

Let's hear it from the Girls.

October is a great month for mystery and mayhem. It seems like every time you turn on the television, a show is featuring a "whodunit". Mystery and intrigue are yours to enjoy with the opportunity of playing detective and solving the case.

Therefore, being a woman and mystery enthusiast, it only seemed fitting to write this week on books about women of mystery or female sleuths. As women's tastes are now driving the marketplace of mystery, it was fairly easy to find books like these. In fact, I found more than I could list in this space as women mystery writers are getting more attention and therefore getting published more.

Indeed, women seem to be leaving other professions in droves to write mystery, suspense and crime fiction AND they are having tremendous success. According to author, Ron Miller, "Using expertise from prior careers, they're crafting more competent and independent female sleuths than we've ever seen before."

So here's a "treat" of female mystery writers to thrill you with tales woven with intrigue. From suspense and mischief making to red herrings to dupe you, there's an author for everyone to dig into and feed their imaginations.

Sara Paretsky/V.I. Warshawski series. "Vic" is abrasive, intelligent, athletic and a bit of a slob. She specializes in "white collar crime" and seems to find herself drawn in to murder cases.

G.A. McKeveitt/Savannah Reid series. Savannah is a transplanted Georgia Girl in Southern California who loves a good *mystery* and good chocolate.

Anne George/Southern Sisters cozy mystery series. Polar-opposite sisters find themselves stumbling into dozens of Alabama's strangest crimes, always managing to solve them with a bit of wit and lot of luck before the local law enforcement can.

Kathy Hogan Trocheck/Callahan Garrity mysteries. Another "cozy" series with quirky characters and intriguing mysteries solved by snoops rather than sleuths.

Sue Grafton/Kinsey Millhone series. A female private detective is the main character of Grafton's Alphabet Series. Funny, entertaining, and usually have a twist or two before the mystery is solved.

Patricia Cornwell/Kay Scarpetta series. The tough, but loveable medical examiner stars in these modern forensic novels. Think CSI.

Sue Ann Jaffarian/Odelia Grey series. Featuring a middle-aged, plus size, paralegal as an amateur sleuth.

Enjoy this “brew” of mysteries and have a fun time sleuthing! In fact, let me know who’s your favorite female mystery writer. Call me at 267-6011 or email me at [kstutzman@warsawlibrary.org](mailto:kstutzman@warsawlibrary.org).

###