



### Characteristics of Psychological Suspense

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1. **PACING** – The pacing is more measured and the physical action less intense than in Suspense novels. These are often densely written novels with more description than dialogue.
2. **STORY LINE** – Elaborately constructed plots are the hallmark of these stories, which are characterized by frequent twists (both mental and plot), surprises, and layers of meaning. Endings may be unresolved.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – Protagonists are often misfits, who may or may not be sympathetic characters. Readers observe the characters rather than participate in their predicaments.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – The interior workings of the mind—even madness—frame these stories, and leave readers on edge, straddling the line between sanity and unreason.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – These books create a world of mental nightmares, and that chilling, disturbing tone drives the stories and keeps the readers off balance.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – Writing style is important in creating this disturbing mood, and these novels are often elegantly written.

## Intellect Genres

### Psychological Suspense Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	Peter Abrahams
FANTASY:	Jonathan Carroll
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Thomas H. Cook
HORROR:	Jennifer Egan Stephen King ( <i>Misery</i> and <i>Gerald's Game</i> ) Joyce Carol Oates ( <i>Zombie</i> )
HUMOR:	Jeffrey P. Lindsay (Dexter series)
INSPIRATIONAL:	Charles Williams
LITERARY:	Carol Goodman Ruth Rendell
MYSTERY:	Keith R. Ablow Michael Robotham Minette Walters
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Carol Goodman
TRUE CRIME:	Val McDermid
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Nicci French Philippa Gregory ( <i>The Little House</i> and <i>Zelda's Cut</i> )





## Authors BEYOND the Psychological Suspense Genre

ADRENALINE:	Thomas Harris	
	MO Hayder	
	Greg Iles	
	Dean R. Koontz	
	Val McDermid (Tony Hill and Carol Jordan series)	
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR:	Augusten Burroughs	
	John Lahr ( <i>Prick Up Your Ears: The Biography of Joe Orton</i> )	
FANTASY:	Stephen King (Dark Tower series)	
HISTORY:	Ludovic Kennedy ( <i>10 Rillington Place</i> )	
HORROR:	Shirley Jackson	
	Anne Rice	
LITERARY:	Ian McEwan	
	Arthur Phillips	
MYSTERY:	Caleb Carr	
	Elizabeth George	
	P. D. James	
	Carol O'Connell	
	Fred Vargas	
NATURAL HISTORY:	Susan Orlean	
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Kay Hooper	
SCIENCE FICTION:	Gene Wolfe	Roger Zelazny
TRAVEL:	John Berendt	
TRUE CRIME:	Erik Larson	Ann Rule
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Alice Sebold	