

Book Buzz

so many books...so little time

Female Sleuths

Albert, Susan Wittig. *Thyme of Death*. 1992. Collection: Mystery Call #: Albert

Lawyer-turned-herbalist, China Bayles, has moved to Pecan Springs, Texas, to find a calmer and more fulfilling way of life. She finds that evil lurks even in this small town. The apparent suicide of a friend begins her adventures as an amateur sleuth. The first in the China Bayles series.

Apodaca, Jennifer. *Dating Can Be Murder*. 2002. Collection: Mystery Call #: Apodaca

Sam(antha) Shaw bought HeartMates, a dating service, after the death of her husband. When a man walks into her business and threatens her life and the lives of her children if she does not return the money her husband stole Sam sets out to get to the bottom of the missing money. The first in the Samantha Shaw series.

Also available: LP

Ballard, Mignon. *Angel at Troublesome Creek*. 1999. Collection: Mystery Call #: Ballard

South Carolina resident Mignon Ballard has created Augusta Goodnight, a slightly offbeat guardian angel, who comes into people's lives to assist them in times of need. Augusta manages to assist Mary George Murphy in solving the mystery surrounding the death of her Aunt Caroline in this first adventure of the series.

Also available: LP

Davidson, Diane Mott. *Catering to Nobody*. 1999. Collection: Mystery Call #: Davidson

Goldy Bear is a caterer in Aspen Meadow, Colorado. While catering a wake for her son's favorite teacher, her former father-in-law is nearly killed by drinking a poison laced cup of coffee. The Aspen Meadow Police Department closes down her business during the investigation. Goldy, unable to afford the closing time, sets out to find the guilty party. This title is the first in a culinary series.

Also available: LP

DeLoach, Nora. *Mama Solves a Murder*. 1994. Collection: Mystery Call #: DeLoach

Grace Covington (Candi), known as Mama, and her daughter Simone solve their first murder in this series opener. Eight books follow the black social worker's small town life in South Carolina in the charming style of an English cozy, dubbing Mama as the African-American Miss Marple. This series came to an end in 2001 with the author's untimely death.

Dunn, Carola. *Requiem for a Mezzo.* 1996. Collection: Mystery Call #: Dunn

While attending a performance of Verdi's Requiem with Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard, Daisy witnesses the on-stage death of Bettina Westlea. The tickets had been a gift from Muriel Westlea, a neighbor of Daisy and sister of Bettina. Daisy sets out to help Alec solve the crime—whether or not he needs her help. This is one of a series.

Also available: LP

Evanovich, Janet. *One for the Money.* 1994. Collection: Mystery Call #: Evanovich

Stephanie Plum is out of work and out of money. She convinces her cousin Vinnie to hire her as a bounty hunter. Her first assignment is to find a former vice cop named Joe Morelli. Stephanie's friends and family provide many laughs along the way. Life is never dull when Stephanie is looking for a "skip." The latest in the series is *Eleven On Top*.

Also available: LP, cassette

Fiffer, Sharon. *Killer Stuff.* 2001. Collection: Mystery Call #: Fiffer

Jane Wheel has recently been laid off from her job in advertising. She is trying to make a living as an antique "picker." She haunts garage sales, auctions, estate sales, and flea markets searching for treasures to sell to dealers. She stumbles over the body of her neighbor and becomes the prime suspect in the murder. This is the first in the series.

Fowler, Earlene. *Kansas Troubles.* 1996. Collection: Mystery Call #: Fowler

Bennie Harper, curator of the Josiah Sinclair Folk Art Museum, lives in San Celina, California. She has recently married Gabe Ortiz, the town's Chief of Police. In this adventure they travel to Kansas to meet his family. Naturally, murder follows them. This is the third in the series.

Also available: LP

Grafton, Sue. *A Is for Alibi.* 1982. Collection: Mystery Call #: Grafton

Meet Kinsey Milhone a private investigator licensed by the state of California. Nikki Fife, out on parole after serving eight years for killing her husband, hires Kinsey to find out who really killed her husband. Kinsey sets out to follow a very cold trail. The latest in this series is *R Is for Ricochet*.

Also available: LP, cassette

Harris, Charlaine. *Real Murders.* 1990. Collection: Mystery Call #: Harris

Aurora Teagarden, Roe to her friends, is a librarian in Lawrenceton, Georgia. She has an interest in famous murder cases, and is a member of Real Murders, a club devoted to the study of murder cases. When someone starts murdering people in a manner similar to the case under discussion, Roe sets out to find the killer. First in the series.

Hart, Carolyn. *Death on Demand.* 1993. Collection: Mystery Call #: Hart

Annie Laurence is the owner of Death on Demand, a mystery bookstore on Broward's Rock Island, South Carolina. She learns that murder is not confined to the book shelves when she becomes a suspect in the death of Elliot Morgan, an author who is attending a meeting of the Sunday Night Regulars. Annie sets out to find the real killer. The first in the series.

Also available: LP, CD

Henry, Sue. *Murder on the Iditarod Trail.* 1991. Collection: Mystery Call #: Henry

Jessie Arnold feels for the first time that she has a shot at winning the race. When a veteran musher is killed, the police are called in. A trail of murders, each one more bloody than the one before, begin to occur. It seems that someone is killing the top competitors. The truth comes to light as the race ends. First in the series.

Also available: Cassette, CD

Marshall, Evan. *Missing Marlene.* 1999. Collection: Mystery Call #: Marshall

Jane Stuart is a widowed, single mother and the owner of her own literary agency. When her son's school calls to say that her nanny has not arrived to pick her son up, Jane sets out to find out what happened to Marlene, who seemingly vanished. First in the series.

Also available: LP

Roberts, Gillian. *Philly Stakes.* 1989. Collection: Mystery Call #: Roberts

Amanda Pepper teaches English at Philly Prep, a private school, which seems to cater to the overly privileged students. Amanda decides that the students should learn about the real spirit of Christmas by preparing a serving a meal for the homeless. Of course, a murder ensues, and Amanda delays her own holiday plans to help solve the case. First in the series.