Albert, Susan Wittig

The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree: a Darling Dahlias Mystery

The country may be struggling through the Great Depression, but the good ladies of Darling, Alabama, are determined to keep their chins up and their town beautiful. Their garden club, the Darling Dahlias, has just inherited a new clubhouse and garden, complete with two beautiful cucumber trees in full bloom. But life in Darling is not all garden parties and rosemary lemonade. When local blond bombshell Bunny Scott is found in a suspicious car wreck, the Dahlias decide to dig into the town's buried secrets, and club members Lizzy, Ophelia, and Verna soon find leads sprouting up faster than weeds. The town is all abuzz with news of an escaped convict from the prison farm, rumors of trouble at the bank, and tales of a ghost heard digging around the cucumber tree. If anyone can get to the root of these mysteries, it's the Darling Dahlias

Call #: Mystery Alb

Albert, Susan Wittig

Love Lies Bleeding: a China Bayles Mystery

Expecting a surprise in the form of a marriage proposal on Valentine's Day, China Bayles gets a shock instead when her lover, Mike McQuaid, is shot.

Call #: Mystery Alb
1st in series: Thyme of Death

Andrews, Donna

Owls Well That Ends Well: a Meg Langslow Mystery

Meg and Michael have bought a very elderly house from the estate of the uncrowned Queen of the Packrats. She bought everything and kept it all. When the house became overcrowded, she moved the overflow into the barn. When the barn was crammed, she began filling the property's sheds. When she died, her "holdings" left the various grandnieces and grandnephews with decades of junk. They avoid the job of cleaning it up by selling the place "as is" to Meg and Michael, sticking them with the lot. Their solution: a yard sale. As always, Meg's large family flocks in to offer their dubious help. Many even come with junk of their own to add to the sale. Meg's mother, sure that Meg has taken care of all the "treasures," turns to drawing up elaborate redecorating plans. Meg's dad, newly elected president of SPOOR (Stop Poisoning Our Owls and Raptors) shoulders the cause of the endangered baby owls and their mother that live in the barn. His further contribution is the announcement that anyone who arrives in costume earns a ten percent discount. Meg is coping (barely) with all this until the body of a local antique dealer is discovered in an old trunk. She and her dad have a further shock: the trunk is in the barn, in reckless disregard of Dad's beloved newborn owls. The police temporarily close the sale down to investigate. When the professor who can swing the vote in favor of Michael's tenure becomes a suspect, Meg decides that the only way to prove his innocence, and avoid being stuck with several tons of unsold junk, is to find the killer herself, and quickly. Andrews's amusing signature spin on mystery and a new assortment of feathery friends make this a priceless addition to the series.

Call #: Mystery And
1st in series: Murder With Peacocks
Balzo, Sandra  
*Uncommon Grounds: a Maggy Thorsen Mystery*  
Patricia Harper is dead, killed by a hot-wired espresso machine, in Uncommon Grounds, her very own gourmet coffee store! Maggy Thorsen wants to know who killed one of her partners. Maggy needs the store to succeed. Starting over after her divorce, she's quit her PR job to open the coffee store. And if things aren't already tough enough, she begins to suspect one of her friends is responsible for Patricia's murder. Maggy joins forces with Sarah Kingstown, Patricia's closest friend, to investigate her killing. Together, they uncover unsavory small-town politics, bribes, kickbacks, and rampant infidelity. Before she's through, Maggy's sense of right and wrong will be shaken to its foundations. For once in her life, she is forced to draw her own line in the sand, and be prepared to defend it.  
Call #: Mystery Bal

Ballard, Mignon Franklin  
*The Angel Whispered Danger: an Augusta Goodnight Mystery*  
When Kate McBride returns to her hometown of Bishop's Bridge, North Carolina, for a family reunion, she expects questions about her husband's conspicuous absence. What she doesn't expect is murder. Soon after arriving, Kate finds her great uncle's housekeeper, Ella Stegall, badly injured and incoherent, at the bottom of a wooded ravine after an apparent fall from a ledge. But moments before losing consciousness, Ella whispers she was pushed—not surprising, considering that Bramblewood, Uncle Ernest's woody estate, is no stranger to murder and intrigue. Could Ella's accident be connected to Bramblewood's mysterious past, or was her claim just the rambling of a delirious old woman? Poor Ella slips away before leaving more clues to her death. Now Kate must come to terms with disturbing doubts about close family members while coping with her troubled young daughter. Luckily for Kate, guardian angel Augusta Goodnight has dropped by to help, this time with a bumbling young apprentice in tow. With fresh baked goods and sound, heavenly advice, Augusta helps Kate investigate Ella's untimely demise—and a few other unsolved mysteries along the way.  
Call #: Mystery Bal  
1st in series: *Angel at Troublesome Creek*

Beaton, M.C.  
*Agatha Raisin and the Walkers of Dembley: a Agatha Raisin Mystery*  
When the kind, shy baronet Sir Charles Fraith receives a letter from Jessica Tartinck, president of the Dembley Walkers Association, his tranquil life is thrown into chaos. Feisty and determined, Ms. Tartinck, as part of her campaign against landowners over the use of public footpaths, has chosen the naive baronet for her latest attack. Although Sir Charles suggests a reasonable offer to counter her outrageous demands, Jessica chooses to ignore him. Jessica's protest march turns into a death march when she ends up murdered in Sir Charles's field. Wooed by the chance to mix with the landed gentry, Agatha is only too willing to try to help clear Sir Charles's name, especially since it means playing the "wife" of her attractive and elusive neighbor James Lacey.  
Call #: Mystery Bea  
1st in series: *Quiche of Death*
Beaton, M.C.

Death of a Nag: a Hamish Macbeth Mystery
This time out the red-haired, irascible Macbeth has left his tiny Scottish village for a holiday with his dog, Towser. True to form, Macbeth doesn't venture far from the highlands he loves, just a few hours away to Skag, a forgotten North Sea resort town that offers run-down guest houses, a fish-and-chips shop, the haunting sound of its "singing sands," and murder. Until his recent demotion from sergeant back to constable and the end of his engagement to the lovely Priscilla Halburton-Smythe, Hamish Macbeth had been a contented man. Now every face he meets in Lochdubh is dour with disapproval at the man "who broke that poor girl's heart." Escaping to Skag is meant to raise Macbeth's sagging spirits. Instead, he finds that "Friendly House," described as a charming inn a stone's throw from the sea, is not as advertised. The ambiance is dismal, the food inedible, and his fellow guests an unpromising lot that includes the spinster Miss Gunnery, two tarty girls, a retired military man, a London family, and Bob Harris, who so nags his wife, Doris, that everyone wants to kill him. And then somebody does. Unfortunately, Macbeth himself is overheard threatening the man - right before he is seen punching him in the nose. As the leading suspect, Macbeth must now clear his name by finding out who at Friendly House is the real killer. But this vacation taken on the cheap will cost Macbeth dearly. The secrets each of the guests wants to hide will provoke desperate deceptions, and another unexpected death will touch Macbeth's own life with tragedy.

Call #: Mystery Bea
1st in series: Death of a Gossip

Bell, Nancy

Biggie and the Meddlesome Mailman: a Biggie Weatherford Mystery
In a town as small as Job's Crossing, a nosy mailman who opens the mail, reads it all, and broadcasts the contents to the rest of the people on his route - more or less, the whole town - puts himself seriously at risk, and it isn't long before Luther Abernathy suffers the consequences. When young J.R. stumbles upon the mailman's body, and an incipient militia group begins to make trouble, J.R.'s grandmother, the irrepressible Biggie, decides that Police Chief Paul and Silas needs help in finding the killer.

Call #: Mystery Bel
1st in series: Biggie and the Poisoned Politician

Block, Lawrence

The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams: a Bernie Rhodenbarr Mystery
To prove himself innocent of stealing an invaluable baseball card collection, Bernie Rhodenbarr pulls out all his master skills to uncover a scheme he should have been smart enough to avoid.

Call #: Mystery Bel
1st in series: Burglars Can't Be Choosers
Bradley, Alan  
**Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie: a Flavia de Luce Novel**
It is the summer of 1950-and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: a dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. "I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn't. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life.

Call #: Mystery Bra

Braun, Lilian Jackson  
**The Cat Who Could Read Backwards: a Jim Qwilleran Mystery**
The world of modern art is a mystery to many. But for Jim Qwilleran, it turns into a mystery of another sort when his assignment to the art beat for The Daily Fluxion leads down the path to murder. A stabbing in an art gallery, vandalized paintings, a fatal fall from a scaffolding--this is not at all what Qwilleran expects when he turns his reportorial talents to art. But Qwilleran and his newly found partner, Koko the brilliant Siamese, are back in their element--sniffing out clues and confounding criminals intent on mayhem and murder.

Call #: CDAB Mystery Bra

Brett, Simon  
**Mrs. Pargeter's Plot: a Mrs. Pargeter Mystery**
In her newest adventure the plucky widow has decided to build her dream house on the plot of land left to her by that much missed prince of a man, and crook, Mr. Pargeter. Her plans are delayed when a dead man is discovered in her wine cellar and her builder, the talented Concrete Jacket, is arrested for murder. The builder is no saint, but he's not a killer either. Unfortunately, the evidence is piling up -- and Concrete is refusing to help himself -- so Mrs. Pargeter had better step in. Ably assisted by her husband's colorful band of "business colleagues" -- Truffler Mason, Hedgeclipper Clinton, and Keyhole Crabbe -- she's determined to get to the bottom of things. But first, could somebody please explain why there's a monkey in her hotel room?

Call #: Mystery Bre  
1st in series: **A Nice Class of Corpse**
Brett, Simon

**The Torso in the Town: a Fethering Mystery**

A dinner party at a Fedborough mansion with some stuffy, not very close friends is not exactly Jude's cup of tea. But the practically mummified torso of a woman found in the cellar is much more up Jude's alley. Once again, Jude and her reluctant neighbor Carole, find themselves embroiled in another puzzling whodunit

Call #: Mystery Bre  
1st in series: The Body on the Beach

Brown, Rita Mae

**Murder on the Prowl**

As the principal of St. Elizabeth's, an exclusive private school that caters to Crozet, Virginia’s, best families, Roscoe Fletcher has proven himself to be a highly effective and vastly popular administrator. So when his obituary appears in the local paper, everyone in town is upset. Yet nothing compares to the shock they feel when they discover that Roscoe Fletcher isn’t dead at all. Someone has stooped to putting a phony obituary in the newspaper. But is it a sick joke or a sinister warning? Only Mrs. Murphy, the canny tiger cat, senses the pure malice behind the act. And when a second false obit appears, this time of a Hollywood has-been who is Roscoe Fletcher's best friend, Mrs. Murphy invites her friends, the corgi Tee Tucker, and fat cat Pewter, to do a bit of sleuthing. It's obvious to this shrewd puss that two phony death notices add up to deadly trouble. And her theory is borne out when one of the men is fiendishly murdered. "Harry" Haristeen, in her position as Crozet's postmistress, is the first to hear all the theories on whodunit--starting with the man's jealous wife. Then a second bloody homicide follows, and a third. People are dropping like flies in Crozet and no one seems to know why. Fearlessly exploring all the places where humans never think to go, Mrs. Murphy manages to untangle the knots of passion, duplicity, and greed that have sent someone into a killing frenzy. Yet knowing the truth isn't enough. Mrs. Murphy must somehow lead Harry, her favorite human, down a trail that is perilous...to a killer who is deadly...and a climax that mystery lovers will relish.

Call #: Mystery Bro  
1st in series: Wish You Were Here

Bruns, Don

**Stuff to Die For: a Stuff Series Mystery**

Best friends James Lessor and Skip Moore are hardly on the fast track. While James works as a line cook at Cap'n Crab, Skip spends his days selling - or rather, attempting to sell security systems to people who (a) have no money, and (b) have nothing they care to protect. James and Skip aren't upwardly mobile, but they're about to get literally mobile when James spends a surprise inheritance on a white box truck. An investment in the future, he surmises, as these two are starting a business - solely devoted to hauling other people's stuff. But the fledgling business takes a shocking turn when James and Skip unload the contents of their first moving job and find some unexpected cargo - a bloody human finger. James and Skip must scramble to stay one step ahead of the perpetrators of the gruesome crime in this witty, gritty mystery about big dreams, big ideas - and big trouble. Instead of chasing the American dream, James and Skip will be running for their lives

Call #: Mystery Bru  
1st in series: Reel Stuff
Cannell, Dorothy
*Murder at Mullings: a Florence Norris Mystery*
In its 300-year history, there has never once been a scandal at Mullings, ancestral home of the decent but dull Stodmarsh family. Until, that is, Edward Stodmarsh makes an ill-advised second marriage to the scheming Regina Stapleton, who insists on bringing her family's 'ornamental hermit' to live on the estate. Suddenly everyone wants to visit Mullings to glimpse this mysterious figure. Strange but harmless, thinks Florence Norris, the family's longstanding housekeeper. But events take a sinister turn with the arrival of sudden, violent death - and suddenly the hermit doesn't seem so harmless after all.

Call #: Mystery Can

Childs, Laura
*Silver Needle Mystery: a Tea Shop Mystery*
The Charleston Film Festival has brought Theodosia Browning and the staff of the Indigo Tea Shop a busy week of catering jobs. First up is the opening night gala at the historic Belvedere Theatre. Tinseltown and local luminaries seem to be mingling happily in the glamorously renovated lobby, but Theo notices that the atmosphere backstage is tense. Then famous director Jordan Cole is shot on his way to the podium, and the entire audience witnesses his death silhouetted across the scrim.

Call #: Mystery Chi
1st in series: *Death by Daejeeling*

Churchill, Jill
*Fear of Frying: a Jane Jeffry Mystery*
Suburban Chicago widow Jane Jeffry hates cooking, but loves food. She can't think of a worse fate than a rustic outing in a Wisconsin resort where she discovers a corpse, seemingly bludgeoned by a frying pan. When the body disappears and the "victim" reappears, Jane sets out to find out what's going on in this wacky wilderness wonderland.

Call #: Mystery Cle
1st in series: *Crime and Punishment*
Clement, Blaize

Curiosity Killed the Cat Sitter: the First Dixie Hemingway Mystery

Until three years ago, Dixie Hemingway was a deputy with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department in southwest Florida. Then came a tragic accident. Now Dixie's a pet-sitter on Siesta Key, a lush, exotic barrier island where the people tend to be rich, suntanned, and tolerant of one another's quirks. As Dixie tried to get her life back in order, pet-sitting is the perfect job. She goes into people's homes while they're gone and takes care of their pets; she likes the animals, they like her, and she doesn't have to deal with people very much. She especially does not have to be afraid that she'll run into a situation that will cause her to lose her hard-won composure. But when Dixie finds a man bizarrely drowned in a cat's water bowl, she is drawn into a tangled web of danger and secrets. Unbeknownst to Lieutenant Guidry, the homicide detective handling the murder, Dixie begins her own investigation into the whereabouts of the cat's owner, who has now vanished. Fans of The Cat Who book series by Lilian Jackson Braun will adore this riveting new pet-oriented sleuth and will eagerly await Dixie's next case: Will duplicity dog the dachshund?

Call #: Mystery Cle

Cockey, Tim

Hearse Case Scenario: a Hitchcock Sewell Mystery

Following his nose, Hitch uncovers a host of nefarious goings-on as well as some downright strange characters, including a felonious artist, a Miles Davis wanna-be, an Ida Lupino look-alike, and one very irritated dance instructor. Put them all together, throw in a bag full of cash and an incriminating Polaroid, and you have another surefire, humor-laced hit from one of the freshest voices writing in the mystery world today.

Call #: Mystery Coc

1st in series: The Hearse You Came In On

Colley, Barbara

Dusted to Death: a Charlotte LaRue Mystery

The city of New Orleans has long been a favorite backdrop for movie producers, and now one of Charlotte LaRue's best clients, Bitsy Duhe, is getting in on the action. A big Hollywood studio wants to use her gorgeous Victorian house for a movie shoot, and Bitsy wants Charlotte to take care of her beloved home during the shoot. For Charlotte, it's an exciting change of pace -- until the backstage drama turns into a murder mystery.

Call #: Mystery Cle

1st in series: Maid for Murder
Coyle, Cleo

**On What Grounds: a Coffeehouse Mystery**
Introducing a delightful new series featuring Clare Cosi, manager of the historic Village Blend coffeehouse... Clare arrives at work to discover the assistant manager dead in the back of the store, coffee grounds strewn everywhere. Two detectives investigate. But when they find no sign of forced entry or foul play, they deem it an accident. Still, Clare is not convinced. And after the police leave, Clare can't help wondering...If this was an act of murder, is she in danger?

Call #: Mystery Coy

Crider, Bill

**Death by Accident: a Sheriff Dan Rhodes Mystery**
Bill Crider's mysteries featuring Sheriff Dan Rhodes continually win praise, and his newest in the series, Death by accident, is no exception. Rhodes is one of the most likable law-enforcement officers in fiction, and his deep understanding of humankind, quick mind, common sense and humanity continually keep readers intrigued. In Death by accident, Rhodes, a Texan, is again faced with the misgivings of rural Blacklin County. A dead man floating in the old swimming pool could easily been called an accident, but Rhodes uncovers murder. Rhodes goes about looking for a connection and a killer.

Call #: Mystery Cri
1st in series: **Too Late to Die**

Davidson, Diane Mott

**Catering to Nobody: a Goldy Bear Mystery**
Even though working a wake isn't Goldy Bear's idea of fun, the Colorado caterer throws herself into preparing a savory feast featuring Poached Salmon and Strawberry Shortcake Buffet designed to soothe forty mourners. Her culinary efforts seem to be exactly what the doctor ordered . . . until her former father-in-law, gynecologist Fritz Korman, is struck down—and Goldy is accused of adding poison to the menu. Now, with the Department of Health impounding her leftovers, her ex-husband trashing her name, and her business close to being shut down, Goldy knows she can't wait for the police to serve up answers. She soon uncovers more than one skeleton in the closet, along with a veritable slew of unpalatable secrets—the kind that could make Goldy the main course in an unsavory killer's next murder.

Call #: Mystery Dav; CDAB Mystery Dav
Doss, James
The Shaman's Bones: a Charlie Moon Mystery
Passion, greed and vengeance come vividly alive on the haunting mesas of Colorado's Southern Ute Reservation as James D. Doss masterfully weaves together compelling mystery with extraordinary characters. The irascible and disturbingly prescient aged Ute Shaman Daisy Perika has called upon her nephew, Ute Reservation Police Officer Charlie Moon and his Granite City, Colorado, Police Chief pal Scott Parris to tell them of her ghastly visions of raining blood and death. To Moon she is just nutty Aunt Daisy wasting his time. But to Parris she is a wise old woman whose visions have had deadly repercussions in the past. Soon both Moon and Parris are following the gruesome trail left by a rogue fallen-away member of the Ute tribe -- a trail that leaves behind a murdered wife and an abandoned five-year-old daughter as Daisy's gruesome predictions become horrific realities.
Call #: Mystery Dos
1st in series: The Shaman Sings

Freeman, Gwen
Murder...Suicide...Whatever: a Fifi Cutter Mystery
Fifi Cutter is an acerbic, bi-racial twenty-something, with family issues and a delightfully cynical world view. Just fired from her boring, but steady job at Colchester Casualty, she is barely making it as an independent insurance adjustor when her freeloading half-brother, Bosco Dorff, shows up with the news that their Uncle Ted has been murdered. Fifi is hired to investigate. Ted was an insurance broker to the stars--porn stars. Posing as grief counselors, Fifi and Bosco interrogate a colorful array of suspects, including Ted’s smoking hot mistress, his portly assistant, and his deadly competition, Corazon Villareal. Fifi zips around LA to check out the various and vaguely guilty suspects -- all classic LA characters. When Bosco disappears, however, Fifi is catalysed into immediate action, finding the unlikely killer and gaining an unlikely accomplice.
Call #: Mystery Fre

Friedman, Kinky
Blast From the Past: a Kinky Friedman Mystery
Now, at last, it can be revealed! The TRUTH behind the legend! That Kinky Friedman... Where did he come from? How did he get that way? Shouldn't someone have called 911 long ago? Now, in "Blast from the Past," nationally bestselling author Kinky Friedman has searched his failing memory and has come up with a novel about his early days in New York City and how Kinky Friedman, the down-and-out star-crossed country music performer, became Kinky Friedman, the down-and-out star-crossed ace detective. In this prequel to his earlier novels, one which gives new meaning to the term "retro," Kinkster fans are given the definitive answer to two of literature's great burning questions: Where the hell did those weird characters come from anyway? And what about that puppet head? Of course, it's not just Kinky himself who gets retroed, but all the Village Irregulars as well -- Ratso, Rambam, and McGovern -- who are glimpsed in the nascent stage, as is the ever-luscious Stephanie DuPont, who blasts upon the scene as a five-year-old nymphet in patent-leather spikes. Imagine it's the '70s.
Call #: Mystery Fri
1st in series: Greenwich Killing Time
George, Anne

_Murder Gets a Life: a Southern Sisters Mystery_

Patricia Anne can't imagine why Mary Alice is in such an uproar over her son Ray's new bride. Sunshine Dabbs is as cute as can be," even if she is a bit unconventional, which should hardly come as a shock to Mary Alice given that she's the one who raised her boy. But with all her motherly instincts, Mary Alice is sure that this sweet little blonde Barbie doll--who met her son in Bora Bora after she won the trip on Wheel of Fortune--thinks she's found herself a fortune in Ray's hefty wallet. The sisters can't wait to get a look at Sunshine's family, and quite a look it turns out to be. As soon as Meemaw Turkett invites Mary Alice and Patricia Anne into her cozy trailer on the family compound they stumble over a corpse, and Meemaw's best hog butchering knife is stuck in its chest. Meemaw, a Cabbage Patch look-alike and Sunshine's grandmother, guardian, and the family matriarch is shocked to pieces and immediately summons the family to her trailer. Pawpaw, a lovable bearded grump has his own trailer, and their grown kids each enjoy a private home-away-from-home on the five-trailer compound. The discovery of the mysterious body brings in Mary Alice's nemesis, good ol' boy Sheriff Reuse, who, she knows from her experience at the Skoot 'n' Boot, is nothing but trouble. Within minutes, the compound is strewn with a weird collection of friends, neighbors and relatives. There's Meemaw's spooky channeler, ready to give guidance as needed; Sunshine's jilted boyfriend skulking around; a bunch of dogs ready to attack...and Kerrigan, Sunshine's mostly absentee mama, who stars in the kind of video flicks that might even shock Mary Alice.

1st in series: **Murder on a Girl's Night Out**

Gilman, Dorothy

_The Elusive Mrs. Pollifax: a Mrs. Pollifax Mystery_

While waiting for a view of her night-blooming cereus, the mild-seeming Mrs. Pollifax received urgent orders for a daring mission to aid an escape. Soon, the unlikely-looking international spy was sporting a beautiful new hat that hid eight forged passports....

1st in series: **The Unexpected Mrs. Polifax**

Grabenstein, Chris

_Tilt a Whirl: a John Ceepak Mystery_

There isn't much sun in the fun when a billionaire real estate tycoon is found murdered on the Tilt-A-Whirl at a seedy seaside amusement park in the otherwise quiet summer tourist town of Sea Haven. John Ceepak, a former MP just back from Iraq, has just joined the Sea Haven police department. The job offer came from an old army buddy who hoped to give Ceepak at least a summer's worth of rest and relaxation to help him forget the horrors of war. Instead, Ceepak will head up the murder investigation. He is partnered with Danny Boyle, a 24-year-old, part-time summer cop who doesn't carry a gun and only works with the police by day so he has enough pocket money left over to play with his beach buddies by night. In the first novel in a new series written in the spirit of Carl Hiaasen's work, the Tilt-A-Whirl murder pushes Ceepak's deep sense of honor and integrity to the limits as unexpected twists and turns keep the truth spinning wildly in every direction.

Call #: Mystery Gra
Hall, Parnell
**Stalking the Puzzle Lady: a Puzzle Lady Mystery**
Miss Cora Felton's number-one fan is stalking her--using Cora's own crossword column to follow her every move. When the first body turns up, the Puzzle Lady must create her cleverest clues yet in order to stalk her stalker and unmask a killer.

Call #: Mystery Hal
1st in series: **Clue for the Puzzle Lady**

Hall, Parnell
**Manslaughter: a Stanley Hastings Mystery**
Having survived a murderously uncomfortable New England holiday in the much-praised Cozy, private eye Stanley Hastings returns to more familiar New York urban turf with his twisted logic and droll style effectually intact. With Joe Balfour--a client who did time 25 years ago for killing a man in a barroom brawl--Stanley embarks on an ingeniously plotted and frequently hilarious excursion that will confront him continually with embarrassments: like the arrest of his client for the murder of a notorious blackmailer who's been found in his Upper East Side apartment with a carving knife in his back. And before he cracks the case, Stanley will be breaking and entering, contaminating crime scenes, concealing evidence (or else planting it), framing two innocent men for two different homicides, aiding an extortionist, hanging out in a topless bar, blackmailing a few attorneys, and outwitting the cops. This is the fifteenth novel in the long-running mystery series that the New York Times finds "very funny" in its "manic nonsense" and "fiendish constructions of sound logic."

Call #: Mystery Hal
1st in series: **Detective**

Handler, David
**The Cold Blue Blood: a Berger & Mitry Mystery**
Mitch Berger, a top film critic with a major New York newspaper at a surprisingly young age, has become almost a recluse since his wife died one year ago. He spends his time secluded in his apartment or in the dark recesses of a screening room. Although he continues to dazzle moviegoers and the film elite with his criticisms, his editor and good friend is alarmed about him. As a scheme to pull him out of the doldrums of his grief, she gives him a non-film assignment - to do a color story on the wealthy and social homeowners on Connecticut's Gold Coast. It takes some doing, but in the end Mitch agrees. He is fortunate to find a cottage to rent on Big Sister, the absolute top-of-the-line private island outside the town of Dorset. His landlady, Dolly, is pleasant and friendly, but some of the other inhabitants of this small piece of land, although too well bred to come right out and say it, are not happy to have Mitch, born of parents only one generation away from Eastern Europe and raised on the city's pavements, arrive in their back yard. But Dolly, whose husband has recently left her, needs the money, and at least she is more than gracious. The discovery of a body during a bout of optimistic gardening in Dolly's back yard brings on the other main player - Lieutenant Desiree Mitry, one of only three women on the Connecticut State Police major crimes squad, the youngest of the three, and the only black. A dedicated officer, she is the terror of everyone who doesn't really want to give a home to one of her stray cats. She is, as well, a closet artist and a complicated and beautiful woman, and she intrigues Mitch from the start.

Call #: Mystery Han