



Mysteries featuring Cats & Dogs

at the
Portland Library
2015

Cats

Adamson, Lydia. *A Cat with a Fiddle: an Alice Nestleton mystery* **PB MYS A**

In this sixth Alice Nestleton mystery, Adamson's amateur sleuth returns to solve the brutal murder-by-chisel of a string quartet's egomaniacal accompanist. Nestleton, an actress and part-time cat sitter, delivers Lulu, a Scottish Fold cat, to her owner, a violinist on retreat at an artists' colony in the Berkshires. Alice and Lulu are treated to an indifferent reception from the arrogant members of the world-famous Riverside String Quartet and their equally pompous entourage minus one--the freshly murdered pianist Will Gryder.

Braun, Lillian Jackson. *The Cat who had 60 Whiskers*
FIC MYS BRAUN

As usual, Moose County, 400 miles north of everywhere, is the setting, and mustachioed Jim (Quill) Quilleran, columnist for the Moose County Something, and his cats, Koko and Yum Yum, are the principals, though Yum Yum serves a peripheral role here, leaving the psychic Siamese Koko in full command, foretelling the coming of phone calls and issuing curdling howls when someone suffers a violent death.

Brown, Rita Mae. *Nine Lives to Die: A Mrs. Murphy mystery*
FIC MYS BROWN

Murder and mayhem are the order of the day in bestseller Brown's well-plotted 22nd Mrs. Murphy mystery. A winter charity function ends badly when wealthy car dealer Pete Vavilov, a leader of the Silver Linings charity, which helps the disadvantaged youth of Albermarle County, Va., is found dead in his car during a snowstorm the same night as the party. Series heroine Mary Minor "Harry" Haristeen discovers a skeleton, and checks go missing. As usual, the four-footed characters—felines Mrs. Murphy and Pewter and their canine chum, Tee Tucker—do much of the sleuthing.

Douglas, Carole. *Cat in an Indigo Mood: a Midnight Louie mystery*
FIC MYS DOUGLAS

Black-cat sleuth Midnight Louie, "roommate" Temple Barr, and homicide detective Carmen Molina team up to solve two separate, but possibly serial, murders. Las Vegas feline detective Midnight Louie and his flamboyant keeper Temple Barr, a noted sleuth in her own right, draw a full hand of excitement in this 10th adventure.

Murphy, Shirley Rousseau. *Cat coming Home: a Joe Grey mystery*
FIC MYS MURPHY

In Murphy's 17th Joe Grey mystery, yuletide cheer appears in the enchanting form of Misto, a wise old yellow tomcat who returns from a long sojourn in Soledad Prison to Molena Point, Calif., where he's thrilled to connect with cat sleuths Joe Grey, Dulcie, and Kit, who lend police chief Max Harper and his detectives a helping paw in the close-knit seaside community. Maudie Toola, and her orphaned grandson, Benny, have also returned to Molena Point, where they are celebrating their first Christmas since a family tragedy eight months earlier. Since Maudie possesses evidence that could incriminate the killer, Maudie and Benny remain in jeopardy unless the talking cats speak up and fast in this marvelous holiday gift of a tale.

DOGS

Ball, Donna. *Gun Shy: a Raine Stockton Dog mystery*
PB MYS B

Raine Stockton, a dog trainer who gave up her career as a Search and Rescue worker after a tragic loss and who has a special way with canines, is called in to investigate the apparent suicide of tourist Michelle White, whose dog, Hero, holds the key to solving this mystery.

Benjamin, Carol. *The Hard Way: a Rachel Alexander and Dash mystery*
FIC MYS BENJAMIN

When a retired businessman is pushed to his death on Manhattan's subway tracks, his daughter retains the services of PI Rachel Alexander in Benjamin's well-plotted, thoughtful ninth episode in her series starring the former dog trainer and her trusty pit bull, Dashiell. The police believe a homeless man killed the victim, Gardner Redstone, so Rachel—escorted by her canine companion—goes undercover as a homeless woman to track down the perpetrator.

Berenson, Laurien. *Death of a Dog Whisperer: a Melanie Travis mystery*
FIC MYS BERENSON

The seventeenth in this popular canine mystery series finds Melanie balancing life with six poodles, two sons, a husband, and an ex-husband who needs her help. Bob asks her and her Aunt Peg to help dog whisperer Nick Walden find more clients. Soon after this happens, Nick is found murdered. Melanie talks to several of Nick's clients, but humans and dogs alike loved him. But soon she discovers some family secrets and a disgruntled girlfriend.

Conant, Susan. *Brute Strength: a Dog Lover's mystery*
FIC MYS CONANT

Malamutes rule—at least in the life of one amateur sleuth. When she's not solving murders, Holly Winter is a columnist, a dog trainer and an investigator for Malamute adoption. Finding the right home for a Malamute is not easy, and Holly must tactfully tell many applicants that a Malamute is not for them. Some of them don't take rejection well, as she learns when she and others start getting nasty, threatening phone calls. When her friend Vanessa's son's fiancé, Fiona, dies in a car crash on the way home from dinner at Holly's house, Holly wonders if her death was really accidental. Holly, with the help of her favorite Malamute, must investigate.

Delaney, Kathleen. *Purebred Dead: a Mary McGill mystery*
FIC MYS DELANEY

Dog-loving cozy fans will welcome Delaney's series launch, an extension of her Ellie McKenzie series (*Dying for a Change*, etc.) featuring Ellie's good-natured, high-energy aunt, Mary McGill, a retired schoolteacher in Santa Louisa, Calif. Mary starts poking into the business of show breeding after two children glimpse a tall man in robes fleeing the final inn of the town's Christmas pageant, leaving behind in the manger the bloodstained body of Cliff Mathews and an adorable black-and-white cocker spaniel puppy.

Kava, Alex. *Breaking Creed*
FIC KAVA

Ryder Creed has started his own search-dog business after serving in a K9 unit in the Marines, in this superior introduction to a new thriller series. In the Gulf of Mexico, off Pensacola, Fla., Creed and his team inspect a commercial fishing vessel, which the authorities suspect is being used to smuggle drugs. Unexpectedly, one of Creed's dogs uncovers human cargo hidden in the hold—five filthy children who appear to be Americans.

Quinn, Spencer. *Dog on It: a Chet and Bernie mystery*
FIC MYS QUINN

An exciting new mystery series debuts with this first novel. Chet the Jet is a dog who failed K-9 school (cats in the open country played a role in his demise), but now he is a dedicated PI and works with Bernie, owner of the Little Detective Agency. The story is told entirely from Chet's point of view, which will delight dog-loving mystery readers, but the book is also an excellent PI tale, dogs aside, as Chet and Bernie investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl whose developer dad may be up to no good.