

## Mystery

Curiosity, which we know killed the cat, comes darn close to offering many of the teenage sleuths on this booklist, too. Young Adult mystery and suspense books often feature a youthful detective who investigates a crime because of family ties, friendship, apathetic authorities or because they have become implicated themselves. Before the end, most get in over their heads and put themselves into a killer's crosshairs.

Most but not all of the books below are set in the modern day. For historical diversions, try *Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler's In Darkness, Death* (18<sup>th</sup> century Japan), *Ann Walsh's By the Skin of His Teeth* (Gold Rush-era Barkerville, B.C.), *Philip Pullman's Ruby in the Smoke* (Victorian London) or *Nancy Springer's Enola Holmes* books (also Victorian London).

Many of the teen sleuths use good, old-fashioned investigative techniques, such as interviewing witnesses, rifling desk drawers for documents and eavesdropping. If you like reading about scientific methods for tracking criminals, try books featuring forensics, such as those by *Christopher Golden* and *Alane Ferguson*. You'll be in CSI heaven.

If you want more action, less sleuthing, try pulse-pounding thrillers such as *Robert Cormier's In the Middle of the Night*, *Gordon Korman's Chasing the Falconers* and *Graham McNamee's Acceleration*.

Tired of reading murder mysteries? Try the only book on this list that deals with the search for a stolen fashion accessory. *Madison Bennett's Lulu Dark Can See Through Walls* mixes an entertaining brew of humour, wit and high fashion.

If family is more your focus, we also have what you need. For mysteries involving imprisoned relatives, try *James Moloney's Black Taxi*. For stories that involve family members hiding secrets, try *Caroline Cooney's The Face on the Milk Carton*, or *Margaret Peterson Haddix's The House on the Gulf*.

Y ABR

### **Down the Rabbit Hole**

by Peter Abrahams

Actress and detective Ingrid Levin-Hill tries to find out who killed a woman associated with the local theatre troupe, Prescott Players. (2006) Followed by **Behind the Curtain** (2006).

Y ARN

### **Rat Life**

by Tedd Arnold

While working at his parents' motel, Todd becomes friends with a Vietnam vet and tries to solve a mystery involving an unidentified body pulled from the river. Could the friendly but disturbed war vet be connected to the mystery? (2007)

Y BEN

### **Lulu Dark can See Through Walls**

by Madison Bennett

When her favourite purse is stolen at a happening club, Lulu and her friends Charlie and Daisy set out to find it. Taking them from one stylish haunt to another, their investigation brings them face-to-face with police, high society ladies, purse-snatchers and murderers. (2005) Followed by **Lulu Dark and the Summer of the Fox** (2006).

Y COO

**The Face on the Milk Carton**

by Caroline Cooney

Janie's life is turned upside down when she recognizes herself in a picture of a missing child on a milk carton. (1990) Sequels are: **Whatever Happened to Janie?**, **The Voice on the Radio** and **What Janie Found**. In another Cooney mystery, **The Terrorist**, 16-year-old Laura tries to track down the terrorists responsible for killing her little brother with a bomb.

Y COR

**In the Middle of the Night**

by Robert Cormier

Since his father was involved in a tragic accident, Denny and his family have received hate mail and mysterious phone calls. Though his dad tells him to ignore the harassment, 16-year-old Denny picks up the phone one night, a decision he comes to regret. (1995) In Cormier's **I Am the Cheese**, teenager Adam Farmer is on the run, but he doesn't know who is chasing him, or why. While pedaling through New England, he tries to figure out an escape plan and piece together what has happened to him and his family.

Y DUN

**Killing Mr. Griffin**

by Lois Duncan

Five high school students kidnap their English teacher to get back at him for his strict marking. Though they only want to scare Mr. Griffin, he ends up dead. Can the teens cover up their crime? (1978) Other mysteries by Lois Duncan include **I Know What You Did Last Summer**, **The Twisted Window** and **Daughters of Eve**.

Y FER

**The Christopher Killer**

by Alane Ferguson

To prepare for a career in forensics, teenaged Cameryn begins working for her dad, a coroner in small-town Colorado. When one of her friends turns up dead, murdered by a serial killer, Cameryn is determined to crack the case. But if she isn't careful, she may end up being the killer's next victim ... Great for fans of CSI. (2006) Followed by **The Angel of Death** (2006) and **The Circle of Blood** (2008).

Y GOL

**Throat Culture**

by Christopher Golden and Rick Hautala

Student coroner Jenna Blake searches for the person who infected her father's new bride—and many wedding guests—with a disgusting, infectious and deadly disease. (2005) From Golden's Body of Evidence mystery series, which includes **Thief of Hearts** (1999).

Y HAD

**The House on the Gulf**

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Britt and her brother Bran move into a Florida home after he gets a job house-sitting for the summer. But Bran's strange behaviour soon piques her curiosity. Why does he hide the owner's mail, refuse to adjust the temperature, and dissuade Britt from meeting the neighbours? The answers draw Britt into a startling mystery involving the homeowners, who are not whom they seem to be ... (2004)

Y HOF

**The Falconer's Knot**

by Mary Hoffman

Sixteen-year-old Silvano flees after someone else kills the husband of the girl he loves – with Silvano's dagger. Taking refuge in a friary, he discovers that the killer appears to have moved in, too ... Hoffman's period mystery is set in 14<sup>th</sup> century Umbria, Italy. (2007).

Y HOB

**In Darkness, Death**

by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

Judge Ooka and his adopted son Seikei investigate the murder of Lord Inaba, who was being protected by the Shogun. The only clue is a bloodstained origami butterfly. (2004) Judge Ooka and Seikei also appear in **The Demon in the Teahouse**, **The Sword that Cut the Burning Grass** and **A Samurai Never Fears Death**.

Y KOR

**Chasing the Falconers**

by Gordon Korman

In the first book of Korman's **On The Run** series, Meg and Aiden Falconer escape from a juvenile jail and begin dodging the police while searching for evidence that will free their imprisoned parents. (2005) Followed by five more books. Aiden and Meg Falconer reappear in Korman's **Kidnapped** series.

Y MCC

**Over the Edge**

by Norah McClintock

When Peter – a friendless loner fascinated by astronomy – ends up at the bottom of McAdam's Lookout, everyone knows that something, or someone, pushed him over the edge. (2000) Look for Norah McClintock's other suspenseful thrillers on the teen series paperback spinners.

Y MCN

**Acceleration**

by Graham Mcnamee

While working for the Toronto subway system, 17-year-old Duncan comes across a journal written by a serial killer. When the authorities don't take his concerns seriously, he realizes it's up to him—and a couple of oddball friends—to track the killer down. (2003)

Y MOL

**Black Taxi**

by James Moloney

Busted on the final caper of his criminal career, Rosie's beloved grandfather gives her his cell phone and the keys to his black Mercedes before heading to prison. Life seems grand until Rosie receives a threatening call from someone who thinks her grandpa was responsible for a jewel heist gone wrong. Until Rosie figures out what happened, neither she nor her he will be safe. (2003)

Y NIX

**The Haunting**

by Joan Lowery Nixon

Fifteen-year-old Lia investigates a haunting at her family's spooky estate, Graymoss Plantation in Louisiana. (1998) Other mysteries by the prolific Nixon include: **Murdered, My Sweet**, **Nightmare**, and **The Trap**.

Y PUL

**The Ruby in the Smoke**

by Phillip Pullman

The first in a series of books involving Sally Lockhart, an orphan who forms a detective agency in Victorian England and solves mysteries with the help of her friends. (1996) Other titles in the series are: **A Shadow in the North** and **The Tiger in the Well**.

Y RAB

**Rose Queen**

by M.E. Rabb

Teenage sisters Samantha and Sophie flee New York – where their evil stepmother resides – and create new identities for themselves in small-town Indiana. Implicated in the disappearance of the snobby Rose Queen, to whom they'd kindly offered a ride, the girls set out to clear their names.

(2004) The Rose Queen is the first of four Missing Persons mysteries by Rabb, followed by **Chocolate Lover**, **The Venetian Policeman** and **The Unsuspecting Gourmet**.

Y REI

**Blackthorn Winter**

by Kathryn Reiss

Against her wishes, 15-year-old Juliana must spend the summer with her mother at a seaside artists' colony in England. When a shrewish local woman turns up dead, Juliana investigates, all the while piecing together haunting memories from her past. (2006)

Y RUC

**Whiteout, Vol. 1**

by Greg Rucka

Stationed in Antarctica as punishment for a misdeed back home, U.S. Marshal Carrie Stetko must solve a baffling murder. For mature readers. *Look for this book, and its second volume, in the graphic novels area.* (2007)

Y SOR

**Fake ID**

by Walter Sorrells

Chastity Pureheart tries to unravel the mystery surrounding her mother's disappearance, while evading the local sheriff—who hates her—and some murderous pursuers in High Hopes, Alabama. (2005) Followed by **Club Dread** (2006). Also try **The Silent Room**, by the same author.

Y SPR

**The Case of the Missing Marquess**

by Nancy Springer

Sherlock Holmes' sister, 14-year-old Enola, searches for her missing mother, who has wandered off the family estate. Her investigation leads her into the dark, dangerous, fog-shrouded streets of Victorian London. (2006) Other Enola Holmes **mysteries include: The Case of the Left-Handed Lady (2007)**, and **The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets (2008)**.

Y WAL

**By the Skin of His Teeth : a Barkerville Mystery**

by Ann Walsh

During the Cariboo Gold Rush in 1870, a Chinese man is murdered outside his restaurant in Barkerville, B.C., inflaming racial tensions. While the main suspect and his cronies intimidate witnesses, 17-year-old Ted MacIntosh vows to find out what really happened. (2004)

Y WES

**So Yesterday**

by Scott Westerfeld

Employed as a "cool hunter" to spot new trends, 17-year-old Hunter Braque—and Jen, the hip girl he just met—must unravel the mystery surrounding an awesome pair of shoes, his kidnapped boss, and a mysterious group called The Jammers. (2004)

## A note on finding books ...

Young Adult fiction is filed from A to Z under the first three letters of the author's LAST NAME. To find James Moloney's **Down the Rabbit Hole**, you would need to look for the letters MOL, near the middle of the YA fiction area.

All fiction books (and a few non-fiction books) that are less than a year old go in the **new books** area, which is marked by a sign. At Poirier Library, **graphic novels** are below the New Books. At City Centre Library, the graphic novels are underneath the teen magazines, just to the left of the new books.

Collections of **short stories**—themed around a certain topic (ghost stories) or by a particular author—are filed just after the Z authors.

If a Young Adult book you want **isn't on the shelf**, try looking on the **paperback racks** in the Young Adult area. Most of the paperbacks are filed under the first letter of the author's LAST NAME. For Robert Cormier books, you would look for the 'C' section. Signs on top of the paperback racks tell you which author letters are in each spinner.

**Books on the paperback racks DO NOT APPEAR in the online library catalogue.** In other words, you cannot find them on computer. So when the computer says a book is out, it means just the copies it knows about. You might find a copy on the paperback racks.

Note that the paperback racks include special categories, such as **series books** (Sweet Valley High, Dragonlance, Cirque Du Freak), **mysteries**, **science fiction** and **classics** by authors such as Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. Look for the headings above each spinner to make sure you're looking in the right place.

If you have any trouble finding a book, please consult a librarian at the reference desk. They are happy to help you.

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