

Bonnie Indermill

Berry, Carole

Bonnie Indermill's temporary jobs are always full of surprises-including murder. Whether she is coping with life in New York City or solving a crime, the tap-dancing Bonnie is always spunky, yet vulnerable.

Letter of the Law (1987)

The Year of the Monkey (1988)

Good Night Sweet Prince (1990)

Island Girl (1991)

Death of a Difficult Woman (1994)

Death of a Dancing Fool (1996)

Death of a Dimpled Darling (1997)

Death of a Downsizer (1999)

Sister Joan

Black, Veronica

Sister Joan lives in a convent in Cornwall and teaches at a small school in the moors. The outside world intrudes upon the closely regulated lives of cloistered nuns, but it never shakes Sister Joan's faith.

Vow of silence (1990)

Vow of chastity (1992)

Vow of sanctity (1993)

Vow of obedience (1994)

Vow of penance (1994)

Vow of devotion (1995)

Vow of fidelity (1996)

Vow of poverty (1996)

Vow of adoration (1997)

Vow of compassion (1998)

Clara Gamadge

Boylan, Eleanor

Clara Gamadge is an endearing 70-year-old grandmother, and a detective in the tradition of Hercule Poirot. She is the widow of sleuth Henry Gamadge, and solves murders with aplomb.

Working Murder (1989)

Murder Observed (1990)

Murder Machree (1992)

Pushing Murder (1993)

Murder Crossed (1996)

Mrs. Murphy

Brown, Rita Mae

Merry Minor Herristeen (Harry), postmistress of Crizel, Virginia, is helped in investigations by Mrs. Murphy (her cat), Tee Tucker (her dog) and Pewter (a neighbor's cat).

Wish You Were Here (1990)
Rest in Pieces (1992)
Murder at Monticello (1994)
Pay dirt (1995)
Murder, she meowed (1996)
Murder on the prowl (1998)
Cat on the scent (1999)
Pawing through the past (2000)
Claws and effect (2001)
Catch as cat can (2002)
Tale of the tip-off (2003)
Whisker of evil (2004)
Cat's Eyewitness (2005)

Britt Montero

Buchanan, Edna

Britt Montero is a reporter for the *Miami Herald*; she covers crimes on the blood-stained streets of Miami.

Contents under Pressure (1992)
Miami, it's murder (1994)
Suitable for framing (1995)
Act of betrayal (1996)
Margin of error (1997)
Garden of evil (1999)
You only die twice (2001)
Ice Maiden (2002)

Ellie Haskell

Cannell, Dorothy

Ellie Haskell, heiress and mother of twins, lives in England with her husband Ben, who she met through an escort service.

The thin woman (1984)
Widow's club (1988)
Mum's the word (1990)
Femmes fatal (1992)
How to murder your mother-in-law (1994)

How to murder the man of your dreams (1996)
The spring cleaning murders (1998)
The trouble with Harriet (1999)
Bridesmaids revisited (2000)
Importance of Being Ernestine (2002)

Paula Glenning

Clarke, Anna

Paula Glenning is an inquisitive English instructor whose strict moral sensibilities are often at conflict with her personal entanglement.

Last Judgement (1985)
Cabin 3030 (1986)
The Mystery Lady (1986)
Last Seen In London (1987)
Murder In Writing (1988)
The Whitelands Affair (1989)
The Case Of The Paranoid Patient (1991)
The Case Of The Ludicrous Letters (1994)
The Case Of The Anxious Aunt (1996)

Eva Wylie

Cody, Liza

Eva Wylie is a female wrestler, petty criminal, and security guard for a junkyard in London. She is a loner, very bitter and not averse to working either side of the legal fence.

Bucket Nut (1993)
Monkey Wrench (1995)
Musclebound (1997)

Anna Lee

Cody, Liza

Anna Lee is a private detective employed by Brierly Security in London. Her company assignments are always more dangerous than she bargained for, and she often ends up in deep trouble.

Dupe (1980)
Bad Company (1982)
Stalker (1984)
Head Case (1985)
Under Contract (1986)
Backhand (1992)

Jeri Howard

Dawson, Janet

Jeri Howard is an Oakland private eye who is a persistent and courageous investigator. The novels depict a richly detailed urban landscape.

Kindred Crimes (1990)
Till the Old Men Die (1992)
Take a Number (1993)
Don't Turn Your Back on the Ocean (1994)
The Missing Child (1995) aka Nobody's Child
A Credible Threat (1996)
Witness to Evil (1997)
Where the Bodies are Buried (1998)
A Killing at the Track (2000)

Jill Smith

Dunlap, Susan

Jill Smith, a junk-food-loving cop, is equally at home undercover on the colorful streets of Berkeley or in uniform in her squad car. She is a strong, independent woman, but still has empathy for people.

Karma (1981)
As A Favor (1984)
Not Exactly A Brahmin (1985)
Too Close To The Edge (1987)
A Dinner To Die For (1987)
Diamond In The Buff (1990)
Death And Taxes (1992)
Time Expired (1993)
Sudden Exposure (1997)
Cop Out (1998)

Vejay Haskell

Dunlap, Susan

Vejay Haskell, meter reader, lives in a small community on the Russian River in California. Vejay's relationships with other Henderson residents form an intriguing part of her stories.

An Equal Opportunity Death (1984)
The Bohemian Connection (1985)
The Last Annual Slugfest (1986)

Kiernan O'Shaughnessy

Dunlap, Susan

Kiernan O'Shaughnessy is an ex-Medical Examiner for the city of San Francisco who now does private forensic investigations. She lives on the beach in extravagant luxury with a boxer/houseboy/cook.

Pious Deception (1989)

Rogue Wave (1991)

High Fall (1994)

No Immunity (1998)

Sheila Malory

Holt, Hazel

Sheila Mallory is a widow and published expert on nineteenth-century novelists. Written in the classic British tradition, she is highly curious, and enjoys investigating the disruptions of the tranquil routine of both country tours and modern Oxford.

Mrs. Malory Investigates (1989)

The Cruellest Month (1991)

The Shortest Journey (1992)

Mrs. Malory and the Festival Murders (1993)

Mrs. Malory: Detective in Residence (1994)

Mrs. Malory Wonders Why (1995)

Death of a Dean (1996)

Mrs. Malory and the Only Good Lawyer (1997)

Mrs. Malory: Death Among Friends (1999)

Mrs. Malory and the Fatal Legacy (2000)

Mrs. Malory and the Lilies That Fester (2001)

Mrs. Malory and the Delay of Execution (2002)

Mrs. Malory and the Death by Water (2003)

Mrs. Malory and Death in Practice (2003)

Mrs. Malory and the Silent Killer (2004)

Cordelia Gray

James, P. D.

When Cordelia Gray inherits a detective agency and takes on the investigation of Mark Callander's death, everyone says it's an unsuitable job for a woman.

An Unsuitable Job for a Woman (1972)

Skull Beneath the Skin (1983)

Kat Colorado

Kijewski, Karen

Kat Colorado is a private eye from the Sacramento area who doesn't want to be a tough gal, even through her deprived childhood has equipped her to play the part when needed. She'd rather work in her garden than on a case that involves violence or the police.

Katwalk (1989)
Katapult (1990)
Kat's Cradle (1992)
Copy Kat (1992)
Wild Kat (1994)
Alley Kat Blues (1995)
Honky Tonk Kat (1996)
Kat Scratch Fever (1997)
Stray Kat Waltz (1998)

Edwina Crusoe

Kittredge, Mary

Edwina Crusoe, a nurse for many years is a private nurse consultant in New Haven, Conn. Rich in technical medical detail, Edwina pursuers leads through her medical knowledge.

Fatal Diagnosis (1990)
Rigor Mortis (1991)
Cadaver (1992)
Walking Deadman (1992)
Desperate Remedy (1993)
Kill Or Cure (1995)

Calista Jacobs

Katherine Lasky Knight

Children's book illustrator Calista Jacobs lives in Cambridge, MA with her young son, Charley (a computer whiz). The novels contain a great deal of scientific and computer lore, along with some facets of archaeology.

Trace Elements (1987)
Mortal Words (1990)
Mumbo Jumbo (1992)
Dark Swan (1994)

Sarah Kelling

MacLeod, Charlotte

Sarah Kelling and her husband Max Bittersohn investigate murders which occur within the extensive and eccentric Kelling family circle.

The Family Vault (1979)
The Withdrawing Room (1980)
The Palace Guard (1981)
The Bilbao Looking Glass (1983)
The Convivial Codfish (1984)
The Plain Old Man (1985)
The Recycled Citizen (1988)
The Silver Ghost (1988)
The Gladstone Bag (1989)
The Resurrection Man (1992)
The Odd Job (1995)
The Balloon Man (1998)

Deb Ralston

Martin, Lee

Deb Ralston is in her 40's, the mother of three adopted children and veteran police detective in Fort Worth, Texas. She balances her career against the needs of her family and combines her detective's skill with a mother's intuition and tenderness to solve crimes.

Too Sane A Murder (1984)
A Conspiracy of Strangers (1986)
Death Warmed Over (1988)
Murder At the Blue Owl (1988)
Hal's Own Murder Case (1989)
Deficit Ending (1990)
The Mensa Murders (1990)
Hacker (1992)
The Day That Dusty Died (1993)
Inherited Murder (1994)
Bird in A Cage (1995)
The Thursday Club (1997)

Laura DiPalma

Matera, Lia

Laura DiPalma is a high-powered defense attorney in San Francisco with a history of high profile pro bono cases.

The Smart Money (1988)
The Good Fight (1990)
A Hard Bargain (1992)
Face Value (1994)
Designer Crimes (1995)

Willa Jansson

Matera, Lia

Willa Jansson is an attorney in San Francisco and the daughter of two aging flower children. She finds herself involved in political crimes and murder.

Where Lawyers Fear To Tread (1986)

A Radical Departure (1987)

Hidden Agenda (1989)

Prior Convictions (1991)

Last Chants (1996)

Star Witness (1997)

Havana Twist (1998)

Elena Oliverez

Muller, Marcia

Elena Oliverez is curator of the Museum of Mexican Arts in Santa Barbara. Her incurable nosiness involves her in solving the murders of people involved with the museum and also causes attempts on her life.

The Legend of the Slain Soldiers (1985)

Beyond the Grave (1986)

Tree of Death (1996)

Magdalena Yoder/Pennsylvania Dutch Mysteries with recipes

Myers, Tamar

Too many crooks spoil the broth (1994)

Parsley, sage, rosemary and crime (1995)

No use dying over spilled milk (1996)

Just plain pickled to death (1997)

Between a wok and a hard place (1998)

Eat, drink and be wary (1998)

Play it again, Spam (1999)

Hand that rocks the ladle (2000)

Crepes of wrath (2001)

Gruel and unusual punishment (2002)

Custard's last stand (2003)

Thou shalt not grill (2004)

Assault and pepper (2005)

Blanche White

Neely, Barbara

Blanche White is a feisty, feminist black domestic in North Carolina

Blanche On The Lam (1992)
Blanche Among The Talented Tenth (1994)
Blanche Cleans Up (1998)
Blanche Passes Go (2000)

Norah Mulcahaney

O'Donnell, Lillian

As a detective with the NYPD, Norah Mulcahaney was first with the rape squad then in homicide. During the series, she is courted by fellow officer Joe Capretto and marries him.

The Phone Calls ((1972)
Don't Wear Your Wedding Ring (1973)
Dial 577-R-A-P-E (1974)
The Baby Merchants (1975)
Leisure Dying (1976)
No Business Being A Cop (1979)
The Children's Zoo (1981)
Cop without a Shield (1983)
Ladykiller (1984)
Casual Affairs (1985)
Shadow in Red
The Other Side of the Door (1987)
A Good Night to Kill (1989)
A Private Crime (1991)
Pushover (1992)
Lockout (1994)
Blue Death (1998)

Gwenn Ramadge

O'Donnell, Lillian

Gwenn Ramadge is a private detective with a genteel upper-middle class background and is trying to make her own way in the world. She is both attractive and intelligent.

A Wreath for the Bride (1990)
Used to Kill (1993)
Raggedy Man (1995)
Goddess Affair (1997)

Sister Mary Helen

O'Marie, Sister Carol Ann

Sister Mary Helen, a feisty 75-year-old nun, hides her mystery novels behind her prayer book cover. Detecting appeals to Sister Mary Helen, and she instigates her own investigations.

Novena for Murder (1984)
Advent of Dying (1986)
Missing Madonna (1989)
Murder in Ordinary Time (1991)
Murder Makes a Pilgrimage (1993)
Death Goes on Retreat (1995)
Death of an Angel (1997)
Death Takes Up a Collection (1998)
Requiem at the Refuge (2000)
Corporal Works of Murder (2002)

Faith Fairchild

Page, Katherine Hall

Faith Fairchild, who marries a clergyman and leaves New York City for a small town in New England, is featured in:

The body in the belfry (1990)
The body in the kelp (1991)
The body in the bouillon (1991)
The body in the vestibule (1992)
The body in the cast (1993)
The body in the basement (1994)
The body in the bog (1996)
The body in the fjord (1997)
The body in the bookcase (1998)
The body in the Big Apple (prequel) (1999)
Body in the moonlight (2001)
Body in the bonfire (2002)
Body in the lighthouse (2003)
The body in the attic (2004)
The body in the snowdrift (2005)

Patience C. McKenna

Papazoglou, Orania

Patience C. McKenna, six feet tall, rail thin, with long blond hair, hacks out romance novels to pay the rent and to subsidize her more serious writing. She conducts her own investigation into murder, to the dismay of Detective Lu Martinez.

Sweet Savage Death (1984)
Wicked Loving Murder (1985)
Death's Savage Passion (1986)

Rich radiant slaughter (1988)
Once and always murder (1990)

Charlotte Ellison Pitt & Inspector Thomas Pitt

Perry, Anne

Charlotte Ellison Pitt and her husband, Inspector Thomas Pitt of Scotland Yard, solve crimes in Victorian England using their special combination of observation and intuition. All titles are names of London neighborhoods.

The Cater Street hangman (1979)
Callander Square (1980)
Paragon Walk (1981)
Resurrection Row (1981)
Rutland Place (1983)
Bluegate Fields (1984)
Death in Devil's Acre (1985)
Cardington Crescent (1987)
Silence in Hanover Close (1988)
Bethlehem Road (1990)
Highgate Rise (1991)
Belgrave Square (1992)
Farrier's Lane (1993)
Hyde Park Headsman (1994)
Traitor's Gate (1995)
Pentecost Alley (1996)
Brunswick Gardens (1998)
Ashworth Hall (1998)
Bedford Square (1999)
Half Moon Street (2000)
The Whitechapel Conspiracy (2001)
Southampton Row (2002)
Seven Dials (2003)
Long Spoon Lane (2005)
A Christmas Guest (2005)

Eugenia Potter

Pickard, Nancy (based on the character created by Virginia Rich)

Introducing wealthy widow, Eugenia Potter.

Cooking School Murders (Virginia Rich)(1982)
Baked Bean Supper murders (Virginia Rich)(1983)
Nantucket Diet Murders (Virginia Rich) (1985)
27 Ingredient Chili Con Carne Murders (1993)
Blue Corn Murders (1998)

Secret Ingredient Murders (2001)

Jenny Cain

Pickard, Nancy

Jenny Cain is director of the Port Frederick Civic Foundation in Massachusetts. Her cases arise out of the business of the foundation. During the series she marries Geof Bushfield, a police detective who has always been attracted to the bright, witty and likeable Jenny.

Generous death (1984)

Say no to murder (1985)

No body (1986)

Marriage is murder (1987)

Dead crazy (1988)

Bum steer (1989)

I.O.U. (1991)

But I wouldn't want to die there (1993)

Confession (1994)

Twilight (1995)

Sister Mary Teresa Dempsey

Quill, Monica

(Ralph McInerny)

Sister Mary Teresa Dempsey is one of the last three remaining nuns of the order of Mary and Martha based in downtown Chicago. She claims that 50 years as a historian make her more qualified than the police to reason out a crime using common sense as opposed to routine investigation.

Not a blessed thing (1981)

Let us prey (1982)

And then there was nun (1984)

Nun of the above (1985)

Sine qua nun (1986)

Veil of Ignorance (1988)

Sister hood (1991)

Nun plussed (1993)

Half Past Nun (1997)

Death Takes the Veil

Eleanor Roosevelt

Roosevelt, Elliott

Mysteries featuring 1930's First Lady and set in the White House.

Murder and the First Lady (1984)
Hyde Park Murder (1985)
Murder at Hobcaw Barony (1986)
White House Pantry Murder (1987)
Murder at the Palace (1988)
Murder in the Oval Office (1989)
Murder in the Rose Garden (1989)
Murder in the Blue Room (1990)
A First Class Murder (1991)
Murder in the Red Room (1991)
Murder in the West Wing (1992)
Murder in the East Room (1993)
A Royal Murder (1994)
Murder in the Executive Mansion (1995)
Murder in the Chateau (1996)
Murder at Midnight (1997)
Murder in the Map Room (1998)
Murder in Georgetown (1999)
Murder in the Lincoln Bedroom (2000)
*Murder at the President's Door (2001)**

*Written by William Harrington for the Elliott Roosevelt estate.

Angela Benbow & Caledonia Wingate

Sawyer, Corine Holt

Angela Benbow and Caledonia Wingate are two eccentric elderly sleuths living in the California sea-side community of Camden-sur-Mer who "cooperate" with Inspector Martinez to sort out clues. Perceptive comments about old age, with emphasis on character and locale.

The J. Alfred Prufrock murders (1988)
Murder in gray and white (1989)
Murder by owl light (1992)
Peanut butter murders (1993)
Murder Has No Calories (1994)
Ho-ho homicide (1995)
Geezer factory murders (1996)
Murder Ole! (1997)

Lauren Laurano

Scoppettone, Sandra

Lauren Laurano is a lesbian private eye in Manhattan. She and her lover Kit Adams, a psychotherapist, are a likeable, with-it, urban lesbian couple.

Everything you have is mine (1991)

I'll be leaving you always (1993)
My sweet untraceable you (1994)
Let' face the music & die (1996)
Gonna take a Homicidal Journey (1997)

Samantha Adams

Shankman, Sarah

Samantha Adams is an Atlanta newspaper reporter. A recovered alcoholic, she takes a swipe at Southern pretensions, but hungers for the gentility of the Old South.

First kill all the lawyers (1988)
Then hang all the liars (1989)
Now let's talk of graves (1990)
She walks in beauty (1991)
The king is dead (1992)
He was her man (1993)
Impersonal Attractions (1994)
Keeping Secrets (1995)
I still miss my man, but my aim is getting better (1996)
Digging up Mama (1998)

Celia Grant

Sherwood, John

Celia Grant, horticulturist and amateur sleuth, solves village murders. A treat for gardeners or fans of the "cozy" mystery.

Green trigger fingers (1984)
Botanist at bay (1985)
Flowers of evil(1987)
Menacing groves (1989)
Bouquet of thorns (1989)
Sunflower plot (1990)
Hanging garden (1992)
Creeping jenny (1993)
Bones gather no moss (1994)

Sheila Travis

Sprinkle, Patricia Houk

Sheila Travis is a young widow of a diplomat, and formerly lived in Japan. Her wealthy Aunt Mary is involved in the investigations. Included are some acid observations on academic and diplomatic life.

Murder at Markham (1988)

Murder in the Charleston manner (1990)
Murder on Peachtree Street (1991)
Somebody's Dead in Smellville (1992)
Death of a Dunwoody matron (1993)
Mystery Bred in Buckhead (1994)
Deadly secrets on the St. John (1995)

Maggie Elliott

Taylor, Elizabeth Atwood

Maggie Elliott is a young widow and recovering alcoholic who is trying to put her life back together again when she gets involved in investigating the accidental death of her half-sister and niece. Another murder follows, this time at her 15th-year reunion at Vassar.

Cable car murder (1981)
Murder at Vassar (1987)
Northwest murders (1992)

Neil Hamel

Van Gieson, Judith

Neil Hamel is a hard-bitten Albuquerque, New Mexico lawyer with an uninhibited lifestyle. She is a game spirit and meets offbeat and intriguing characters. These stories reflect the varied atmosphere of New Mexico. Her boyfriend is called "the kid" and is an auto mechanic.

North of the border (1988)
Raptor (1990)
Other side of death (1991)
Wolf path (1992)
Lies that bind (1993)
Parrot blues (1995)
Hot shots (1996)
Ditch Rider (1998)

Tamara Hayle

Wesley, Valerie Wilson

Tamara Hayle is a black ex-cop and struggling P.I. and single parent in Newark, New Jersey.

When death comes stealing (1994)
Devil's gonna get him (1995)
Where evil sleeps (1996)
No hiding place (1997)
Easier to kill (1998)

The Devil Riding (2000)
Dying in the Dark (2004)