

**Menlo Park Library**  
**Mystery Readers Group**  
**Topics September-December 2021**  
<https://www.menlopark.org/adults>

### **September 15: Killing With Poisons Mysteries**

A poison can mean the following: a substance that is capable of causing the illness or death of a living organism when introduced, or a substance that reduces the activity of a catalyst. We will discuss mysteries that include a poison as the method of the murder. This can be poisons made from drugs or poisonous plants that a victim may be allergic to or not resistant to.

Examples of these mysteries books are:

- Dorothy Sayers's *Strong Poison*
- Agatha Christie's *Sparkling Cyanide*
- Jacqueline Winspear's *Birds of a Feather*
- Dona Leon's *Death at La Fenice*
- Jo Nesbo's *The Redeemer*
- Diane Mott Davidson's *Catering to Nobody*

Join us for a poisonous discussion.

### **October 20: Ghostly Mysteries**

Especially for October, the Menlo Park Library Mystery Readers group will discuss mysteries which include "ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggedy beasties and things that go bump in the night" as well as witches and even skeletons as protagonists.

Here are four mystery writers who are example of this genre:

- Ballard Mignon "Angle at Troublesome Creek", has multiple series.
- Dean James "Posted to Death", has multiple series, some under other names.
- Leigh Perry "A skeleton in the Family"
- Peg Herring, The Dead Detective Agency series

This should be an interesting & scary discussion. Come join us, if you dare.

### **November 17: Humorous Mysteries or Mystery Writers That Write With Humor**

Tell us why you laugh while reading a mystery book. Is the title funny? Are the characters' names unusual? Do you change their names to something else because you can't pronounce them? Does the author write funny dialog or scenes? You may find alliteration worth a laugh, or I laugh at yourself when you don't see a twist in the story coming. Perhaps a funny book cover or title can make you

choose a book, because it may be a cozy, fun & different mystery from what you usually read.

Here are four mystery writers that might make you laugh:

- Carl Hiaasen "Squeeze Me", a Florida mystery
- Diane Mott Davidson "Catering to Nobody", Goldy Bear series -
- Spencer Quinn "Dog On It" , The Chet & Bernie mystery series
- Janet Evanovich "One for the Money," Stephanie Plum series

Join us for a funny book discussion. What's humorous? Please just humor us!

### **December 15: Attendees' Best Mystery Reads in 2021**

All attendees at the meeting will get to give two mystery books that they liked the best in the past year. Mine are two books I picked up after the library reopened on July 6th. I couldn't wait to read another Michael Connelly or Jonathan Kellerman mystery. They were:

- Michael Connelly: *The Law of Innocence*, 2020, a Lincoln Lawyer series #7, Mickey Haller has a body found in his trunk of his car & he hires his half-brother, Harry Borsh, to help with the case.
- Jonathan Kellerman "Serpentine" 2021, Dr Alex Kelleman helps LAPD Homicide Lieutenant Milo Sturgis with a cold case 1985 murder of a woman's mother.

Join us & tell us about two of your own best reads in 2021.

The Menlo Park Library Mystery Readers Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, with a different topic or guest author at each meeting. First-timers are always welcome!