



VELMA'S CLUES

COZY MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

meets on the fourth Monday of each month
at 6:30 p.m.
in the Meeting Room
at the Velma Teague Branch Library
7010 North 58th Avenue
call (623) 930-3446 for more information

- JANUARY 24, 2022 **ELLEN CROSBY *The Merlot Murders***
(the inaugural book in the *Wine Country Mystery series*)
- FEBRUARY 28, 2022 **JOANNA CARL *The Chocolate Cat Caper***
(the inaugural book in the *Chocoholic Mystery series*)
- MARCH 28, 2022 **LAURIE CASS *Lending a Paw***
(the inaugural book in the *Bookmobile Cat Mystery series*)
- APRIL 25, 2022 **J. C. EATON *Booked 4 Murder***
(the inaugural book in the *Sophie Kimball Mystery series*)
- MAY 23, 2022 **SALLY GOLDENBAUM *Death by Cashmere***
(the inaugural book in the *Seaside Knitters Mystery series*)
- JUNE 27, 2022 **ELLERY ADAMS *Murder in the Mystery Suite***
(the inaugural book in the *Book Retreat Mystery series*)
- JULY 25, 2022 **JOYCE AND JIM LAVENE *Wicked Weaves***
(the inaugural book in the *Renaissance Faire Mystery series*)
- AUGUST 22, 2022 **JENN MCKINLAY *Books Can Be Deceiving***
(the inaugural book in the *Library Lover's Mystery series*)
- SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 **ELIZABETH PETERS *Borrower of the Night***
(the inaugural book in the *Vicky Bliss Novel of Suspense series*)
- OCTOBER 24, 2022 **LEA WAIT *Shadows at the Fair***
(the inaugural book in the *Antique Print Mystery series*)
- NOVEMBER 28, 2022 **MIRANDA JAMES *Murder Past Due***
(the inaugural book in the *Cat in the Stacks Mystery series*)
- DECEMBER 19, 2022 **FRANCES BRODY *Dying in the Wool***
(the inaugural book in the *Kate Shackleton Mystery series*)

Our cozy mystery book club at the Velma Teague Branch Library is a huge success. Please join us!

We will read and discuss the first book in a series. You may read (or may have read) others in the series, but our discussion will center primarily on the first book. At the end of the discussion, participants are encouraged to share their most recent mystery reads.

Books will be available for checkout at the Velma Teague Branch Library Service Desk one month prior to the meeting.

Velma's Clues Cozy Mystery Book Club

One of the most popular sections in the Glendale Public Libraries is the category or genre of cozy mysteries. Most of us would probably cite Agatha Christie's Jane Marple as the first prototypical cozy sleuth. In more recent times we might think of Jessica Fletcher, as played by Angela Lansbury in the television series *Murder She Wrote*, and in the books still being written by Donald Bain and others.

So, are all cozies peopled by more or less eccentric amateur sleuths? Nope. There are also professional independent detectives as epitomized by Hercule Poirot (again by Agatha Christie) or Sherlock Holmes (originally by Arthur Conan Doyle and by numerous authors since) or, perhaps, Kinsey Millhone (in a series by Sue Grafton).

Let us get started with a few fairly common characteristics of most cozies. Every one of these will, of course, have notable exceptions, so I won't characterize these as RULES. Many cozies take place in a small town, or at least a rather circumscribed society. The vast preponderance of amateur sleuths are women, who are usually involved in some other profession unrelated to the solving of crimes. There is often a significant other, who actually is a professional crime fighter. The crimes are generally not bloody or gory, or at least are seldom described in any graphic detail. Generally, there is little profanity in the dialogue and no explicit sex.

What we have, then, are fairly genteel puzzles that are solved by a gradual discovery of clues. Character development and relationships are very important, and almost always take place over the course of several novels in a series.

Most of the series we read are still being written at the time we read them. Recently we have introduced authors from the "Golden Age" of traditional mysteries and a few outstanding authors from the latter part of the twentieth century. **Due to the pandemic, we now hold our meetings on Zoom in a virtual setting in addition to the live meeting at the Velma Teague Library.** Each discussion includes several handouts with additional information about the author, the series and the subcategory of mystery (i.e. cooking, books and libraries, crafting, etc.) We almost always read the first mystery in a series and, so far, have not duplicated authors or series. The group meets on the fourth Monday of every month beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tea is served at the meeting.

Velma Teague Branch Library

7010 North 58th Avenue

Glendale Public Library

www.glendaleaz.com/library

City of Glendale Community Services Department

(623) 930-3590

Glendale, Arizona 85301

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL



(623) 930-3446

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

All events at the Glendale Public Library are public, and participants may be photographed by the media and/or City staff for future print and/or online publication.