

**EUCLID READERS GROUP**  
**JANUARY 17, 2009**  
**MYSTERIES**



\* Allen, Linda  
**BELLINGHAM HOMICIDE**

"She's my cousin! The main character is a young woman, Jozie Hunter, who graduated from college with a major in forensic anthropology but makes her living selling real estate in Bellingham, Washington, just like the author. Write what you know! The story involves identifying a ten-year-old skeleton found in Jozie's house. I really enjoyed it. The second book in the series, *Bellingham Betrayal*, just came out" - Robin

M Alt, Madelyn  
ALT,M **THE TROUBLE WITH MAGIC / A CHARMED DEATH**

"Alt's 'Bewitching' mystery series features Maggie O'Neill of Stony Mill, a small town in northeastern Indiana. In the first book, Maggie goes to work for Felicity Dow, owner of a local gift shop and one of the few Wiccans in town. When Felicity becomes the prime suspect in her sister's murder, Maggie sets out to prove her new boss innocent and acquires a taste for sleuthing. In *A Charmed Death*, she investigates the murder of a teenager with some racy extra-curricular interests. Subplots include Maggie's exploration of Wicca and her tentative romance with a local deputy. Enjoyable, fast read. I like the Wicca theme" - Linda

F Baldacci, David  
BALDACCI **THE CAMEL CLUB**

"First in his series about a club of conspiracy theorists in Washington, DC. The members are described as 'eccentric and downtrodden members whom society has forgotten'. The group includes an ex-CIA agent, an ex-military / DIA guy, an eccentric librarian, and a computer genius with OCD, all in their fifties. Their de facto leader is a man with apparently no past known only as Oliver Stone. When the club members accidentally witness a murder, the game is on, and Secret Service agent Alex Ford gets drawn into the case. Something big is afoot and only the Camel Club can stop the plotters and save the world. This is a really fun thriller with a varied cast of interesting characters, a complex and ingenious plot, lots of action and something to say about the way the US conducts its foreign policy" - Linda

M Bebris, Carrie  
BEBRIS **SUSPENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

"This is a delightful book featuring Elizabeth Bennet Darcy and Fitzwilliam Darcy of Jane Austen fame. The other characters in the book are from Austen's work *Sense and Sensibility*, and each chapter begins with a quote from Austen's work to set the scene or to show how Bebris is working her story in and around the fabric of Austen. The writing style is similar to Austen's, too. In this story Mr. and Mrs. Darcy have been prevailed upon by Elizabeth's mother to launch her sister Kitty in society with a season in London. Kitty meets and makes a suitable match with Harry Dashwood, but Dashwood finds some antique relics in his attic that were once owned by his distant relative, Sir Francis Dashwood of the Hell-Fire Club. The relics wreak havoc on Harry and his fortunes before Elizabeth and Darcy are able to save the day. The book was an interesting read and really well done" - Teresa



F Beverley, Jo  
BEVE **THE STANFORTH SECRETS**

"Chloe, Lady Stanforth, a widow at age 23, has been in charge of Delamere Hall since her husband Stephen's death. Stephen's cousin, Justin, has been called back from the Peninsula to be the new Viscount. Chloe can't wait to leave and get back to the gay life of the town after her year of mourning for Stephen and then his uncle who had been Viscount for less than a year. When Justin arrives in London, he is called to meet with the Duke of York and other heads of the government because someone at Delamere Hall is suspected of trying to send vital information to the French. Justin was the one who had originally masterminded Chloe's elopement from the schoolroom with Stephen, and on Chloe and Stephen's wedding night both of them had experienced feelings of regret that she was married to Stephen. Now Justin must suspect her of consorting with the enemy. This book combines a Regency romance with a mystery and is really well done. It's a light read, but I thoroughly enjoyed it" - Teresa

M Carl, JoAnna  
CARL,J **THE CHOCOLATE FROG FRAME-UP: A CHOCOHOLIC MYSTERY**

"Third in the Chocoholic mystery series set in Warner Pier, Michigan, a resort town on Lake Michigan. After her divorce, Texan Lee McKinney moved to WP to work for her aunt Nettie in the family chocolate shop. In each book Nettie makes a specialty chocolate that figures in the mystery, in this case a white chocolate frog purchased by an eccentric local who turns up dead after having an argument with Lee's boyfriend Joe. It soon becomes clear Joe is being framed and it all has something to do with a piece of lakefront property he owns. The series has a good sense of place and what Carl calls 'the interconnectedness of small town life'. I like that the chocolate frog plays an important part in catching the killer" - Linda



M Cornwell, Patricia  
CORNWELL **SCARPETTA**

"I have been reading this author's books for a number of years about Dr. Kay Scarpetta, a forensic pathologist. Over the years many of her books have been best sellers, as is this one... Since she has a great knack of creating series characters from book to book that are very fascinating, I like to keep up with what they are doing. In this case the mystery starts when an adult little person reports to the police that his lover and she was also a little person, has been killed and he discovered the body. Dr. S. is brought in to talk to him and look at the evidence to decide if he is guilty or is someone else... At 500 pages, it has been tough sledding... I'll finish it because I'm interested in the characters and what happened to them" - Gary

M Ferris, Monica  
FERRIS,M **THAI DIE**

"#12 in her 'Needlecraft Mystery' series. The action takes place in a needlework shop run by a woman who has a knack for solving mysteries. This book involves a piece of rare embroidered silk from China, silk making, Thailand, the snow in Minnesota. This series reminds me of the one I read with Elmeretta about a knitting shop" - Robin



M Geagley, Brad  
GEAGLEY **DAY OF THE FALSE KING**

"This book is set in Egypt and Babylon during the reign of Ramses IV. The detective is Semerket, the Egyptian Clerk of Investigation and Secrets. It is the second in the series, but I did not read the first. In the first book, Semerket helped foil a plot by Queen Tiya and her sons to keep Ramses III from passing the throne to his first choice Ramses IV. Queen Tiya and her sons also killed Ramses III. The oldest son was punished, but the second son and his mother are still plotting, and their machinations stretch all the way to Babylon where Semerket's wife has been exiled because her first husband was involved in the plot against Ramses IV. Ramses IV receives a plea for help from a young boy who had been exiled with Semerket's wife, and he sends Semerket to Babylon to meet with the new king of Babylon as an official envoy and to see what he can find out about the fate of his wife. It is very exciting. Semerket becomes involved in brokering between the Persians and the Isins for control of the Babylonian throne. He solves a couple of other mysteries along the way. I really enjoyed it" - Teresa



M Harper, Karen  
HARPER **THE FYRE MIRROR**

"This is the seventh book in a series of Elizabeth I mysteries. The series starts just before Elizabeth is queen, as she has to be wary of everyone due to intrigue, etc. She befriends an herbalist with fiery, red hair named Meg Milligrew. Elizabeth and Meg look similar, and together with Kat Ashley and Lord Cecil, they wend their way through plots against the queen. Their group eventually picks up Nick Topham, an actor, and Gil Sharpe, a painter, and Dr. John Dee, a scientist. They form Elizabeth's secret privy council to ferret out the truth behind threats to her person and her throne. Sometimes Elizabeth trades places with Meg when she needs to see things with her own eyes. The earlier books focus more on the feelings and actions of the minor characters working for Elizabeth. This book is more about Elizabeth, Kat, and Gil as the secret privy council has to discover who is responsible for several incidents of arson and murder in Elizabeth's court while they are at the summer palace of Nonesuch outside of London. Elizabeth and Kat have to conquer their panic and flashbacks to another fire that almost killed all of Henry VIII's children. The story takes many twists and turns, and I never suspected the eventual culprit" - Teresa

M Harper, Karen  
HARPER, K **THE FATAL FASHIONE**

"The 8th in the Elizabeth I series takes place in the 8th year of Elizabeth's reign. This one focuses on Meg Milligrew more as she digs cuckoo-pint roots and sells them to the starchers so everyone can wear the high ruffs that Elizabeth has made popular. There are two starchers in London who have come there from Antwerp, and one, a single woman struggling to make a business, is found dead in a pot of starch after arguing loudly with Meg about the price of cuckoo-pint roots. The constable blames Meg, and because he does not approve of Elizabeth's policies, especially her failure to marry and allow a man to rule, he arrests Meg... The book does a good job of showing how precarious Elizabeth's position was with Mary, Queen of Scots, coveting the throne to the South, the Catholic Lords not wanting a return to Protestantism, and most of the males in high places resenting a young woman ruling over them. Most of the mysteries seem commonplace, but they usually tie into Elizabeth's far-sighted policies and attempts to bring true reform to England to improve life for all her subjects... The books are well-researched, and I believe that the author has become more and more fascinated by Elizabeth herself" - Teresa



M Harper, Karen  
HARPER,K **THE HOODED HAWKE**

"This book takes place in the 11th year of Elizabeth's reign. She is going on progress into heavily Catholic territory while her cousin Mary Stuart is a guest in the North. Elizabeth's cousin, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk is with her on the progress because Elizabeth likes to keep her friends close and her enemies closer. Once again, Karen Harper paints a great picture of the seething intrigue of the early Elizabethan court. During the progress, Elizabeth's route is harried by an archer, who fires different kinds of bows with Spanish arrows, killing Elizabeth's Keeper of the Hawks and other servants close to her. Once again, Elizabeth convenes her Privy Plot Council... In the afterward, Karen Harper states that with each book she tries to focus on a different aspect of Elizabethan life. This book was focused on the sports like hawking... then she weaves her mysteries into actual events of Elizabeth's reign" - Teresa



M Hartley, A. J.  
HARTLEY **THE MASK OF ATREUS**

"Atlanta museum director Deborah Miller is shocked when she finds her boss brutally murdered in a secret room filled with what seem to be priceless Greek artifacts. Her quest to solve the mystery takes her to Athens, Mycenae and Moscow as she dodges murder attempts and learns that appearances can be deceiving. The beginning of the book hooked me, but as the story progressed, I found myself way ahead of Deborah in figuring what was going on, and mentally shuddering as she hid information from the police and placed her trust in the wrong people, though she does save herself on more than one occasion. Hartley is a good writer and the archeological and historical background was interesting, but I thought her amateur sleuth veered perilously close to the 'too stupid to live' category" - Linda

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Henley, Veronica  
**MURDER IN THE PARK**

"This is the ninth in her Ellie Quicke series, and it's best to read them in order. Ellie is a widow, left comfortably well off but unsure of herself and her own talents and her own faith. She also has a great-aunt who's a real tartar and a daughter who's a greedy grasping shrew of a girl. As the book progress, events conspire to give Ellie every opportunity to make new friends, to take charge of her life, to cope with her family, and to grow spiritually. I'm very fond of this series, and enjoy seeing what Ellie will come up against next" - Ruth

M Hunter, Maddy  
HUNTER,M **HULA DONE IT? DEATH TAKES A LEI-OVER**

"This book comes in the middle of the Passport to Peril series and I chose it for the hula doll on the cover... Mysteries happen when the main character travels with her mother and other seniors from Minnesota. On a cruise around the Hawaiian islands. A guest lecturer on Captain Cook is pushed overboard and killed. The mystery revolves around that and her aunt's discovery of an old journal containing a treasure map written by one of Cook's seamen. I like the colorful characters. Funny, if a little over the top" - Karen G.



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Kingsbury, Kate

**A BICYCLE BUILT FOR MURDER / DEATH IS IN THE AIR**

"Kingsbury's Manor House IS series set in an English seaside town during World War II. I enjoyed Foyle's War (Mystery on PBS) that I thought I'd give this a try. The main character is Lady Elizabeth Hartleigh Compton, lady of the manor of Sitting Marsh, a small seaside town. A divorcee, Lizzie returned home to do her duty after her parents were killed in a bombing raid. When a young girl turns up dead, her mother begs Lady Elizabeth to find the murderer. With the regular police in the Army and replaced by two lackadaisical retirees, she turns amateur sleuth. In the second book, a land girl is killed right after a German pilot bails out over the village, but Lizzie is pretty sure he didn't do it. I like the World War II setting. Her style is quite humorous, esp. when the senile, doddering butler is on scene, and I like that Lady Elizabeth is smart and sensible but colorful as she tools around on a red motorcycle. An ongoing subplot involves the American officers quartered in the Manor House and Lizzie's burgeoning attraction to the handsome but married Major Monroe, plus the friction between the Americans and the locals" - Linda

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Koontz, Dean

KOON

**FEAR NOTHING**

"So thrilling you don't want to stop. It's about a man who doesn't go out in the sun because of a genetic disorder. It's a miracle he's lived as long as he has. He discovers a coverup going on because of his parents' scientific research that involves monkeys that start acting strangely. You can't put it down; it's a thriller from the first page. It escalates almost to the point of unbelievable, but I liked it and recommend it" - Karen M.



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Koontz, Dean

K829

**WATCHERS**

"A distressed character goes hiking when a dog comes out of the bushes and steers him in a different direction. It turns out to be an exceptional dog that really can communicate. I like that it takes place in Orange County. It really sticks with you. Compelling" - Karen M.

M

McCall Smith, Alexander

MCCALL

**IN THE COMPANY OF CHEERFUL LADIES**

"#6 in the popular series about The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency. I like this series because of the main character, Mma. Ramotswe. She deals with difficult situations by using her innate wisdom. I also enjoy the descriptions of Africa, and the emphasis on a simple lifestyle within a traditional society. In this book, Mma. And her assistant Mma. Mukotsi look for a missing man, wonder about the appearance of a perfect pumpkin, and deal with the life situations of her husband's apprentices" - Robin



M Marston, Edward  
MARS THE NINE GIANTS

"Another Nicholas Bracewell mystery set in the Elizabethan theatre world. Nicholas discovers the body of a young man floating in the Thames at the same time he's dealing with the company possibly being expelled from their home at the Queen's Head Inn and two of his actors enthralled by the same young married woman whose husband, the Lord Mayor Elect of London, is the target of a conspiracy. The part about the Lord Mayor and the rivalry between the various guilds was interesting, and it's fun to see all the plot threads weave together before the end. Some of the villains were as expected, but there's a twist toward the end that I hadn't anticipated. I like this series for the glimpse into the past and for the engaging characters. The book's title always reflects that of one of the plays performed in the book" - Linda



YA F Meyer, Stephanie  
MEYER,S THE HOST

"By the author of the popular *Twilight* series about vampires, this is her first book for adults. At 619 pages, I thought it would be a long time read, but no. It was a page turner, recommended by my grandson, age 17. The theme of the book is an apocalyptic setting in which alien souls have been transplanted into humans who become the 'host'. A soul implanted into a young woman, Melanie, discovers that she is really living a dual existence which includes interaction with the host. (Usually the alien soul supplants the human.) Melanie finds a hiding place where a group of humans have been living and comes to love her life as a human. How she handled the conflict was very well done. Not a true mystery, it probably belongs in the science fiction genre" - Robin

M Rowland, Laura Joh  
ROWLAND THE DRAGON KING'S PALACE

"This is the 8th book in the Sano Ichiro series about the shogun's Most Honorable Investigator of Events, Situations, and People set in medieval Japan. Sano and his wife Reiko are a team who solve intricate crimes in the politically toxic atmosphere of the shogun's court. In this installment, Reiko and her friends Midori and Lady Yanagisawa have been ordered by the Shogun's mother to accompany her on a vacation trip. Midori is heavily pregnant and almost ready to give birth, but the Shogun's mother does not allow her to stay behind. The four women are kidnapped, and all their retainers and entourage are slaughtered. Eventually a ransom note finds its way to the Shogun, who is extremely weak and indecisive. Reiko works to help the women break free while Sano works to solve the mysteries of who has abducted the women and where they have been taken. It is an exciting story, and you really cannot guess how it all turns out in the end. It also gives an interesting depiction of medieval Japanese life among the samurai. I really enjoyed the book" - Teresa



M Sayers, Dorothy L.  
SAYERS,D GAUDY NIGHT

"Published in 1936, this is the twelfth in her series featuring Lord Peter Death Bredon Wimsey, aristocrat, gentleman, scholar, detective and something more. This is the one, for those of you who know something about the series, in which Harriet Vane finally acknowledges her love for Wimsey and agrees to marry him. And of course, he proposes in Latin. ...this book is truly a tour de force, or at least I think so... Sayers does so much so well, here. To begin with, the prose is absolutely lovely, particularly the descriptions of Oxford and its environs. And then there is an absorbing mystery: there is no murder, but it comes close, and there is malicious mischief in the form of poisoned pen letters and vandalism... when I finished reading the book, which is close to 500 pages long, I was truly breathless. I had forgotten how good she was at creating characters, and putting together a narrative, and writing lovely, limpid prose" - Ruth



Pbk Fiction Spindler, Erica  
S SHOCKING PINK

"This unusual and original mystery starts in 1983 and ends in 1998. Three young girls, best friends, sneak into a vacant house and find a man who has strung up a woman and is forcing her to strip. Later they return and find the woman is dead. She turns out to be the police commissioner's wife. Then we fast forward to 1998. One of the girls, Andi, is now a psychologist. Her new client turns out to be the man from 1983. He says he didn't kill the woman; he loved her, but he thinks one of Andi's friends know who did it. Who killed her was so shocking to me. This is the most exciting mystery I've ever read" - Joan

M Thurlo, Aimee and David  
THURLO,A THE PRODIGAL NUN

"The fifth book in the Sister Agatha series is set in a small town in New Mexico, and Sister Agatha is part of a monastery of nuns. All but four or five of the nuns in the monastery have chosen to be cloistered nuns, and their cook has even taken a vow of silence. They follow the medieval schedule of prayers, singing Matins and Vespers, etc. Sister Agatha is a former investigative reporter, and she is one of the few externs who contact the outside world and help keep the monastery going. Sister Jo is a nun of another order who has been recently transferred to the monastery; she is young and substitutes at the local Catholic School. She also has some issues (she almost gets killed when she sneaks out of the cloister at night for a secret cigarette). Another one of the externs is Sister Bernarda, a former marine. The convent has an old Chrysler station wagon that they call the Antichrysler, and also a Harley motorcycle with a sidecar for Sister Agatha when the other nuns are out in the car running the town's Meals on Wheels program... The story begins at an early Mass, when one of the regulars is found dead out in the convent parking lot. Sister Agatha gets involved in the investigation, and it appears that she and Sister Jo have also been targeted. The story has many twists and turns and red herrings, and I could not guess who the killer really was until right up at the very end. Delightful and quirky. I enjoyed the story" - Teresa



M Thompson, Victoria  
THOMPSON **MURDER IN CHINATOWN**

"Part of her gaslight mystery series, set in New York in the late 1800's when Teddy Roosevelt was Police Commissioner. The main protagonists are Sarah Brandt, a widowed midwife who grew up in one of the rich Knickerbocker families but rebelled and married a doctor who treated the poor, and NYPD Detective Frank Malloy. Malloy is one of the few honest cops on the force at the time... He also is assiduous in helping the poor and the immigrants. There is a romantic interest between Sarah and Frank that simmers below the surface... This mystery begins with Sarah delivering a baby to the Irish wife of a Chinese businessman in Chinatown. The girl's other in-law is another Irish wife with a grown son and an almost 16-year-old daughter. On the follow up visit, the daughter has disappeared, and Sarah gets Frank involved in the manhunt. Unfortunately, a few days after the girl has been found in the Irish tenements with her new husband (she had eloped), she winds up dead. I figured out the mystery about 2/3 of the way through the book, but I really enjoyed the description of Chinatown in New York at the end of the 19th century. Thompson did a lot of research on the prejudice against Chinese immigrants, the harsh laws, and the Chinese-American culture of the time. She presents a fascinating picture of late 19th Century New York with its various social and ethnic groups, and its almost lawless lifestyle. I really enjoyed the book" - Teresa



M Tremayne, Peter  
TREMAYNE **DANCING WITH DEMONS**

"This is the latest in the Sister Fidelma series. She and her husband Eadulf are called away from the Kingdom of Cashel to Tara because the high king of the five kingdoms of Eire has been murdered, presumably by someone from another branch of his same ruling clan. The chief Brehon of the five kingdoms and other leaders at Tara are all in the same clan, so the Great Assembly insists on Fidelma as an impartial, able sleuth and judge. The story is quite exciting and involves many layers of intrigue and deception, including pagans attempting to overthrow Christianity as the main religion in Ireland. In the end, Fidelma successfully unravels the mystery with several amazing twists. This story is one of the better ones in the series. It doesn't drag at all" - Teresa



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\* Not in APL system