

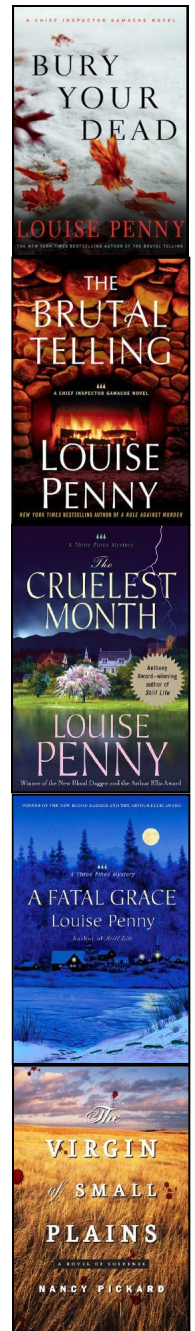
Agatha Award Winners

The Agatha Awards honor the traditional mystery — books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie. The genre is generally characterized by mysteries that contain no explicit sex, excessive gore, or gratuitous violence. They usually feature an amateur detective, a confined setting and characters who know one another. They are chosen and presented by members of the mystery fan organization *Malice Domestic, Ltd.* in the following categories: Best Novel, Best First Mystery, Best Short Story, Best Non-Fiction, and Best Children's/Young Adult. For more information, visit www.malicedomestic.org. Here are the winners for Best Novel:



2010 **Bury Your Dead** by Louise Penny

It is Winter Carnival in Quebec City, bitterly cold and surpassingly beautiful. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache has come not to join the revels but to recover from an investigation gone hauntingly wrong. But violent death is inescapable, even in the apparent sanctuary of the Literary and Historical Society where an obsessive historian's quest for the remains of the founder of Quebec, Samuel de Champlain, ends in murder. Could a secret buried with Champlain for nearly 400 years be so dreadful that someone would kill to protect it?



2009 **A Brutal Telling** by Louise Penny

When the body of an unknown old man turns up in a bistro, Chief Inspector Armand Gamache investigates. At a cabin in the woods apparently belonging to the dead man, Gamache and his team are shocked to discover a cache of priceless antiquities, from first edition books to European treasures thought to have disappeared long ago. When suspicion falls on one of Three Pines' most prominent citizens, it's up to Gamache to sift through the lies and uncover the truth.

2008 **The Cruellest Month: A Three Pines Mystery** by Louise Penny

Welcome to Three Pines, where the cruelest month is about to deliver on its threat. It's spring in the tiny, forgotten village; buds are on the trees and the first flowers are struggling through the newly thawed earth. But not everything is meant to return to life...When some villagers decide to celebrate Easter with a séance at the Old Hadley House, they are hoping to rid the town of its evil --- until one of their party dies of fright. Was this a natural death, or was the victim somehow helped along? Brilliant, compassionate Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is called to investigate, in a case that will force him to face his own ghosts as well as those of a seemingly idyllic town where relationships are far more dangerous than they seem.

2007 **A Fatal Grace** by Louise Penny

Welcome to Three Pines, Quebec, where the villagers are preparing for a traditional country Christmas, and someone is preparing for murder. No one liked CC de Poitiers. Not her quiet husband, not her spineless lover, not her pathetic daughter. When Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is called to investigate, he quickly realizes he's dealing with someone quite extraordinary. CC de Poitiers was electrocuted in the middle of a frozen lake, in front of the entire village, as she watched the annual curling tournament. And yet no one saw anything. With his trademark compassion and courage, Gamache digs beneath the idyllic surface to find the dangerous secrets long buried there. But other dangers are becoming clear and something even more chilling is coming for Gamache himself.

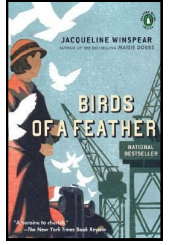
2006 **The Virgin of Small Plains** by Nancy Pickard

Small Plains, Kansas, January 23, 1987: In the midst of a deadly blizzard, eighteen-year-old Rex Shellenberger scours his father's pasture, looking for helpless newborn calves. Then he makes a shocking discovery: the naked, frozen body of a teenage girl, her skin as white as the snow around her. Even dead, she is the most beautiful girl he's ever seen. The mysterious dead girl - the "Virgin of Small Plains" - inspires local reverence: In the two decades following her death, strange miracles visit those who faithfully tend to her grave; some even believe that her spirit can cure deadly illnesses. But what really happened in that snow-covered field?



2005 The Body in the Snowdrift by Katherine Hall Page

Faith, an upscale caterer, and Tom, her minister husband, join the extended Fairchild clan to celebrate the birthday of Tom's father, Dick, at the struggling Vermont ski resort of Pine Slopes. The death of an old friend of Dick's, local lawyer Boyd Harrison, from an apparent heart attack while skiing throws a pall over the reunion.



2004 Birds of a Feather by Jacqueline Winspear

When Maisie Dobbs is hired to find the missing daughter of a wealthy grocery magnate, she discovers that three of the heiress's friends have died violently, leading her to investigate the connection between the disappearance and the murders.

2003 Letter From Home by Carolyn G. Hart

Working at the local newspaper during the summer of 1944, Gretchen Gilman investigates the mysterious death of Faye Tatum, found dead in her own living room, supposedly murdered by her husband, a World War II veteran.

2002 You've Got Murder by Donna Andrews

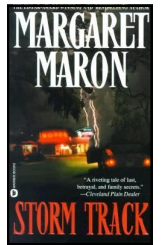
When Zack, a workaholic computer expert, suddenly disappears, his friend, Turing, a sentient artificial intelligence personality created by Zack, begins to suspect foul play and turns sleuth to find out what happened to her creator.

2001 Murphy's Law by Rhys Bowen

Fleeing a false accusation of murder in Ireland, Molly Murphy becomes involved in another murder case when the man who was harrassing her on the boat to America turns up dead.

2000 Storm Track by Margaret Maron

When the embittered wife of a local attorney is found strangled in a motel by her own skimpy under-garments, Judge Deborah Knott searches for clues as a deadly hurricane bears down on the coastal town.



1999 Mariner's Compass by Earlene Fowler

Benni Harper journeys to Morro Bay to claim an inheritance from Jacob Chandler, a man she does not know, and embarks on a baffling hunt for clues to the mysteries of the past.

1998 Butchers Hill by Laura Lippman

When Luther Beale, a vigilante who shot a boy, appeals to Baltimore detective Tess Monaghan to help him atone for his crime, she finds herself on a trail of money, mendacity, and murder that leads straight to Butchers Hill.

1997 The Devil in Music by Kate Ross

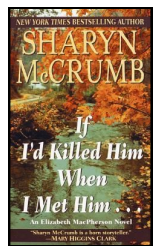
Julian Kestrel goes to Italy with a friend where he learns about the four-year-old unsolved murder of famed music lover Lodovico Malvezzi, and he decides to try his detecting skills in Milan.

1996 Up Jumps the Devil by Margaret Maron

Colleton County, North Carolina judge Deborah Knott embarks on a Thanksgiving Day investigation into the murder of a man from her father's moonshine-making past.

1995 If I'd Killed Him When I Met Him by Sharyn McCrumb

Donna Jean Morgan's decision to poison her husband in Danville, Virginia, is only one of several murders that occur in the town, and after Donna Jean tells her lawyer Bill MacPherson that her mother was the famous Lethal Lucy Todhunter, Bill calls in his sister Elizabeth to investigate how Lucy poisoned her husband.



1994 She Walks These Hills by Sharyn McCrumb

Mystery and folklore are skillfully blended in this contemporary Appalachian tale. In the Appalachian wilderness, a pioneer woman murdered in the 18th century meets a present-day escaped convict.

1993 – Dead Man's Island by Carolyn G. Hart

Retired reporter Henrietta O'Dwyer Collins, better known as "Henrie O," is called in by an old lover, arrogant media tycoon Chase Prescott, to investigate a murder plot against him.

1992 – Bootlegger's Daughter by Margaret Maron

Deborah Knott, an attorney attempting to infiltrate the old-boy network of tobacco country by running for district judge, is distracted from the race, and almost eliminated, when she finds new evidence to an old small-town murder.

1991 – I.O.U. by Nancy Pickard

The layered plot of the latest in the Jenny Cain series finds the Port Frederick, Mass., sleuth probing the cause of her recently deceased mother's insanity. Cain discovers that her mother's mental collapse many years before coincided with the bankruptcy of the family business.

