

Secrets of Crime Fiction Classics: Detecting the Delights of 21 Enduring Stories

Stephen Knight



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Secrets of Crime Fiction Classics: Detecting the Delights of 21 Enduring Stories Stephen Knight Starting with William Godwin's *Caleb Williams* and Charles Brockden Brown's *Edgar Huntly*, this book covers in detail the great works of detective fiction-Poe's Dupin stories, Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, Sayers' *Strong Poison*, Chandler's *The Big Sleep*, and Simenon's *The Yellow Dog*. Lesser-known but important early works are also discussed, including Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*, Émile Gaboriau's *M. Lecoq*, Anna Katharine Green's *The Leavenworth Case* and Fergus Hume's *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*. More recent titles show increasing variety in the mystery genre, with Patricia Highsmith's criminal-focused *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and Chester Himes' African-American detectives in *Cotton Comes to Harlem*. Diversity develops further in Sara Paretsky's tough woman detective V.I. Warshawski in *Indemnity Only*, Umberto Eco's medievalist and postmodern *The Name of the Rose* and the forensic feminism of Patricia Cornwell's *Postmortem*. Notably, the best modern crime fiction has been primarily international-Manuel Vásquez Montalbán's Catalan *Summer Seas*, Ian Rankin's Edinburgh-set *The Naming of the Dead*, Sweden's Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo* and Vikram Chanda's Mumbai-based *Sacred Games*.

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