



## 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 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
call (623) 930-3446 for more information

- JANUARY 22, 2024      **DAVID ROSENFELT** *Open and Shut*  
(the inaugural book in the *Andy Carpenter* series)
- FEBRUARY 26, 2024      **JANE K. CLELAND** *Consigned to Death*  
(the inaugural book in the *Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery* series)
- MARCH 25, 2024      **LUCY BURDETTE** *An Appetite for Murder*  
**Special time 6:00 p.m. Will be joined by author via Zoom**  
(the inaugural book in the *Key West Food Critic Mystery* series)
- APRIL 22, 2024      **ANN CLEEVES** *The Crow Trap*  
(the inaugural book in the *Vera Stanhope* series)
- MAY 20, 2024      **LESLIE BUDEWITZ** *Assault and Pepper*  
**Will be joined by author via Zoom**  
(the inaugural book in the *Spice Shop Mystery* series)
- JUNE 24, 2024      **VICTORIA HAMILTON** *A Deadly Grind*  
(the inaugural book in the *Vintage Kitchen Mystery* series)
- JULY 22, 2024      **DIANE KELLY** *Paw Enforcement*  
(the inaugural book in the *Paw Enforcement* series)
- AUGUST 26, 2024      **DEANNA RAYBOURN** *A Curious Beginning*  
(the inaugural book in the *Veronica Speedwell Mystery* series)
- SEPTEMBER 23, 2024      **AMANDA FLOWER** *Assaulted Caramel*  
(the inaugural book in the *Amish Candy Shop Mystery* series)
- OCTOBER 28, 2024      **HARRIET STEEL** *Trouble in Nuala*  
(the inaugural book in the *Inspector De Silva Mystery* series)
- NOVEMBER 25, 2024      **PEGGY EHRHART** *Murder She Knit*  
(the inaugural book in the *Knit and Nibble Mystery* series)
- DECEMBER 23, 2024      **KAREN ROSE SMITH** *Murder with Lemon Tea Cakes*  
(the inaugural book in the *Daisy's Tea Garden 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. 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 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Glendale Public Library

[www.glendaleaz.com/library](http://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.

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12/14/2023