheads investigations within her own court.
1st: The Poyson Garden

Carolyn Hart Henrietta O'Dwyer Collins in "Henrie O mysteries"
Retired reporter & grandmother turns her logical, no-nonsense attitude toward solving mysteries.
1st: Dead Man's Island

Sue Henry Jessie Arnold & Alex Jensen in "Alaska mysteries"
Sled dog racer & state trooper team up to solve Alaskan mysteries.
1st: Murder on the Iditarod Trail