

Mystery Movie Series

at Ames Public Library



Series from books, arranged by authors:

Margery Allingham is pre-eminent among the writers who brought the detective story to maturity in the decades between the two world wars. She created an aristocratic, unassuming detective called Albert Campion, who evolved from “just a silly ass” in the 1920s into an eminent intelligence veteran.

Campion: The Complete First Season (VIDEO DRAMA CAM) Peter Davidson plays Allingham’s enigmatic sleuth. Brian Glover is his loyal but slightly shady manservant. This set includes: *Look to the Lady*, *Police at the Funeral*, *The Case of the Late Pig*, and *Death of a Ghost*.

Campion: The Complete Second Season (DVD DRAMA CAM) With his owlish glasses and a manservant named Lugg, Campion seems like a real twit. You will change your mind. This set includes: *Dancers in Mourning*, *Flowers for the Judge*, *Mystery Mile*, and *Sweet Danger*.

M. C. Beaton: Marion Chesney (aka M. C. Beaton) has written 22 Hamish Macbeth mysteries to date, starting with *Death of a Gossip* in 1985. Ms. Chesney, author of the Agatha Raisin series, lives in a Cotswold cottage in mid-west England. Under her real name she writes Regency romances and also has written under six other pen names!

Hamish Macbeth (DVD COMEDY HAM) Series 1, 2, or 3. This series was originally produced for television and based on characters created by M. C. Beaton. Police constable Hamish Macbeth keeps the peace in the small Scottish town of Lochdubh in his own unique way.

Raymond Chandler (1888-1959) is best known for his character Philip Marlow, who appeared in Chandler’s first novel, *The Big Sleep*, in 1939. Marlow would become synonymous with, and long outlive, his creator. He is a wisecracking, chess-playing, late 1930s Los Angeles private eye. The films listed below are not adaptations of the six Marlow novels, but are based upon the Marlow character.

Philip Marlow: Private Eye (DVD DRAMA PHI) 100 min./disc).

Disc 1: *Smart-aleck Kill*, *The Pencil*, *Nevada Gas*, and *Finger Man*.

Disc 2: *The King in Yellow*, *Pick-up on Noon Street*, *Guns at Cyrano’s*, and *Trouble Is My Business*.

Disc 3: *Spanish Blood*, *Blackmailers Don’t Shoot*, and *Red Wind*. The three discs are packaged separately.



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Agatha Christie (1890-1976) is probably England's best-known mystery novelist; she is the best-selling fiction writer of all time. Her principal detectives are Jane Marple and Hercule Poirot.

Miss Marple (DVD DRAMA MIS) 421 min. Joan Hickson plays St. Mary-Mead's spinster detective. *The Body in the Library, A Murder is Announced, and A Pocketful of Rye.*

Agatha Christie's Miss Marple (DVD DRAMA AGA) 400 min. Miss Jane Marple (Joan Hickson) uses her powers of connection and intuitive understanding of criminal behavior to solve murder mysteries. *A Caribbean Mystery, The Mirror Crack'd from Side-to-Side, Sleeping Murder, and The 4:50 from Paddington.*

Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, Set 2 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 300 min. *The Moving Finger, At Bertram's Hotel, Murder at the Vicarage, Nemesis, and They Do It with Mirrors.*

Agatha Christie's Marple (DVD DRAMA AGA) With a new, more *au courant* Jane Marple (Geraldine McEwan), the two seasons of this series contain eight separate discs: *The Body in the Library, The 4:50 from Paddington, The Murder at the Vicarage, A Murder is Announced, Sleeping Murder, By the Pricking of My Thumbs, The Moving Finger, and The Sittaford Mystery.*

Hercule Poirot, starring David Suchett as the impeccably turned-out, diminutive Belgian (not French!) sleuth. With his razor-sharp mind and the aid of Captain Hastings (Hugh Fraser), Poirot unravels cases without mussing a hair in his famous mustache. Set in elegant 1930s England, the series includes Chief Inspector Japp (Phillip Jackson) and personal assistant/secretary Miss Lemon (Pauline Moran).

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 1 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Disappearance of Mr. Davenheim, The Veiled Lady, and The Lost Mine*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 2 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Cornish Mystery, Double Sin, and The Adventure of the Cheap Flat*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 3 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Kidnapped Prime Minister, The Adventure of the Western Star, and How Does Your Garden Grow*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 4 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Million Dollar Bond Robbery, The Plymouth Express, and The Wasps' Nest*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 5 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *Tragedy at Marsdon Manor, Double Clue, and The Mystery of the Spanish Chest*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 6 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Theft of the Royal Ruby, The Affair at the Victory Ball, and The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 7 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 152 min. *The Adventures of the Egyptian Tomb, The Underdog, and The Yellow Iris*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 8 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Case of the Missing Will, The Adventure of the Italian Nobleman, and The Chocolate Box*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 9 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *Dead Man's Mirror, The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan, and The Adventure of the Clapham Cook*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 10 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *Murder in the Mews, The Adventure of Johnnie Waverly, and Four and Twenty Blackbirds*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 11 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The Third Floor Flat, Triangle at Rhodes, and A Problem at Sea*

Agatha Christie's Poirot Collector's Set 12 (DVD DRAMA AGA) 153 min. *The King of Clubs, Dream, and Incredible Theft*



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***Death on the Nile* (DVD DRAMA DEA)** 97 min. When Linnet Doyle steals and marries her best friend's fiancé, the friend gets revenge by hounding the newlyweds. On a cruise down the Nile, the despised Mrs. Doyle is found murdered. Thank goodness, Poirot (David Suchet) is onboard!

***Evil Under the Sun* (DVD DRAMA EVI)** 100 min. During a doctor-ordered rest at a resort, Poirot (David Suchet) fears a fellow visitor may die—and *viola* a woman is found dead.

***Agatha Christie's Murder in Mesopotamia* (DVD DRAMA AGA)** 100 min. An archeologist's beautiful but unpopular wife is murdered while the couple is in the Middle East excavating an historical site. At the request of local authorities, a vacationing Hercule Poirot takes on the case.

***Murder on the Orient Express* (VIDEO DRAMA MUR)** 128 min. 1974. This version is not a David Suchet dramatization of Poirot. Albert Finney stars as Poirot, with Lauren Bacall, Martin Balsam, Ingrid Bergman, Jacqueline Bisset, Jean-Pierre Cassel, Sean Connery, John Gielgud, Wendy Hiller, Anthony Perkins, Rachel Roberts, Vanessa Redgrave, Michael York, and Richard Widmark (as a victim, you do not mind getting his just desserts!). Poirot interviews all twelve suspects on the *Orient Express* to find the killer of the hated American millionaire (Widmark).

Tommy and Tuppence are Dame Agatha's stylish, crime-solving couple, Tommy (James Warwick) and Tuppence (Francesca Annis) Beresford, a fun-loving pair who match wits with criminals and with each other. Working in London area in the 1920s, the Beresfords were detective fiction's first married crime-solving duo and gave birth to the now-formulaic male/female detective adventures.

***Tommy & Tuppence: Partners in Crime Set 1* (DVD DRAMA TOM)** 330 min. Set 1 chronicles their partnership from its beginnings and as the proprietors of Blunt's Detective Agency. *Secret Adversary*, *Affair of the Pink Pearl*, *The House of Lurking Death*, *Finessing the King*, and *The Clergyman's Daughter*

***Agatha Christie's Tommy & Tuppence: Partners in Crime Set 2* (VIDEO DRAMA AGA) and *Tommy and Tuppence Set 2* (DVD DRAMA TOM)** 320 min. *The Sunningdale Mystery*, *The Ambassador's Boots*, *The Man in the Mist*, *The Case of the Missing Lady*, *The Unbreakable Alibi*, and *The Cracker*

Colin Dexter's penned both novels and some episodes written for the screen but based upon Dexter's characters, Inspector Morse (as a rule, known only as "Morse") and his affable and long-suffering sidekick, Lewis. Most of the mysteries are set in the beautiful university city of Oxford, England.

***Inspector Morse: Absolute Conviction* (DVD DRAMA INS)** 105 min. Bailey, Thornton, and Cryer were respected entrepreneurs until it was discovered that they had stolen millions of pounds from their investors. Morse (John Thaw) and Sergeant Lewis (Kevin Wately) investigate.

***Inspector Morse: Cherubim & Seraphim* (DVD DRAMA INS)** 103 min. Morse visits his stepmother and half-sister in the midst of a tragedy. His step-niece has committed suicide.

***Inspector Morse: Daughters of Cain* (DVD DRAMA INS)** 102 min. Suspects and alibis abound after the murder of Dr. Felix McClure. An investigation is complicated by a story of undergraduate suicide, drugs in college, and the dismissal of a college scout (housekeeper).

***Inspector Morse: Day of the Devil* (DVD DRAMA INS)** 102 min. When a dangerous mental patient escapes from a high security hospital, Morse quickly realizes that he is dealing with more than just a rapist-on-the-loose. Signs of Satanism appear to complicate his investigation.

***Inspector Morse: Dead of Jericho* (DVD DRAMA INS)** 105 min. Morse, who never quite finds romance, is drawn to the beautiful Anne Stavely. Sadly, it is a love affair destined to fail.



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Inspector Morse: Deadly Slumber (DVD DRAMA INS) 100 min. Avril Steppins is permanently brain damaged after a minor operation. When the doctor who runs the clinic that treated Avril is murdered, Inspector Morse has an immediate suspect, Avril's father.

Inspector Morse: The Remorseful Day Collection Set (DVD DRAMA INS) 450 min. In his final challenge, Morse's inquiry is rekindled by new evidence. *The Daughters of Cain, Death Is Now My Neighbor, The Wench Is Dead,* and *The Remorseful Day* are directly from Dexter novels.

Inspector Lewis (DVD DRAMA INS) 95 min. After the death in 2000 of Morse, Sergeant Lewis (Kevin Whately) was promoted to inspector and took two years off in the British Virgin Isles. Newly widowed, he returns to Oxford on a murder case, referring to Morse's notes to solve it.

Arthur Conan Doyle's novels and short stories, written in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, about detective Sherlock Holmes and Dr. (James or John) Watson, are the basis for many movies and television portrayals. The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce movies portrayed the actual stories written by Conan Doyle, plus productions written for the screen and updated to include 1940s subjects and settings. The television series starring Jeremy Brett as Holmes was good at staying true to the written canon and providing a believable setting. An earlier television series starring Ronald Howard (son of Leslie Howard of *Gone with the Wind*) is a stylish rendition of the famous obsessive-compulsive detective.

The Sherlock Holmes Collection. Volume One. (DVD DRAMA SHE) 270 min. Introduced by Robert Gitt, the preservation officer at the UCLA Film and Television Archive, the series contains Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films: *Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror, Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon, Sherlock Holmes in Washington,* and *Sherlock Holmes Faces Death*

The Sherlock Holmes Collection. Volume Three. (DVD DRAMA SHE) 265 min. *The Woman in Green, Pursuit to Algiers, Terror by Night,* and *Dressed to Kill*

Sherlock Holmes: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 82 min. Holmes and Watson help a woman with a family curse and murder threats! Concurrently, someone (Dr. Moriarty, perhaps) tries to steal the crown jewels, including the "Star of Delhi."

Sherlock Holmes: Dressed to Kill (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 72 min. Based on Conan Doyle's story "A Scandal in Bohemia," this is a tale of murder, blackmail, and revenge involving a cache of music boxes. This was the last release in the World War II Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce series.

Sherlock Holmes Faces Death (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 68 min. A chessboard holds the key to a murder in an old house that is a sanatorium for war victims. Holmes (Rathbone) does it again!

Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles (DVD DRAMA SHE) 80 min. Holmes (Rathbone) and Dr. Watson (Bruce) investigate a curse by a seemingly supernatural hound, bent on destroying the House of the Baskervilles.

Sherlock Holmes in the House of Fear (DVD DRAMA SHE) 69 min. Holmes (Rathbone) finds out why the members of "The Good Comrades Club" are being murdered and hideously mutilated.

Sherlock Holmes in Washington (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 71 min. Sherlock Holmes (Rathbone) flies west and prevents Nazi spies from stealing a microfilm document hidden in a match folder.

Sherlock Holmes: The Pearl of Death (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 69 min. Holmes (Rathbone) and Dr. Watson (Bruce) tackle the mystery of a killer nicknamed "the Creeper" and his connection with the "Pearl of Death." The jewel is priceless but dangerous to own.



Sherlock Holmes: Pursuit to Algiers (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 65 min. Holmes (Rathbone) and Watson (Bruce) board a ship to protect a young scion, but face jewel thieves and royal assassins.

Sherlock Holmes: The Scarlet Claw (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 74 min. Sherlock Holmes (Rathbone) and Dr. Watson (Bruce) are in a small village in Canada where a series of ghastly murders take place — supposedly committed by a legendary phantom.

Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 68 min. Based on Doyle's story "The Dancing Men," but adapted for a World War II audience, it pits Holmes (Rathbone) against his archrival, Professor Moriarty, who has kidnapped the inventor of a new bomb.

Sherlock Holmes: The Spider Woman (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 62 min. Sherlock Holmes (Rathbone) and Dr. Watson (Bruce) solve the reason behind a rash of London "pajama suicides."

Sherlock Holmes: Terror by Night (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 60 min. In this 1946 film based on Doyle's "The Adventure of the Empty House," theft of a precious gem and a murder aboard a train from London to Edinburgh, are unraveled — a scheme of false identities and poison dart murder.

Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 65 min. This film, based on Doyle's "His Last Bow," was the first of the World War II Sherlock Holmes thrillers. Holmes (Rathbone) and Watson (Bruce) search wartime London to discover who is behind enemy attacks.

Sherlock Holmes: The Woman in Green (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 68 min. Sherlock Holmes (Rathbone) investigates a series of murders in which each victim's forefinger has been cut off.

Sherlock Holmes: The Collection, Episodes 1-4 (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 110 min. A television series, produced by Sheldon Reynolds, aired in 39 episodes from Oct. 1954 to Oct. 1955, with Ronald Howard as Holmes. Howard resembles his father, Leslie Howard, of *Pygmalion (My Fair Lady)*, *The Petrified Forest*, and *Gone with the Wind*. These episodes are "The Haunted Gainsborough," "The Winthrop Legend," "The Exhumed Client," and "The Violent Suitor."

Sherlock Holmes: The Collection, Episodes 5-8 (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 110 min. "The Christmas Pudding," "The Deadly Prophecy," "The Belligerent Ghost," and "Lady Beryl"

Sherlock Holmes: The Collection, Episodes 9-12 (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 110 min. "Pennsylvania Gun," "Baker Street Bachelors," "Split Ticket," and "Blindman's Bluff"

Sherlock Holmes: The Collection, Episodes 13-16 (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 110 min. "Neurotic Detective," "The Red-Headed League," "The Vanished Detective," and "The Night Train Riddle"

Sherlock Holmes The Collection, Episodes 17-20 (VIDEO DRAMA SHE) 110 min. "The Eiffel Tower," "The Jolly Hangman," "The Cunningham Heritage," and "The Diamond Tooth"

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (DVD DRAMA ADV) 690 min. Jeremy Brett is Holmes and David Burke is Watson in the Granada TV productions, the most true renditions of Doyle's writings. This first series (1984-85) contains: "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Dancing Men," "The Naval Treaty," "The Solitary Cyclist," "The Crooked Man," "The Speckled Band," "The Blue Carbuncle," "The Copper Beaches," "The Greek Interpreter," "The Norwood Builder," "The Resident Patient," "The Red-Headed League," and "The Final Problem."

The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (DVD DRAMA CAS) 390 min. This is the last of Doyle's short stories dramatized by Granada TV. Brett is ill in these six films, and his death prevented the production of the entire Holmes canon. "The Disappearance of Lady Carfax," "Thor Bridge," "Shoscombe Old Place," "The Boscombe Valley," "An Illustrious Client," and "A Creeping Man"



Sherlock Holmes: Feature Films 111 min. each. Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke also starred in five feature-length films which are adaptations of three short stories and two novels:

The Eligible Bachelor (DVD DRAMA ELI),
The Hound of the Baskervilles (DVD DRAMA HOU),
The Last Vampire (DVD DRAMA LAS),
The Master Blackmailer (DVD DRAMA MAS), and
The Sign of Four (DVD DRAMA SIG)

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (DVD DRAMA PRI) 125 min. Written and produced by Billy Wilder, this movie takes Holmes to Scotland to help a woman find her missing husband.

Dr. Bell and Mr. Doyle: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes (DVD DRAMA DR) 116 min. In 1878 Arthur Conan Doyle meets the brilliant teacher, Dr. Bell, and the medical student is drawn into crime investigation. As he assists Bell in solving police cases, Doyle notes his tutor's talent for outwitting clever criminals. When a vicious cat-and-mouse game has a different ending, Doyle's life changes completely and even Dr. Bell's mind cannot predict the outcome.

Elizabeth George's novels were filmed for BBC television and broadcast in the US on PBS's MYSTERY. A co-production of the BBC and WGBH/Boston, the Inspector Lynley series stars Nathaniel Parker and Sharon Small. As a lower-middle class woman, Havers is determined to make her way in a male-dominated London police force. The following are listed in order, and all are based on the novel of the same name, unless otherwise noted. The characters evolve with time.

The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, 1:

A Great Deliverance (DVD DRAMA INS) 180 min.
Payment in Blood (DVD DRAMA INS) 180 min.
Well-Schooled in Murder (DVD DRAMA INS) 180 min.
For the Sake of Elena (DVD DRAMA INS) 180 min.
Missing Joseph (DVD DRAMA INS) 180 min.

The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, 2:

Playing for the Ashes (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min.
In the Presence of the Enemy (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min.
Deception on His Mind (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min.
In Pursuit of the Proper Sinner (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min.
A Suitable Vengeance (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min.
A Traitor to Memory (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min.

The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, 3:

A Cry for Justice (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min. Based on George's characters.
If Wishes Were Horses (DVD DRAMA INS) 90 min. Based on George's characters.

The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, 4:

In Divine Proportion (DVD DRAMA INS) 86 min. Based on George's characters.
In the Guise of Death (DVD DRAMA INS) 86 min. Based on George's characters.
The Seed of Cunning (DVD DRAMA INS) 86 min. Based on George's characters.
The Word of God (DVD DRAMA INS) 86 min. Based on George's characters.



Caroline Graham writes about the villages of Midsomer County in these British television mysteries. Tom Barnaby is the chief detective for these English country villages. Some of the cottages hide murderers, thieves, and blackmailers. Caroline Graham wrote only five of the mysteries (those in Set 5), plus two other Barnaby novels (*A Place of Safety* and *A Ghost in the Machine*), which have yet to be filmed. The other films in this series are based on Graham's characters.

Midsomer Murders, Set 1 (DVD DRAMA MID) 400 min. *Death's Shadow, Strangler's Wood, Blood Will Out, and Beyond the Grave*

Midsomer Murders, Set 2 (DVD DRAMA MID) 400 min. *Dead Man's Eleven, Death of a Stranger, Blue Herrings, and Judgment Day*

Midsomer Murders, Set 3 (DVD DRAMA MID) 500 min. *The Garden of Death, The Destroying Angel, An Electric Vendetta, Who Killed Cock Robin, and Dark Autumn*

Midsomer Murders, Set 4 (DVD DRAMA MID) 500 min. *Tainted Fruit, Ring Out Your Dead, Murder on St. Malley's Day, Market for Murder, and A Worm in the Blood*

Midsomer Murders, Set 5 (DVD DRAMA MID) 500 min. *The Killings at Badger's Drift, Death of a Hollow Man, Death in Disguise, Written in Blood, and Faithful unto Death*

Midsomer Murders, Set 6 (DVD DRAMA MID) 500 min. *A Talent for Life, Death and Dreams, Painted in Blood, A Tale of Two Hamlets, and Birds of Prey*

Midsomer Murders, Set 7 (DVD DRAMA MID) 400 min. *The Green Man, Bad Tidings, The Fisher King, and Sins of Commission*

Midsomer Murders, Set 8 (DVD DRAMA MID) 300 min. *The Maid in Splendor, The Straw Woman, and Ghosts of Christmas Past*, plus an interview with John Nettles, the actor who portrays Inspector Barnaby.

Midsomer Murders, Set 9 (DVD DRAMA MID) 300 min. *Things That Go Bump in the Night, Dead in the Water, Orchis Fatalis, and Bantling Boy*

Tony Hillerman has written 19 mystery novels starring Detective Jim Chee and Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn of the Navajo Tribal Police, and three have been adapted for television by PBS. View them in the order given to see the evolution and development of the ongoing characters.

Skinwalkers (DVD DRAMA SKI) 97 min. The Navajo Tribal Police investigate the murder of a medicine man and find a partially-completed pictograph. The arrow used in the killing has a tip of human bone, a sign that a Navajo spirit, or *skinwalker*, is at work.

Coyote Waits (DVD DRAMA COY) 107 min. Navajo police detective Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee solve a modern murder and a bank robbery supposedly committed by Butch Cassidy.

A Thief of Time (DVD DRAMA THI) 95 min. In a backdrop of Navajo lore, Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee delve into illegal archaeological excavations, purloined pots, and slain pot hunters.



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P. D. James: Dame P. D. James (aka, Phyllis Dorothy James White) wrote her “Adam Dalgliesh” mystery, *Cover Her Face*, in 1962. Her “Cordelia Gray” novels include *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* (1972) and *The Skull Beneath the Skin* (1982). Most of her series novels have been filmed.

Adam Dalgliesh: Of the 13 Dalgliesh novels, Ames Public Library owns 11. The eighth in the series, *Devices and Desire*, is no longer available for purchase in film. The 13th, *The Lighthouse*, published in 2005, has yet to make it onto DVD. Here are the other 11 in the order of their publications as novels.

***Cover Her Face* (DVD DRAMA COV)** 295 min. Scotland Yard’s Adam Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) searches for a “back-seat strangler” who has murdered four people. When an unpopular forensic scientist is found dead in a government laboratory, almost everyone there is a suspect.

***A Mind to Murder* (DVD DRAMA MIN)** 101 min. When the administrator of a psychiatric clinic is murdered, Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) is caught in political intrigue, blackmail, and deceit.

***Unnnatural Causes* (DVD DRAMA UNN)** 103 min. Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) investigates the bizarre murder of a man, with his hands cut off, found floating in a dinghy out at sea.

***Shroud for a Nightingale* (DVD DRAMA SHR)** 251 min. In this psychological mystery, Dalgliesh (Marsden) must probe for clues hidden deep within the suspects in a teaching hospital.

***The Black Tower* (DVD DRAMA BLA)** 295 min. Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) is caught in a diabolical scheme that could threaten his life.

***Death of an Expert Witness* (DVD DRAMA DEA)** 295 min. Dalgliesh (Marsden) navigates a web of desperation, blackmail, secret love, and silence to solve murders that appear to be related.

***A Taste for Death* (DVD DRAMA TAS)** 295 min. Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) pursues every angle to discover and expose dark secrets behind the façade of a government minister’s household.

***Original Sin* (VIDEO DRAMA ORI)** 116 min. A mysterious Boston woman’s insatiable lust for her new wealthy, plantation owner husband is exceeded only by her desire for his fortune.

***A Certain Justice* (DVD DRAMA CER)** 180 min. This last in the series to star Roy Marsden as Dalgliesh explores the true meaning of justice. A brilliant, but unpopular defense attorney is found stabbed to death, a barrister’s wig on her head, and her body drenched in blood that is not her own.

***Death in Holy Orders* (DVD DRAMA DEA)** 180 min. Commander Dalgliesh (Martin Shaw) is asked by Sir Alfred Treeves, a successful businessman, to investigate the death of his son, one of the young ordinands of the theological college of St. Anselm’s in East Anglia.

***The Murder Room* (DVD DRAMA MUR)** 180 min. Commander Dalgliesh (Martin Shaw) undertakes a murder investigation at the Dupayne Museum. The circumstances of the case bear an unsettling similarity to the historical cases commemorated in the museum’s “murder room.”

Cordelia Gray: These novel adaptations are fine examples of a strong female protagonist in well-wrought who-done-its.

***An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* (VIDEO DRAMA UNS)** 330 min. Though named after the first of James’s two Cordelia Gray novels, this 1997 BBC series starring Helen Baxendale as Cordelia is based on the character rather than the books. “Cordelia’s First Solo Case,” “Sacrifice,” and “A Last Embrace”

***An Unsuitable Job for a Woman, Series 2* (VIDEO DRAMA UNS)** 230 min. The fiercely independent, and now very pregnant, young detective (Helen Baxendale) matches wits with a pair of murderous thugs. She snares an unlikely killer with a connection to Scotland Yard and proves to one and all that her job is hardly unsuitable. “Living on Risk” and “Playing God”



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Peter Lovesey began writing mysteries in 1970 with *Wobble to Death*, introducing Sergeant Cribb in Victorian England. This Scotland Yard investigator is a former military man turning to the war on crime. Cribb (Alan Dobie) is abetted by Constable Thackeray (William Simon, who later plays Inspector Alleyn's sidekick Fox in the Ngaio Marsh series, below), and is given his marching orders by the upper-crust Inspector Jowett (David Waller). Lovesey wrote eight Inspector Cribb novels, televised by Granada Television and broadcast in the United States on PBS's *Mystery* in the early 1980s. Six of these make up Set 1. Set 2's six stories were written for television, based on Lovesey's characters. *Abracadaver* and *Waxwork*, of the television series, are not available on DVD.

Sergeant Cribb, Set 1 (DVD DRAMA SER) 310 min. Some episodes are overly set-bound (as in the theater), but this improves when the production team obtains some reasonably authentic Victorian locations. *A Case of Spirits; Swing, Swing Together; Wobble to Death; Invitation to a Dynamite Party; The Mad Hatter's Holiday; and The Detective Wore Silk Drawers*

Sergeant Cribb, Set 2 (DVD DRAMA SER) 298 min. From the brothels of London to Windsor Castle, Sgt. Cribb keeps a level head and a sense of humor. *The Horizontal Witness; Something Old, Something New; The Hand that Rocks the Cradle; The Last Trumpet; The Choir That Wouldn't Sing; and Murder Old Boy?*

Ngaio Marsh is the only "great lady" of English mystery's golden age, including Margery Allingham, Agatha Christie, and Dorothy Sayers, who published into the 1980s. From 1932-1982, Marsh wrote 32 classic English detective novels of international acclaim. A New Zealand native transplanted to the British Isles, Marsh was trained in the arts and the theater, explaining her character, artist Agatha Troy, and the setting of several novels in the theater world. Inspector Roderick Alleyn (Patrick Malahide), working in Scotland Yard, is Troy's (Belinda Lang) love interest. Later the two marry. The films should be viewed in the order shown to see the character evolution and development.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 1, Disc 1—A Man Lay Dead (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. The novel was set in 1934, but the film is set in 1948. Inspector Alleyn joins a party where the host proposes a game of "Murder," but one guest really dies and a valuable silver chalice is missing.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 1, Disc 2—The Nursing Home Murder (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. The British Home Secretary dies after an operation, but his wife insists that he was murdered. When Alleyn investigates, he finds a great many things amiss at the nursing home.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 1, Disc 3—Final Curtain (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. Troy is commissioned to paint a portrait of actor Sir Henry Ancred. She finds Sir Henry, agitated and ill, with his eccentric family. A suspicious death at the manor leads to Alleyn's investigation. Arguments over the dead man's will and anonymous letters cause suspicions of murder.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 1, Disc 4—Death at the Bar (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. An eminent barrister dies at a village inn, seemingly killed by a poisoned dart. When Alleyn investigates, he finds a wealth of suspects and a web that he must unravel to catch the murderer.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 2, Disc 1—Death in a White Tie (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. The London debutante season is in swing, and a blackmailer is on the guest list. Alleyn plants a friend in the midst of a crowd, but the *mole* is murdered. Alleyn plans a killer's coming-out party.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 2, Disc 2—Hand in Glove (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. A quaint village is the perfect place...for murder. A body in a ditch near the home of Percival Pyke-Period (splendidly played by Sir John Gielgud), leads to suspects who attended the same luncheon.



Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 2, Disc 3—Scales of Justice (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. WWI hero Sir Henry Lanklander entreats his friend, Colonel Cartarete, to publish his memoir—at any cost. The Colonel's body is found and a chapter is gone from Sir Henry's book. Alleyn and 'Brer Fox (William Simons) investigate. The family is reluctant to discuss the missing contents.

Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, Set 2, Disc 4—Dead Water (DVD DRAMA INS) 98 min. On the Scottish island of Portacarrick, Elspeth Cost believes the waters of Pixie Falls have legendary powers and wishes to build a health facility. Emily Pride, the island's landlord, protests and an attempt is made on Pride's life. Alleyn visits the island on a holiday and helps find a murderer.

John Mortimer, an English barrister, writer, and dramatist, has written over 50 books, plays, and scripts. His most famous creation is Horace Rumpole, who defends the accused in London's Old Bailey. Rumpole was created for *Rumpole of the Bailey*, in the 1975 BBC series *Play for Today*. Played by Leo McKern the popular character was developed into a *Rumpole of the Bailey* television series for Thames Television and a series of books. The DVDs feature introductions by John Mortimer.

Rumpole of the Bailey, Set 1 (DVD DRAMA RUM)

Disc 1: 200 min. *Rumpole and the Younger Generation, Rumpole and the Alternative Society, Rumpole and the Honourable Member, and Rumpole and the Married Lady*

Disc 2: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Learned Friends, Rumpole and the Heavy Brigade, and Rumpole and the Man of God*

Disc 3: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Case of Identity, Rumpole and the Show Folk, and Rumpole and the Fascist Beast*

Disc 4: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Course of True Love, Rumpole and the Age for Retirement, and Rumpole's Return*

Rumpole of the Bailey, Set 2 (DVD DRAMA RUM)

Disc 1: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Genuine Article, Rumpole and the Golden Thread, and Rumpole and the Old Boy Network*

Disc 2: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Female of the Species, Rumpole and the Sporting Life, and Rumpole and the Last Resort*

Disc 3: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Old, Old Story; Rumpole and the Blind Tasting; and Rumpole and the Official Secret*

Disc 4: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Judge's Elbow, Rumpole and the Bright Seraphim, and Rumpole's Last Case*

Rumpole of the Bailey, Set 3 (DVD DRAMA RUM)

Disc 1: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Bubble Reputation, Rumpole and the Barrow Boy, and Rumpole and the Age of Miracles*

Disc 2: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Tap End, Rumpole and Portia, and Rumpole and the Quality of Life*

Disc 3: 150 min. *Rumpole a la Carte, Rumpole and the Summer of Discontent, and Rumpole and the Right to Silence*

Disc 4: 150 min. *Rumpole at Sea, Rumpole and the Quacks, and Rumpole for the Prosecution*

Disc 5: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Children of the Devil, Rumpole and the Miscarriage of Justice, and Rumpole and the Eternal Triangle*

Disc 6: 150 min. *Rumpole and the Reform of Joby Jonson, Rumpole and the Family Pride, and Rumpole on Trial*



Ellis Peters, born Edith Pargeter, 1913-1995, wrote fiction and nonfiction under her given name and her pen name, but wrote as Ellis Peters for detective fiction. Peters' first mystery series, with Detective Sergeant George Felse, began in 1951. Her second series with Brother Cadfael, a monk who mixes medicinal herbs and solves mysteries, is known the world over. Twenty novels and one set of short stories were set in Shrewsbury Abbey in tenth century England near the Welch border. Thirteen of the novels have been televised starring Derek Jacobi as Cadfael. If read in order, the characters develop, but this is not as important in the films. After each title, the book order is given (1-8, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19).

Cadfael: *A Morbid Taste for Bones* #1 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 78 min. When a party of monks treks to Wales to dig up the remains of St. Winifred, an opponent to their excavation is found dead.

Cadfael: *One Corpse Too Many* #2 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. Cadfael is called upon to bury ninety-four rebel soldiers, but the ceremony is disrupted when he finds one corpse too many.

Cadfael: *Monk's Hood* #3 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 76 min. Brother Cadfael investigates the murder of a wealthy landowner who had disinherited his stepson. He is poisoned by food prepared by the staff at the abbey! The man's widow is Cadfael's own childhood sweetheart.

Cadfael: *The Leper of St. Giles* #5 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 77 min. A great wedding is to take place at the Abbey of Shrewsbury between the powerful Baron Huon de Domville and the lovely Iveta De Massard. When the baron disappears the night before the wedding, Cadfael investigates.

Cadfael: *The Sanctuary Sparrow* #7 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. Suspected of robbing the town goldsmith, a juggler seeks refuge at the abbey. Brother Cadfael keeps an eye on him while the authorities investigate. Then the goldsmith's neighbor is found floating dead in the river.

Cadfael: *The Pilgrim of Hate* #10 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. A body is found among a crowd of visitors to Shrewsbury, leaving Cadfael to uncover possible explanations for the death.

Cadfael: *The Raven in the Foregate* #12 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. After refusing to baptize the illegitimate baby of a local prostitute, the new parish priest is found dead in the river.

Cadfael: *The Rose Rent* #13 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. A young monk falls in love with a beautiful widow and is found cruelly bludgeoned to death.

Cadfael: *The Potter's Field* #17 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. When a woman's skeleton is discovered in a local potter's field, Cadfael must find the culprit before he is lynched by a mob.

Cadfael: *The Holy Thief* #19 (DVD DRAMA CAD) 75 min. Brothers from Ramsey come to Shrewsbury for money for their monastery, which was ransacked by rebels. They ask for a loan of Saint Winifred's Holy Relics, housed at Shrewsbury, but are offered precious gems instead. The Holy Relics disappear. Cadfael, dispatched to recover them, unearths a much greater wrong.

Cadfael: *Screenplays* (DVD DRAMA CAD) 228 min. *St. Peter's Fair* #4: Murder visits the Shrewsbury Fair and Cadfael's own life is in danger. *Virgin in the Ice* #6: Cadfael's clumsy but loved novice is accused of rape and murder. *The Devil's Novice* #8: Cadfael investigates a cleric's murder. A young man and aspiring novice admits to the crime. Cadfael exposes his lie.



Ruth Rendell, Baroness of Babergh, CBE, who also writes under the pseudonym Barbara Vine, was born on February 17, 1930. Like Agatha Christie, but a better writer, she is known as “the Queen of Crime.” Rendell is very prolific and specializes in psychological crime.

The Ruth Rendell Mysteries, Set 1 (DVD DRAMA RUT) *Master of the Moor* (154 min.): Stephen Whalby (Colin Firth) seeks solitude on the moor. His taciturn ways and familiarity with the wilderness make him the prime suspect in a series of murders. *Vanity Dies Hard* (155 min.): After her best friend disappears, Alice Fielding (Eleanor David) suspects foul play, perhaps even murder. The killer may target Alice next. *The Secret House of Death* (103 min.): Newly divorced Susan Townsend (Amanda Redman) makes a grisly discovery in her neighborhood and becomes involved in a potentially deadly intrigue. *The Double* (51 min.): Two women, identical in appearance, compete for one man's affections. Which will lose love and perhaps her life?

The Ruth Rendell Mysteries, Set 2 (DVD DRAMA RUT) 466 min. *Bribery & Corruption, Front Seat, A Case of Coincidence, A Dark Blue Perfume, May & June, and The Orchard Walls.*

Dorothy L. (Leigh) Sayers (1893-1957) was a student of languages, a translator, and a writer of Christian theology and other academic tomes, but she is best known for her mysteries. Novels and short stories set between the world wars in England feature English aristocrat and sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey. Later novels add mystery-writer Harriet Vane as co-sleuth. Films featuring Lord Peter star Ian Carmichael; the later films star Edward Petherbridge as Lord Peter and Harriet Walter as Vane. Television adaptations should be viewed in order to track these two characters, who eventually marry.

Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness (DVD DRAMA LOR) 225 min. The fiancé of Lord Peter's sister is murdered and his brother Gerald is charged with the crime. Lord Peter uncovers a mysterious letter, a grieving fiancée with suitcase in hand, and a bullet destined for Wimsey.

Lord Peter Wimsey: The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club (DVD DRAMA LOR) 180 min. The mystery begins in the lounge of the Bellona Club where the elderly members all slumber like corpses in their chairs. On Armistice Day 1922, one of them really is a corpse.

Lord Peter Wimsey: Murder Must Advertise (DVD DRAMA LOR) 200 min. Did Victor Dean accidentally fall down the stairs at Pym's Publicity, Ltd? His replacement, Lord Peter Wimsey (in disguise), searches for the truth and is led to a drug ring operating through someone at the agency.

Lord Peter Wimsey: Five Red Herrings (DVD DRAMA LOR) 200 min. Lord Peter Wimsey goes on a holiday in Scotland, hoping to relax and catch some trout. Soon he is called on to catch more than fish when Campbell, an unpopular artist, is found dead.

Lord Peter Wimsey: The Nine Tailors (DVD DRAMA LOR) 210 min. Twenty years after visiting East Anglia, Wimsey is stranded there after an auto mishap. A body is found, and Wimsey discovers a connection to jewels that were stolen twenty years before. The solution eludes him until a natural disaster strikes and the nine church bells that signal death in a country town ring out.

Strong Poison (DVD DRAMA DOR) 150 min. Lord Peter is enthralled with Harriet Vane, a mystery writer on trial for her fiancé's murder. Can he prove her innocence and win her hand?

Have His Carcase (DVD DRAMA HAV) 200 min. Harriet Vane, cleared of a murder charge, stumbles across a body on a beach while she is vacationing, drawing Lord Peter into an inquiry.

Gaudy Night (DVD DRAMA GAU) 150 min. Harriet Vane is the principal investigator in a poison-pen scandal at her old all-women's college. She struggles with the realization that the perpetrator may be a professor and with her growing feelings for Lord Peter.



Georges Simenon (1903-1989) was a prolific Belgian writer who wrote in French. His works included 200 novels, over 150 novellas, several autobiographical works, and numerous articles. He wrote scores of pulp novels under more than two dozen pseudonyms. He is best known, however, for his 75 novels and 28 short stories featuring Chief Inspector Maigret of the Paris police.

The Maigret Collection (DVD DRAMA MAI) 646 min. This Granada Television/WGBH Boston series is based on the mysteries and stars Michael Gambon as Maigret. Maigret is concerned more with “why” than “who.” His perception of behavior and psychological insight make him a most interesting and unique sleuth. *The Patience of Maigret, Maigret and the Burglar's Wife, Maigret Goes to School, Maigret and the Mad Woman, Maigret on Home Ground, Maigret Sets a Trap, Maigret and the Nightclub Dancer, Maigret on the Defensive, Maigret and the Minister, Maigret and the Hotel Majestic, Maigret's Boyhood Friend, Maigret and the Maid.*

Rex Stout (1886-1975) started writing romance, adventure, and borderline detective stories in the 1910s for the pulps. His first novel to feature the rotund, agoraphobic, and orchid-growing Nero Wolfe was *Fer-de-Lance*, serialized in *The Saturday Evening Post* and published as a book in 1934. After 1938, Stout wrote mysteries. He continued the Wolfe series throughout his life, totaling 33 novels and 39 novellas and short stories. The following series based upon the characters of Wolfe (Maury Chaykin) and his wise-cracking assistant Archie Goodwin (Timothy Hutton) was produced for A & E.

Nero Wolfe, Disc 1 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *The Doorbell Rang* and *Champagne for One*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 2 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *Prisoner's Base, Eeny Meeny Murder Moe,* and *Disguise for Murder*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 3 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *Door to Death, Christmas Party,* and *Over My Dead Body*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 4 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *Death of a Doxy* (two episodes), *Next Witness,* and *Die Like a Dog*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 5 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *Murder is Corny, Motherhunt* (two episodes), and *Poison a la Carte*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 6 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *Too Many Clients* (two episodes); *Before I Die;* and *Help Wanted, Male*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 7 (DVD DRAMA NER) 184 min. *Silent Speaker* (two episodes), *Cop Killer,* and *Immune to Murder*

Nero Wolfe, Disc 8 (DVD DRAMA NER) 208 min. *Golden Spiders* (a full-length TV movie), *The Making of Nero Wolfe* (a special feature), and *The Silent Speaker* (double-episode special encore in 16:9 letterbox format).

