

Best Mysteries and Thrillers of 2019

A Selection of the Best Mysteries and Thrillers of 2019 Chosen by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, *Publishers Weekly*, and Amazon Editors

All titles can be obtained as e-books or e-audiobooks through West Haven Public Library.

* An asterisk indicates that the title was chosen by more than one publication.

Descriptions adapted from amazon.com.

***Agent Running in the Field* by John le Carré**

Nat, a 47-year-old veteran of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, believes his years as an agent runner are over. But with the growing threat from Moscow Centre, the office has one more job for him.

* ***American Spy* by Lauren Wilkinson**

In 1986, FBI intelligence officer Marie Mitchell is brilliant, but she's a young black woman working in an old boys' club. Then she gets the opportunity to join a shadowy task force aimed at undermining the Communist revolutionary president of Burkina Faso.

* ***A Better Man* by Louise Penny**

It's Gamache's first day back as head of the homicide department. Flood waters are rising across the province. Amidst the turmoil, a father approaches Gamache, pleading for help in finding his daughter.

***Beyond All Reasonable Doubt* by Malin Persson Giolito**

A legal thriller that follows one woman's efforts to overturn what may be a wrongful conviction.

* ***Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson**

Jackson Brodie has relocated to a quiet seaside village, in the occasional company of his recalcitrant teenage son and an aging Labrador. It's picturesque, but something darker lurks behind the scenes.

***Blue Moon* by Lee Child**

Reacher steps off a bus to help an old man who's a victim waiting to happen. But you know what they say about good deeds. Reacher wants to make it right.

* ***The Chain* by Adrian McKinty**

A parent receives a phone call from a stranger who reveals that both of her children have been kidnapped by someone who demands that they abduct another child to prevent the murders of their own.

*** *The Chestnut Man* by Søren Sveistrup**

A psychopath is terrorizing Copenhagen, leaving a doll at each bloody crime scene. Forensics discovers a fingerprint belonging to a government minister's daughter who was murdered a year earlier.

*** *Conviction* by Denise Mina**

Wife and mother Anna McDonald's husband comes downstairs one morning with an announcement, and she is suddenly, shockingly alone. Then an unexpected visitor arrives on her front stoop, a meddling neighbor intervenes, and life as Anna knows it is over.

***Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips**

On the shore in northeastern Russia, two sisters go missing, the police investigation turns up nothing, and the event reverberates across a tight-knit community.

***Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk (Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature)**

A thriller as fairy tale, a provocative exploration of the murky border between sanity and madness, justice and tradition, autonomy and fate.

***Five Days Gone: The Mystery of My Mother's Disappearance as a Child* by Laura Cumming**

(NONFICTION) Cumming shares the story of her mother's kidnapping in a small English coastal village—and how that event reverberated through her own family and her art for decades.

***Full Throttle* by Joe Hill**

In this collection of short fiction, Hill dissects timeless human struggles in 13 tales of supernatural suspense, including "In The Tall Grass," co-written with Stephen King and the basis for a feature film.

*** *The Guardians* by John Grisham**

A young lawyer was shot dead at his desk, and the man sent to prison for life for the crime reaches out for help.

*** *The Institute* by Stephen King**

Intruders silently murder Luke Ellis's parents and load him into a black SUV. He wakes up at The Institute, in a room that looks just like his own, except there's no window. Other kids with telekinesis and telepathy got to this place the same way he did.

*** *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman**

Set in 1960s Baltimore, a middle-aged housewife turned aspiring reporter pursues an investigation of the murder of a forgotten young woman.

***The Land of Wolves* by Craig Johnson**

A shepherd in Absaroka County, Wyoming is found dead. His connection to the Extepires, a powerful, violent family of Basque ranchers, leads Sheriff Walt Longmire into an intricate investigation.

***Lock Every Door* by Riley Sager**

A young woman's new job apartment sitting in one of New York's oldest and most glamorous buildings may end up costing more than it pays.

***Magic for Liars* by Sarah Gailey**

When a gruesome murder is discovered at the Academy where her estranged twin sister teaches Theoretical Magic, detective Ivy Gamble is pulled into the world of untold power and dangerous secrets.

*** *The Need* by Helen Phillips**

Home alone with her two young children, Molly hears footsteps in the living room. Suddenly, she finds herself face-to-face with an intruder who knows far too much about her and her family.

***The Never Game* by Jeffery Deaver**

A young woman is missing in Silicon Valley and her father hires expert tracker Colter Shaw to find her. What seems like a simple investigation thrusts him into the cutthroat billion-dollar video-gaming industry.

***The New Girl* by Daniel Silva**

At an exclusive private Swiss school, the daughter of a much-maligned crown prince of Saudi Arabia arrives each morning in a motorcade. When she is kidnapped, he turns to the one man he can trust to find her.

*** *The Night Fire* by Michael Connelly**

Harry Bosch's mentor is dead, and his widow gives Bosch a murder book he took with him when he left the LAPD 20 years before—the unsolved killing of a troubled young man.

***Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo**

A tale of power, privilege, dark magic, and murder set among the Ivy League elite.

***The Perfect Wife* by JP Delaney**

Abbie awakens with no memory of who she is. The man who says he's her husband tells her she had an accident 5 years earlier. As she starts to remember, she begins to question her husband's motives.

***Recursion* by Blake Crouch**

At first, it looks like a disease. An epidemic that spreads through no known means, driving its victims mad with memories of a life they never lived. But the force that's sweeping the world is no pathogen.

***Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Radden Keefe**

(NONFICTION) A stunning, intricate narrative about a notorious 1972 abduction and killing of a 38-year-old mother of 10 in Belfast.

*** *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides**

A shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

***The Turn of the Key* by Ruth Ware**

Rowan Caine stumbles across an ad for a live-in nanny with a very generous salary and ends up stepping into a nightmare—one that will end with a child dead and herself in prison awaiting trial for murder.

***The Whisper Man* by Alex North**

North weaves a multi-generational tale of a father and son caught in the crosshairs of an investigation to catch a serial killer preying on a small town.