

Andrews, Donna

Features: Meg Lanslow, who lives in a small Virginia town. These bird-themed mysteries feature an assortment of wacky relatives and Meg's affable boyfriend Michael.

Recent title: *The Penguin who Knew too Much.* 2007

Andrews, Donna

Features: Turing Hopper, an AIP or Artificial Intelligence Personality. Turing runs the Allen Grace Corporation like the unseen Charlie of Charlie's Angels.

Recent title: *Delete All Suspects.* 2005

Barnes, Linda

Features: Boston Private Detective Carlotta Carlyle, who brings an element of light-heartedness and humor to even the darkest of cases. Carlotta is a former cop with major crime and homicide squad experience.

Recent title: *Heart of the World.* 2006

Block, Lawrence

Features: Bernie Rhodenbarr, a dry-witted bookseller-thief. Quirky characters, an insider's love of New York, and plenty of puns make this series a fun, light read.

Recent title: *The Burglar on the Prowl.* 2004

Brett, Simon

Features: Carole, a prickly retired civil servant, and Jude, a New Age freethinker. Brett infuses his plots with scathing and hilarious social commentary.

Recent title: *The Stabbing in the Stables.* 2006

Coben, Harlan

Features: Sport agent and former professional basketball player Myron Bolitar, a modern Don Quixote complete with knee brace and cell phone.

Recent Title: *Promise Me.* 2006

Cockey, Tim

Features: Wise-cracking funeral director Hitchcock Sewell. This screwball series offers an amiable mix of comedy, murder, and mortician mayhem--all set against the daily life of blue-collar Baltimore.

Recent title: *Backstabber.* 2004

Crider, Bill

Features: Sheriff Dan Rhodes of Blacklin County, Texas. The author's distinctive dry wit and excellent storytelling skills shape this series.

Recent Title: *A Mammoth Murder.* 2006

Davis, Kyra

Features: Sophie Katz, a biracial, half-Jewish San Francisco mystery writer. Sophie's two best girlfriends, ditzy Mary Ann and nymphomaniac Dena, and gay friend Marcus lead the supporting cast.

Recent title: *Passion, Betrayal, and Killer Highlights.* 2006 (Fiction)

Evanovich, Janet

Features: New Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. Hilarious dialogue, oddball characters, and eye-popping action abound.

Recent title: *Lean Mean Thirteen.* 2007

Fiffer, Sharon Sloan

Features: Antique picker and private investigator Jane Wheel. The details of antique picking, dealing, and restoring, as well as clutter removal add an interesting dimension.

Recent title: *Hollywood Stuff.* 2006

Garcia, Eric

Features: P.I. Vincent Rubio, a dinosaur who with the help of a lot of latex passes as human. This series spoofs both classic detective novels and *The Sopranos*.

Recent title: *Hot and Sweaty Rex : a dinosaur mafia mystery.* 2004

Hess, Joan

Features: Maggody, Arkansas Chief of Police Arly Hanks who delights readers with her brains and smart mouth. This series offers a madcap mix of comedy and mystery.

Recent title: *Malpractice in Maggody.* 2006

Hess, Joan

Features: Small town bookseller and amateur sleuth Claire Malloy. She is an endearing heroine who is far from rich and even farther from perfect.

Recent title: *Damsels in Distress.* 2007

Kellogg, Marne Davis

Features: Kick Keswick, who has retired from her dual careers— executive secretary in a London auction house and cat burglar. Her current husband is a semi-retired Scotland Yard detective. Kick’s descriptions of her magnificent outfits and accessories add to the fun.

Recent title: *Friends in High Places.* 2007

Michaels, Kasey

Features: Neurotic mystery writer Maggie Kelley. Her supporting cast includes two characters, Viscount Saint Just and his trusty companion Sterling Balder, who mysteriously leap from the pages of her Regency novels into her living room. (Fiction)

Recent title: *High Heels and Homicide.* 2005

Roberts, Gillian

Features: Amanda Pepper, Philadelphia teacher and amateur sleuth. This series with an engaging cast of well-defined characters was created by local author Roberts.

Recent and final title for this series: *All’s Well that Ends Well.* 2007

Strohmeier, Sarah

Features: Hairdresser/reporter/sleuth Bubbles Yablonsky who hails from Lehigh, PA. Bubbles is an over-the-top force-of-nature protagonist. The lovingly detailed descriptions of clothing and hair add to the fun.

Recent title: *Bubbles Betrothed.* 2005


Waldman, Ayelet

Features: Juliet Applebaum, a private detective and ex-public defender. Waldman depicts L.A. yuppie parents with humor while showing compassion for the City’s less fortunate residents. Recent title: *Bye-bye Black Sheep.* 2006

Westlake, Donald

Features: Hapless burglar John Dortmunder and his crew of irrepressible ex-cons. No one does comic capers better than Westlake. Recent title: *What’s so Funny?* 2007

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