

Yorktown Library Mystery Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12

Historical Mystery Selections

1. **Murder at Mallowan Hall** by Colleen Cambridge

Summary: The housekeeper for archaeologist Max Mallowan and his famous wife, Agatha Christie, former Army nurse Phyllida Bright is faced with murder and mayhem during a weekend party and assembles the household staff to find the killer among the Mallowan's guests.

2. **Come Hell or Highball** by Maia Chance

Summary: Lola Woodby survived her loveless marriage with an unholy mixture of highballs, detective novels, and chocolate layer cake, until, her husband dies suddenly, leaving her with a big pile of debt. Soon, Lola and her stalwart Swedish cook, Berta, are reduced to hiding out in the secret love nest Alfie kept. But when rent comes due, they have no choice but to accept an offer made by one of Alfie's girls-on-the-side: in exchange for a handsome sum of money, the girl wants Lola to retrieve a mysterious reel of film for her.

4. **Nefertiti** by Nick Drake

Summary: Secretly assigned to solve the disappearance of the enigmatic Egyptian queen Nefertit, chief detective of ancient Thebes Rai Rahotep finds himself removed from his quaint home village and thrust into a teeming criminal world in which he is a stranger.

5. **A Study in Scarlet Women** by Sherry Thomas (Lady Sherlock series)

Summary: When the city is struck by a trio of unexpected deaths and suspicion falls on her sister and her father, Charlotte Holmes is desperate to find the true culprits and clear the family name. It will be up to Charlotte, under the assumed name Sherlock Holmes, to challenge society's expectations and match wits against an unseen mastermind.

6. **A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons** by Kate Khavari (Saffron Everleigh mysteries)

Summary: Attempting to blaze a new trail for women at the University College London in 1923, research assistant Saffron Everleigh becomes involved in solving the murder of a professor's wife who appeared to have been poisoned at a school dinner party.

6. **Maisie Dobbs** by Jacqueline Winspear (Maisie Dobbs series)

Summary: In this series starter, Maisie Dobbs, a former World War I nurse turned private investigator, must face her past to solve a series of deaths at a working farm known as The Retreat which acts as a convalescent refuge for ex-soldiers too shattered to resume normal life.

7. **A Curious Beginning** by Deanna Rayborn (Veronica Speedwell mysteries)

Summary: London, 1887. After burying her spinster aunt, orphaned Veronica Speedwell is free to resume her world travels in pursuit of scientific inquiry. But fate has other plans when Veronica thwarts her own attempted abduction with the help of an enigmatic German baron, who offers her sanctuary in the care of his friend Stoker, a reclusive and bad-tempered natural historian. But then the baron is murdered - leaving Veronica and Stoker on the run from an elusive assailant as wary partners in search of the villainous truth.

8. **The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon

Summary: In 1789 Maine, midwife and healer Martha Ballard, who is good at keeping secrets, investigates a shocking murder linked to an alleged rape that has shaken her small town, especially when her diary lands at the center of the scandal, threatening to tear both her family and her community apart.