



Characteristics of Mysteries

1. **PACING** – Since all Mysteries move toward the solution of the puzzle, pacing is relentless and compelling, sometimes slowed by details of time and place, but always moving inexorably toward the solution.
2. **STORY LINE** – The solving of a crime, usually a murder, drives the plot, and the detective, along with the reader, sorts through the available clues to discover the solution. Readers and the detective understand "whodunit" and why by the book's conclusion.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – The story focuses on the investigator or an investigative team. Mysteries are often written as a series, following the investigator through several cases. Secondary characters, whether suspects or supporting characters in the investigation, play an important role in the appeal of the Mystery and may also be series characters.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – The frame in which the Mystery is set—whether a physical location or fascinating background details—plays a crucial role in its appeal.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – The mood of Mysteries ranges from dark and gritty to lighthearted and witty with a multitude of variations in between.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – The broad scope of the genre, embracing countries around the world and involving widely differing classes of characters and historical periods, demands a range of language and narrative styles.



Mystery Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	Loren D. Estleman Bill James William Kent Krueger
BIOGRAPHY/ MEMOIR:	Bruce Alexander Max Atlan Collins
FANTASY:	Christopher Fowler (Bryant and May Mysteries) Charlaine Harris Kim Harrison (<i>Dead Witch Walking</i>)
GAY/LESBIAN:	Ellen Hart Laurie R. King (Kate Martinetli series) Mark Richard Zubro
GENTLE:	Alexander McCall Smith
HISTORICAL FICTION:	P. C. Doherty Sharon Kay Penman (Eleanor of Aquitaine series) Anne Perry
HISTORY:	Ariana Franklin Frank Tallis
HORROR:	Charlie Huston
HUMOR:	Lawrence Block (Burglar series) Janet Evanovich Eric Garcia
INSPIRATIONAL:	Randy C. Alcorn Terri Blackstock G. K. Chesterton
LITERARY:	James Lee Burke R D. James Craig Johnson Walter Mosley

	Barbara Parker
NATURAL HISTORY:	Nevada Barr
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Caleb Carr
	Carol O'Conner
ROMANCE:	Elizabeth Peters
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	April Henry
SAGA:	Elizabeth Peters (Amelia Peabody series)
TRAVEL:	Nevada Barr
	Carolyn Hart
TRUE ADVENTURE:	Dick Francis
TRUE CRIME:	Louise Penny
WESTERN:	C.J. Box
	Michael McGarrity
	Owen Parry
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Gail Bowen
	Joan Hess (Claire Mallory series)
	Julie Spencer-Fleming



Authors BEYOND the **Mystery** Genre

ADRENALINE:	Harlan Coben John Grisham John Sandford
FANTASY:	Steven Brust Laurell K. Hamilton (Meredith Gentry series)
GENTLE:	Ann B. Ross Sandra Dallas
HISTORY:	James L. Swanson (<i>Manhunt</i>)
HORROR:	Jim Butcher R N. Elrod Laurell K. Hamilton (Anita Blake series)
LITERARY:	Umberto Eco (<i>The Name of the Rose</i>) Martin Cruz Smith
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Patricia Highsmith
ROMANCE:	Jennifer Crusie Stephanie Laurens
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Iris Johansen (Eve Duncan series) J. D. Robb
SCIENCE FICTION:	Isaac Asimov (Robot series)
TRUE CRIME:	Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson (<i>Death's Acre</i>)
WESTERN:	Loren D. Estleman (Page Murdock series)