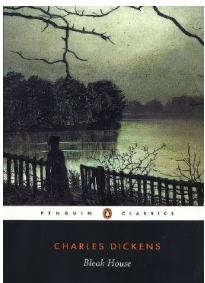


Mystery Classics

Death Never Goes Out of Style.

Starting with Edgar Allan Poe's *Murders in the Rue Morgue* published in 1841, the mystery genre quickly developed thanks to innovative authors like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the following classic mystery authors and their crime-solving characters.

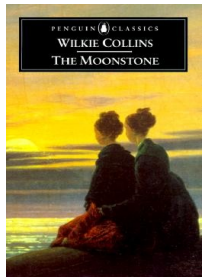


Early Writers:

Charles Dickens (Adult Fiction—DICKENS)

Dickens made his own mark on the mystery genre with his murder-solving Inspector Bucket in [Bleak House](#) and the unfinished [The Mystery of Edwin Drood](#).

Wilkie Collins (Adult Fiction—COLLINS)



Collins wrote some of the first and best detective novels. His [Moonstone](#) combines all of the suspense of murder, inheritance, a woman in peril and an ancient, mysterious jewel.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Mystery—DOYLE)



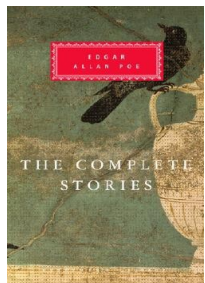
As a physician turned mystery writer, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories have never gone out of print. His mystery novelette in which Holmes first appears is [A Study in Scarlet](#), but perhaps most beloved is [The Hound of the Baskervilles](#), a misty intrigue with a ghostly, luminescent dog on dark moors.

Anna Katharine Green (Mystery—GREEN)



American Green started writing mysteries several years before Doyle. She created the first feminist detective with her independent and strong-willed spinster Amelia Butterworth. Butterworth appears in two of her novels—[That Affair Next Door](#) and [Lost Man's Lane](#).

Edgar Allan Poe (Adult Fiction—POE)



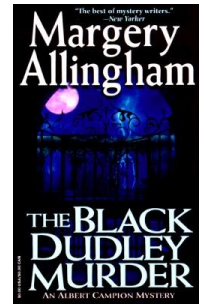
Four of his short stories—*Murders in the Rue Morgue*; *The Mystery of Marie Roget*; *The Purloined Letter*; *The Gold Bug*; and *Thou Art Man* laid the groundwork for the mystery novel as we know it today. See how it all began in [The Complete Stories](#).



Golden Age Writers:

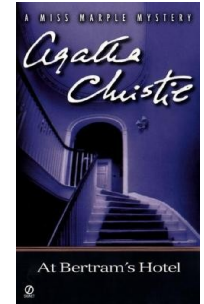
[Margery Allingham](#) (Mystery—ALLINGHAM)

Allingham's Albert Campion could be royalty, or could be in His Majesty's Secret Service. He definitely has an uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time, if that involves murder.



[Raymond Chandler](#) (Mystery—CHANDLER)

Private Eye Phillip Marlowe seeks the truth no matter what the personal cost. In [The Big Sleep](#), Marlowe tries to save a family's good name while uncovering blackmail, pornography and murder in Los Angeles's seamy underbelly.

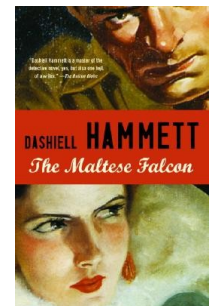


[G.K. Chesterton](#) (Mystery—CHESTERTON)

Chesterton created his Father Brown, giving him very keen observational skills, a universal sense of good and evil, and the ability to intuit who committed the crime. [The Best of Father Brown](#) has many of the crime-solving priest's best adventures.

[Agatha Christie](#) (Mystery—CHRISTIE)

Mystery's Grand Dame wrote more than fifty detective novels, many of which featured her beloved sleuths Hercule Poirot and her self-styled Miss Marple. The first Poirot novel – [The Mysterious Affair at Styles](#) brings the Belgian ex-cop Poirot into a morass of inheritance fights, marriage and murder.

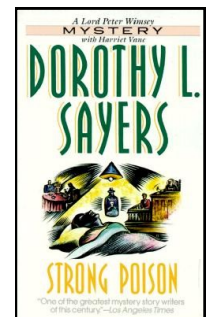


[Erle Stanley Gardner](#) (Mystery—GARDNER)

Gardner's Perry Mason is a brilliant criminal lawyer who makes a speciality of defending accused murderers who seem to have all the evidence stacked against them.

[Dashiell Hammett](#) (Mystery—HAMMETT)

Hammett's Sam Spade and the never-named Continental Op are tough-talking men of action. In the famous [Maltese Falcon](#), Spade is involved in a dangerous search for a precious statue.



[Dorothy Sayers](#) (Mystery—SAYERS)

Dorothy Sayers has been said to be a bit in love with her creation Lord Peter Wimsey (second son to a Duke). Accompanied by his very efficient manservant Bunter, Wimsey always solves his case with lots of literary allusions. Sayers thrust Wimsey into matrimony through her Harriet Vane stories: [Strong Poison](#), [Have His Carcase](#) and [Gaudy Night](#).

[Rex Stout](#) (Mystery—STOUT)

The voluminous Nero Wolfe, dislikes women and loves food. His assistant Archie Goodwin provides all of the legwork for his cases, since Wolfe rarely leaves the house. In [Too Many Cooks](#), Wolfe is a guest at a meeting of New York chefs, but when one turns up dead he's called upon to solve the murder.

