

## COZY MYSTERY

In "cozies," an amateur or professional sleuth investigates to uncover the truth behind puzzling circumstances (frequently involving murder, or some sort of unusual crime). Traditionally set in a small, close-knit community full of colorful characters, the criminal/murderer in question easily passes as just another local. While serious issues may be raised, cozy mysteries are generally intended as an escape from day-to-day stresses. The tone is humorous; paranormal elements may be present. Violence occurs "off-stage"; murder scenes are briefly described, without undue lingering on graphic details. The genre typically avoids overt sexuality, profanity, and graphic descriptions of violence. For this reason, many cozy mysteries can also be classified as "gentle reads." By the end of the story, justice is always served (arrest and trial optional). Cozies are often written in themed series and may have modern or historical settings.

## TOP THEMES

**Sherlock paws:** These detectives really keep their noses to the ground - animals solve mysteries or help out with human investigations.

**Vacation interrupted:** Tan lines aren't the only crime! A day at the beach turns deadly when these off-duty sleuths stumble upon nefarious deeds.

**Framed!:** Investigators suspect the protagonist of a crime, but it's a set-up! In these mysteries, proof of innocence has to come before proof of guilt, as the protagonist works to clear their name, then catch who framed them.

**Life in small towns:** Love 'em or hate 'em, tiny towns are the settings for these books that frequently feature themes of community.

### Where to find these books:

Books are located in their respective sections under the author's last name.

**Mystery=** Mystery Section  
**LP=**Large Print Section

**Reserve Today=** the library does not own a copy of this title, but it is available at another library in our system.

**Get book recommendations:**  
[westlinnoregon.gov/library/personalized-book-recommendations](http://westlinnoregon.gov/library/personalized-book-recommendations)

Descriptions provided by Novelist Plus, a free book recommendation database accessible through LINCC.org.

July 2023

## CONTACT




503-656-7853



wlref@lincc.org

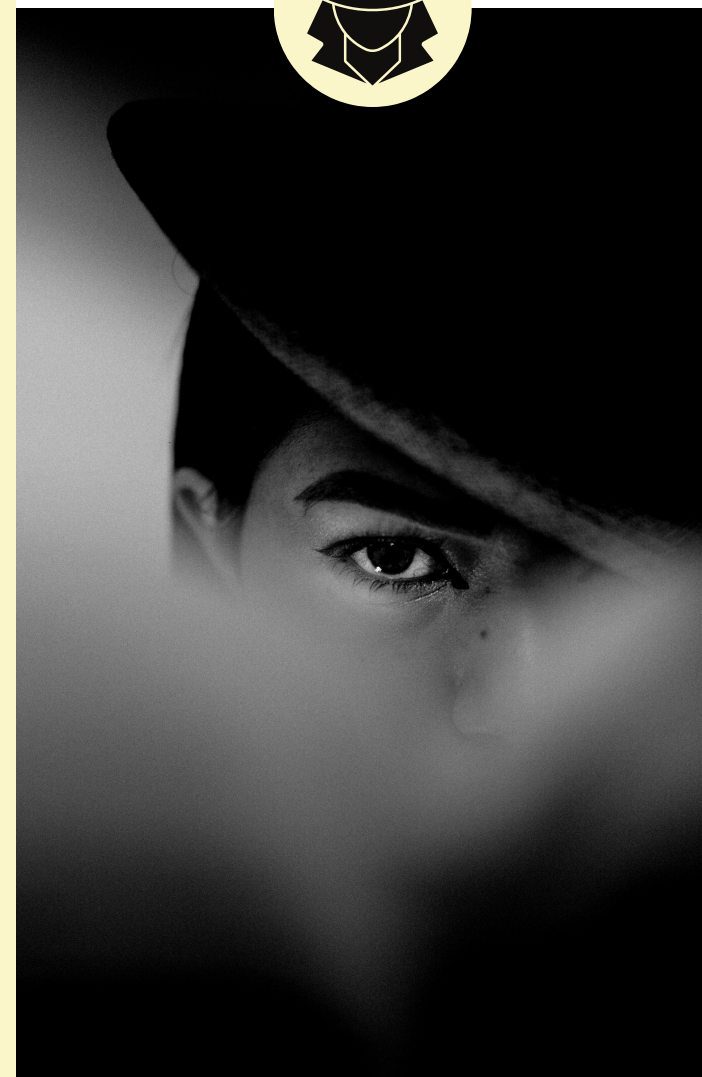


[westlinnlibrary.org](http://westlinnlibrary.org)

 West Linn Public Library

ADULTS

# COZY MYSTERY SERIES



### **Agatha Raisin Mysteries**

by M. C. Beaton

Start with: "Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death" (Reserve Today)

Miss Marple gets a modern makeover with the cranky and assertive Agatha Raisin, who retires to a small English village that is filled with quirky characters and numerous dead bodies. Nosy Agatha has a warm heart and looks for love in this cozy series that captures the flavor of village life in witty prose and intricate, captivating plots.

### **Andy Carpenter series**

by David Rosenfelt

Start with: "Open and Shut" (Mystery)

Whether dueling with new forensics or the local old boys' network, irreverent defense attorney Andy Carpenter always leaves them awed with his biting wit and winning fourth-quarter game plan. But Andy prefers the company of his best friend, Tara, a golden retriever, is clearly smarter than half the lawyers who clog the courts of Passaic County.

### **Bakeshop Mysteries**

by Ellie Alexander

Start with: "Meet Your Baker" (Reserve Today)

Jules Capland returns to her Ashland, Oregon hometown after her marriage tanks, becoming a pastry chef at her family's bakeshop (aptly named Torte). This cozy mystery series gets its sweetness from a likable, resourceful heroine and an amiable cast of family and friends who pitch in on catering -- and solving crimes. Competing romantic interests add a touch of spice!

### **The Cat Who...**

by Lilian Jackson Braun

Start with: "The Cat Who Could Read Backwards" (Reserve today)

A charming Southern cozy mystery series featuring a cat who likes walks and a librarian who knows how to search for clues.

### **Coffeeshop Mysteries**

by Cleo Coyle

Start with: "On What Grounds" (Reserve today)

In these culinary mysteries, divorced mom Clare Cosi manages a coffee house in New York City's Greenwich Village for her obnoxious ex-husband and imperious ex-mother-in-law. The plucky sleuth's engagingly eccentric friends, sexy boyfriend, and the fascinating coffee lore and recipes play a role in vividly capturing the New York experience while keeping the mystery in the background.

### **Flavia de Luce Mysteries**

by Alan Bradley

Start with: "The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie" (LP BRADLEY, ALAN)

These charming mysteries set in a post-World War II English village star a precocious, nosy pre-teen whose impoverished, delightfully eccentric family lives in their ancestral mansion. Flavia identifies murderers by using her wits and her knowledge of village life; the bleak concern of her mother's disappearance when Flavia was a baby slightly darkens her lighthearted first-person narration of convoluted puzzles.

### **Hannah Swensen Mysteries**

by Joanne Fluke

Start with: "Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder" (LP FLUKE, JOANNE)

These leisurely paced cozy mysteries, set in small-town Lake Eden, MN, are solved by witty and practical bakery-owner Hannah Swenson, with the help of her family and two boyfriends vying for her attention. The suspenseful mysteries are filled with foodie goodness such as bakery talk, caterers, and cooking competitions, and include mouth-watering recipes. And there's always time for cookies and gossip.

### **Haunted Library Mysteries**

by Allison Brook

Start with: "Death Overdue" (Mystery)

(First book in series) When retired homicide detective Al Buckley is poisoned as he is about to reveal a murderer from a cold case at a program at the Clover Ridge library, new librarian Carrie Singleton is determined to solve the case with the help of a friendly ghost.

### **Library Lover's Mysteries**

by Jenn McKinlay

Start with: "Books Can Be Deceiving" (Mystery)

Set in the picturesque town of Briar Creek, Connecticut, these cozy mysteries star the director of the Briar Creek Public Library, newly single Lindsey Norris. Norris is also an amateur sleuth, tirelessly investigating the inordinate number of murders in town. This suspenseful series has a strong sense of place, an upbeat tone, and recipes and craft projects.

### **Meg Langslow Mysteries**

by Donna Andrews

Start with: "Murder, with Peacocks" (Reserve Today)

Starring decorative blacksmith and amateur detective Meg Langslow, these amusing mysteries poke fun at modern social conventions and small-town living. Their funny, offbeat tone, dialogue-rich narratives, and amusing misadventures make for light, fast-paced reading that will leave you in an upbeat mood -- in spite of the occasional murder.

### **Mrs. Murphy Mysteries**

by Rita Mae Brown

Start with: "Wish You Were Here" (Reserve Today)

Amusing and intricately plotted, this series following Mary Minor Haristeen, postmistress of Crozet, Virginia, who joins forces with her willful cat, Mrs. Murphy, and her Welsh corgi, Tucker, to investigate crimes.

### **The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency**

by Alexander McCall Smith

Start with: "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" (Mystery)

Boldly going where no woman has gone before, Precious Ramotswe is the very first female private detective in all of Botswana. Tactful, effective, and insightful detecting comes naturally to this very independent woman in this highly entertaining humorous cozy mystery series.

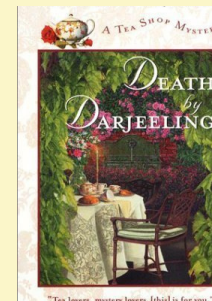
### **Sloan Krause series**

by Ellie Alexander

Start with: "Death on Tap" (Mystery)

A cozy sleuthing series following Sloan Krause a beer crafter in Leavenworth, Washington who has developed a thirst for solving crimes in the Sloan Krause Mystery novels.

\*Ellie Alexander is a native of the Pacific Northwest who puts her knowledge of the region and people to good use in her food-themed cozy mystery series set in the area's tourist towns.



### **Tea Shop Mysteries**

by Laura Childs

Start with: "Death by Darjeeling" (Reserve Today)

Set in and around the historic district of Charleston, SC, these amateur detective mysteries offer a colorful and vibrant locale, a large cast of continuing characters and a series of unfortunately timed murders all linked in some way to Theodosia Browning's Indigo Tea Shop and the various herbal concoctions she sells.

### **Cat in the stacks Mysteries**

by Miranda James

Start with: "Murder Past Due" (Reserve Today)

The series follows Charlie Harris, a librarian, and his cat, Diesel, as they help solve murders in the small town of Athena, Mississippi. Charlie, a widower, spends his days between working part time as an archivist at the Athena College library, volunteering at the local public library, and renting out rooms to college students.