

Canadian mystery series index : a guide to adult mystery series written in English

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Aspler, Tony

[Blood is thicker than Beaujolais.](#)

Toronto : Warwick, 1993.

Toronto [wine](#) journalist [Ezra Brant](#)'s contemplative tasting of a well-structured Beaujolais Nouveau is interrupted by the rapid descent of a dead body into Jacques Verrier's hewn granite wine cellar. Verrier's disappearance and the apparent indifference of local police leave Ezra to investigate wine adulteration and murder.

Location : [France](#)

Occupation : [journalist](#)

Aspler, Tony

[The Beast of Barbaresco.](#)

[Ezra Brant.](#)

Aspler, Tony

[Death on the Douro.](#)

Ezra Brant.

Aubert, Rosemary.

The Feast of Stephen.

Bridgehampton, New York : Bridge Works, 1999.

Disgraced judge [Ellis Portal](#), now living on the streets, is far from keen on a return to his old haunts to look into a series of deaths of impoverished [courtroom](#) groupies. But he can resist neither the request from his old friend Queenie, not the lure of puzzling Biblical quotations sent to each victim - just like the ones he's been getting. [Arthur Ellllis Award](#) winner.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [judge](#)

Other themes : [street people](#)

[Italian-Canadian detectives](#)

Aubert, Rosemary

Ferryman will be there.

Ellis Portal.

Aubert, Rosemary

Free reign.

Bridgehampton, New York : Bridge Works, 1997.

Now living in a Don Valley ravine shack, former judge [Ellis Portal](#) is driven into his own past when he finds a severed hand wearing one of only five identical rings crafted for himself and four law-school cronies. His classmates were white. The hand is that of a black man. Investigation is not easy when you can't afford public transit, have a scent like a weasel, and are bound by a peace bond not to approach two potential witnesses.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [judge](#)

Other themes : [street people](#)

[Italian-Canadian detectives](#)

[Aubert, Rosemary](#)

[Leave me by dying.](#)

[Ellis Portal.](#)

[Aubert, Rosemary](#)

[Red mass.](#)

[Ellis Portal.](#)

[Banks, T F](#)

(pseudonym of [Ian Dennis](#) and [Sean Russell](#))

[The Thief-taker : a novel.](#)

New York : Delacorte, 2001.

Writer Halbert Glendinning fought a duel in the morning, spent part of the evening in an unsavoury Spitalsfield public house, and that night was found dead in a hackney coach outside Lord Arthur Darley's town house. His fiancée hires [Bow Street Runner](#) Henry Morton to trace Glendinning's final hours. The Otter public house is such a nest of thievery and [prostitution](#) that his very investigation leaves Henry open to charges of police [corruption](#).

Location : [England](#).

Occupation : [police detective](#)

Other themes : [historical mysteries - 1815](#)

[Banks, T F](#)

(pseudonym of [Ian Dennis](#) and [Sean Russell](#))

[The Emperor's assassin.](#)

[Henry Morton.](#)

[Barnao, Jack](#)

(pseudonym of [Ted Wood](#))

[HammerLocke.](#)

New York : Scribner, 1986.

Since his parents' divorce, Herbie Ridley has turned into an obnoxious brat with a major in joy-riding. His father's wealth and his own arrogance make

him a focus for trouble, so [John Locke](#) is hired to shepherd Herbie through a six-week tour of Italy designed to reawaken his better self. But just as the boy begins to show a few redeeming qualities, he is snatched by a arload of local goons. Locke must race to recover his charge from the [abduction](#), avoid paying the ransom, and figure out which of the [organized crime](#) figures popping into the case can be trusted not to murder him.

Location : [Italy](#)

Occupation : [bodyguard](#)

[Barnao, Jack](#)
(pseudonym of [Ted Wood](#))

[LockeStep](#).
New York : Scribner, 1987.

[Drug](#) dealer Greg Amadeo is ready to spill the beans on the Canadian Mafia - on condition that the RCMP let him make a farewell trip to Mexico, where he's stashed money that will enable his Mexican wife to hide out from the mob's vengeance. [John Locke](#) is tapped by the Mounties as unofficial escort, ensuring that Greg neither escapes nor gets killed by irate former colleagues. In the sun-drenched resort of Zihuatanejo, Greg's determination not to return to Canada comes into the open, and John finds himmself at the centre of more than one doublecross.

Location : [Mexico](#)

Occupation : [bodyguard](#)

Other themes : [Organized crime](#)

Barnao, Jack
(pseudonym of Ted Wood)

TimeLocke.
New York : Scribner, 1991.

Amy Roger is researching the history of the Resistance in the south of France. Hardly a quest dangerous enough to require a [bodyguard](#), but it's [John Locke](#)'s job to protect her. Corsican crime lord Vittore Orsini may be a rejected suitor, and was once a Maquis figure : hero or traitor? John and Amy go into hiding after a foiled [abduction](#) attempt, but there's a limit to the help Amy's now-elderly [French Resistance](#) friends can give them.

Location : [France](#)

Base, Ron

Foreign object.
Toronto : Doubleday Canada, 1986.

At the Cannes film festival to interview nymphet Lacy Bergen, [Tom Coward](#) finds a vengeful mystery woman, a tongueless assassin, middle eastern gangsters, and cinematic wheeler-dealers for whom the scheduled screenings take second place to champagne, cocaine, and the ritual disrobings of well-endowed "models" in search of [film](#) contracts. But one of Tom's new acquaintances is seeking payback for the ten-year-old murder of porn star Ginger Shane.

Location : [France](#)

Occupation : [journalist](#)

Other themes : [organized crime](#)

Base, Ron

Matinee idol.

Toronto : Doubleday Canada, 1985.

Stormy Willis, [Tom Coward](#)'s ex, discovers one-shot cult [film](#) actress Carrie Wayborn asphyxiated with foam carpet cleaner in a Toronto apartment. Suspicions turn to the now-yuppified hippies who filmed *Zoom-Zoom* in the sixties, but Tom is obsessed with pinning the killing on Stormy's new fiance, wealthy Ashley Conlon, son of a fifties murderess.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [journalist](#)

Other themes : [old crimes](#)

Base, Ron

Splendido.

Toronto : Macmillan, 1988.

[Tom Coward](#) and Lacy Bergen plan to revive their relationship on a trip to Venice via the Orient Express. Instead, Tom is pushed off the train, and Lacy's empty but bloodsoaked compartment leads police to think Tom has murdered her. The MacGuffin is an X-rated video sent to Lacy by the widow of a Caribbean dictator. The video reveals sexual and political misdeeds of televangelist and presidential hopeful Bitty Talmadge. Tom's drinking and swearing impersonation of Ottawa evangelist Charles Napier almost brings down the house at the "Christian Renewal" convention before

he gets back to the Orient Express for a showdown.

Location : Italy

Occupation : journalist

Other themes : trains
religion

Batten, Jack

Blood count.

Toronto : Macmillan Canada, 1991.

Crang's tenant Alex Corcoran is a man with a mission : to find and kill the man who infected his recently-dead lover Ian with the AIDS virus. Crang has only days to find the man and warn him of his danger. He follows Ian's contacts to the Purple Zinnia, an upscale gay restaurant; to the Club Eroticarama's feature performance by Mafia scion Bart the Bulge; and to the elegant apartment of an Ontario cabinet minister. And then Crang's driveway is filled with pooice cars : Alex has been stabbed to death. Although sympathetic to some of the men he meets, Crang seems highly defensive in his contacts with the gay community.

Location : Ontario

Occupation : lawyer

Other themes : gay/lesbian interest

Batten, Jack

Crang plays the ace.

Crang.

Batten, Jack

Riviera blues.

Toronto : Macmillan, 1990.

Crang smells a rat when his former father-in-law, businessman John “Swotty” Wetherhill, asks him to look up Cousin Jamie Haddon. Jamie is in Monaco, not far from Cannes, where Crang’s beloved Annie Cooke is covering the film festival. Crang’s ex-wife has been having an affair with Jamie, but it’s new flatmate Dante Renzi who’s been invited along on the high-spending holiday. A twice-stolen computer disc, a head-office power failure, and the gradual convergence on Monaco of most of Wetherhill’s family and top management lead to a tragedy Crang is helpless to avert.

Location : Monaco

Occupation: lawyer

Themes : business
gay/lesbian interest

Batten, Jack

Sraight no chaser.

Crang.

Benison, C C

(pseudonym of [Doug Whiteway](#))

[Death at Buckingham Palace.](#)

New York : Bantam, 1996.

Would Her Majesty [Queen Elizabeth II](#) say “Bloody hell!”? Perhaps, if she stumbled over the corpse of Robin Tukes, Palace footman, aspiring actor, lover of the handsome Karim, and putative father of Angela Cheatle’s expected baby. Suicide? Maybe not. Royal housemaid [Jane Bee](#) is far away from her father, a Charlottetown cop, but latent investigative talents come to the fore. With Jane scouring the Downstairs and Her Majesty the Upstairs for motive and opportunity, the killer is assured of rent-free accommodation in one of Her Majesty’s prisons. [Arthur Ellis Award.](#)

Location : [England](#)

Occupation : [Queen](#)
[servant](#)

Themes : [gay/lesbian interest](#)
[royalty](#)

Benison, CC

(pseudonym of [Doug Whiteway](#))

[Death at Sandringham House.](#)

New York : Bantam, 1997.

[Queen Elizabeth II](#) has gathered family and friends at Sandringham for a royal [Christmas](#), a traditional pantomime, a little shooting, a sprinkle of [jewel theft](#). When panto actress Jackie Scaife, dressed as the Queen, is found murdered in Dersingham’s village hall, animal rights activists are suspected. Housemaid [Jane Bee](#), once more acting as the Queen’s

legwoman, pins the crime on a more “inside” culprit.

Location : [England](#)

Occupation : [Queen](#)
[Servant](#)

Other themes : [royalty](#)
[shooting \(sport\)](#)

[Benison, C C](#)
(pseudonym of [Doug Whiteway](#))

[Death at Windsor Castle.](#)

It’s the morning of the Garter Ceremony, and Roger Pettibon, of the Royal Library, lies stabbed to death in the Throne Room, wearing a Garter to which he was not entitled. [Queen Elizabeth II](#), attended by faithful housemaid and legwoman [Jane Bee](#), finds blackmail, art forgery, and worse lurking in the labyrinthine Castle complex. A longer and darker tale than the previous books in the series.

Location : [England](#)

Occupation : [Queen](#)
[Servant](#)

Other themes : [royalty](#)
[art forgery](#)

[Bidulka, Anthony](#)

Amuse bouche.

Russell Quant.

Bidulka, Anthony

Flight of aquavit.

Russell Quant.

Bidulka, Anthony

Stain of the berry.

Russell Quant.

Bidulka, Anthony

Sundown ubuntu.

Russell Quant.

Bidulka, Anthony

Tapas on the Ramblas.

Russell Quant.

Blunt, Giles.

Blackfly season.

The redhead is moving from table to table in the World Tavern, and some of the men are getting decidedly friendly. Off-duty cop Jerry Commanda senses something odd - maybe drug use? - and whisks her off to city hospital, where the girl with no name and no ID is found to have a bullet in her head. Her gradual recovery from [amnesia](#) gives Algonquin Bay detective [John Cardinal](#) clues to a local [drug](#) ring, and to a killer devoted to a Cuban witchcraft and torture [cult](#), Palo Mayombe.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [Police detective](#)

Blunt, Giles.

The Delicate storm.

Algonquin Bay is enjoying the dubious benefits of a January warm snap, mostly fog and mud, when Ivan Bergeron's dog brings in the human arm. Despite first appearances, the dead man was murdered before he was partially eaten by a bear. Lise Delorme and [John Cardinal](#) are tossed straight from a bank robbery by the World's Dumbest Criminal into a murder case involving the [RCMP](#), CSIS, and American security agencies. [Arthur Ellis Award](#).

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [police detective](#)

Other themes : [old crimes](#)
[political crimes](#)

[Clement, Peter.](#)

[Death rounds : a medical thriller.](#)

Dr. [Earl Garnet](#) sent Phyllis Sanders home with what looked like a minor stomach upset. A day later Phyllis, a nurse at a neighbouring [hospital](#), is back in ER dying from a bizarre combination of drug-resistant staphylococci and Legionnaire's disease. Garnet's enemies accuse him of malpractice. When he finds out Phyllis wasn't the first victim, Earl suspects a hospital insider is purposely infecting people. But how? And why?

Location : [New York](#)
Occupation : [doctor](#)
Other themes : [medical chiller](#)

[Clement, Peter.](#)

[Mortal remains : a medical thriller.](#)

Back in medical school, [Earl Garnet](#) was in love with Kelly McShane Braden. When Kelly suddenly dropped out of his life, Earl assumed she ran away to escape her unhappy marriage to a doctor who ran a private [maternity home](#) for unwed mothers. But an [old crime](#) surfaces more than twenty-five years later when Kelly's skeleton is found in an Adirondack lake, padlocked to an anchor. Coroner Mark Ryan's first suspect is the last man known to have seen Kelly alive - Earl Garnet.

Location : [New York](#)
Occupation : [doctor](#)

[Craig, Alisa](#)
(pseudonym of [Charlotte MacLeod](#))

[A Dismal thing to do.](#)

On the trail of an antique washstand, Janet Wadman Rhys stumbles onto a criminal conspiracy involving theft, [arson](#), and murder. [RCMP](#) Detective Inspector [Madoc Rhys](#) joins a secret investigation focussing on Janet's home town of Pitcherville, and on a mysterious society whose members wear woven sashes.

Location : [New Brunswick](#)
Other themes : [humourous mysteries](#)

[Craig, Alisa.](#)
(pseudonym of [Charlotte MacLeod](#))

[The Grub-and-stakers house a haunt.](#)

Ghostly muleskinner Hiram Jellyby is might upset when he appears in Zilla Trott's kitchen to report his own murder (in the previous century) and the disappearance of a treasure in gold. Dowsing, community gardening, a modern-day bank robbery, and platinum print photography figure into a case that has the victim's [ghost](#) joining [Osbert Monk](#) as they solve this [old crime](#).

Location : [Ontario](#)
Occupation : [writer](#)
Other themes : [Humourous mysteries](#)

Dalton, Margot.
(pseudonym of Phyllis Strobell)

First impression.

Spokane detective Jackie Kaminsky finds something off-key in Leigh Mallon's reaction to the abduction of her son from a Northtown Mall toy store. Did ex-husband Stefan Panesivic snatch the boy? Is Leigh hiding him from Stefan? Carpenter Paul Arnusson claims a flash of ESP tells him Michael is alive in an underground pit, but Arnusson might be a fake. Or worse - the kidnapper.

Location : Washington (state)
Occupation : police detective
Other themes : native detectives

Dalton, Margot
(pseudonym of Phyllis Strobell)

Fourth horseman.

A new house in a quiet Spokane neighbourhood is a refuge for very pregnant Detective Jackie Kaminsky - until not one, but two, murder victims are found buried in her flowerbed. Welcoming or standoffish, kind or kinky, Jackie's neighbours hold the pieces of a puzzle going back to the sixties. And the killer knows it.

Location : Washington (state)
Occupation : police detective

Other themes : [native detectives](#)
[old crimes](#)

[Darion, R F](#)
(pseudonym of [Cherylyn Stacey](#))

[Beyond spite.](#)

“Lance” is intelligent, charming, and well-spoken. He charmed Tiffany Skoreko into a date, then took her to a deserted farmhouse where he repeatedly raped her. [RCMP](#) Staff Sergeant [Dan Laurenson](#) and his staff gradually build a physical and psychological profile of this serial rapist, but will they be in time to save his next victim from [rape](#), or even murder?

Location : [Alberta](#)

[Darion, R F](#)
(pseudonym of [Cherylyn Stacey](#))

[Tip of the halo.](#)

Unpleasant administrator Nancy Sereda lies bludgeoned to death in the library of the Saint Michael Catholic School Board office. [RCMP](#) Staff Sergeant [Dan Laurenson](#) finds tensions running high over cutbacks, reassignments, and curriculum revisions. School board specialists might be able to tell him just how high, but most of them are already suspects.

Location : [Alberta](#)
Other themes : [Academic mysteries](#)

Engel, Howard.

The Cooperman variations : a Benny Cooperman mystery.

Old classmate Stella Seco, now called Vanessa Ross, has become Entertainment Head at the National [Television](#) Network. While Vanessa spent a few days at her cottage, Renata Sartori stays at her Toronto home, and received a fatal shotgun blast. Hired as Vanessa's bodyguard, [Benny Cooperman](#) finds his abrasive employer discomfitingly at home among the media sharks. The more he digs, in Toronto and Muskoka, the more he suspects that Renata's murder was neither the first nor the last.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [Private eye](#)

Other themes : [Jewish detectives](#)

Engel, Howard.

Getting away with murder.

Once a humble housebeaker, Abe Weiss is now a patron of the opera, a self-made expert on pre-Columbian art, and Grantham's leading unconvicted racketeer. Attempts on his life may come from within his own organization, or even his own family. [Benny Cooperman](#) goes beyond present threats to explore Abe's past, and the 1950s execution of a Grantham woman.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [Private eye](#)

Other themes : [Jewish detectives](#)

[Old crimes](#)

[Organized crime](#)

Fradkin, Barbara.

Do or die : an Inspector Green mystery.

Handsome, intelligent, wealthy, and in love, graduate student Jonathan Blair has everything to live for. But in one night, his glamorous Lebanese girlfriend is whisked out of the country and Jonathan is stabbed to death in the university library. Ottawa Police Inspector [Michael Green](#) is so busy trashing his own marriage that clues to Jonathan's personal and academic relationships elude him until a witness is also killed.

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [police detective](#)

Other themes : [academic mysteries](#)
[Jewish detectives](#)

Fradkin, Barbara.

Fifth son : an Inspector Green mystery.

The deserted Methodist church in Ashford Landing was boarded up, so how did the dead man even get in to fall, or jump, or be pushed, from its steeple? He is soon identified as one of the five Pettigrew sons, but nobody is sure which one. Once a happy family, the Pettigrews sank into alcoholism and mental illness twenty years ago. Inspector [Michael Green](#) finds the roots of this death in a long-ago family tragedy. [Arthur Ellis Award](#).

Location : [Ontario](#)

Occupation : [police detective](#)

Themes : [Jewish detectives](#)
[old crimes](#)
