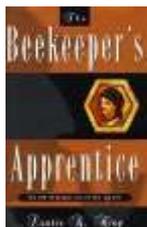


# A New Look at Vintage Sleuths

March 24 2017 Bethany BooksTalk and March 27 2017 Gere BooksTalk - Fay M.

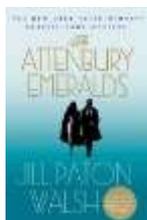
Some fictional literary detectives, among them Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, and Lord Peter Wimsey, seem to have developed a life of their own. Here are some more recent offerings of our old favorites, plus new crime-solving capers from other old friends.



\*\*\*\* Laurie King is the author of several “Novels of suspense featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes.” Holmes has supposedly retired from official detective work to become a bee keeper, meets a young girl named [Mary Russell](#), becomes her mentor and, when she reaches her early 20’s, they marry and become a team in solving various crimes/mysteries. Very thought-provoking, intricately-woven plots with many

touches of humor.

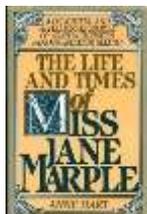
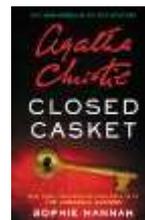
Laurie King is also editor of collections of short stories about Sherlock Holmes: [Echoes of Sherlock Holmes](#), [A Study in Sherlock](#), and [In the Company of Sherlock](#)



(all have subtitles *Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon*)

\*\*\* Jill Paton Walsh has had the honor of completing an unfinished Lord Peter Wimsey manuscript by Dorothy L. Sayers [The Attenbury Emeralds](#). Thereafter, she wrote other novels (“working with the consent of the Trustees of Dorothy L. Sayers”) including: [A Presumption of Death](#), and [The Late Scholar](#).

\*\*\*\* Sophie Hannah is the current author to tackle new renditions of Hercule Poirot. Her two books so far are [Closed Casket](#) and [The Monogram Murders](#). Poirot is paired with a young Scotland Yard detective, Edward Catchpool, whom he meets while temporarily residing at a boarding house. They are a great team, as Catchpool learns much from his knowledgeable older colleague, whether he thinks he needs to or not.



\*\*\* No one seems to have attempted to create new episodes for Agatha Christie’s Miss Jane Marple. Anne Hart, however, has authored a kind of “biography” of the beloved spinster sleuth in her book [The Life and Times of Miss Jane Marple](#).

\*\*\*\* Jane Austen as sleuth: A series featuring Jane Austen set in the context of her own family and real life locales is authored by [Stephanie Barron](#). Barron makes the claim that Austen’s manuscripts of her own adventures were sent to relatives in the U.S., subsequently lost and then rediscovered in 1992. They asked Barron to edit and publish these adventures. Whether or not this is true, the tales spun drew me in by their complexity and the realism of their characters. I enjoyed Jane teaming up with her brother Frank in [Jane and the Prisoner of Wool House](#).

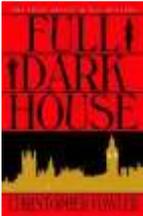
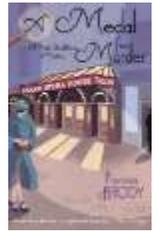


## Other authors and books of note:



\*\*\*\* Amy Stewart has written historical novels about a young woman and her family set around 1914. They include [\*Girl Waits With Gun\*](#) and [\*Lady Cop Makes Trouble\*](#). Although not exactly mysteries, they strike me as worthy of attention

[Frances Brody](#) has authored a series of mysteries set in the 1920's featuring Kate Shackelton, a young woman widowed during WWI, who has developed a reputation for being able to find people. Charming.



Christopher Fowler has written a series of [Peculiar Crimes Unit Mysteries](#) featuring Arthur Bryant and John May. They make entertaining reading.

Freeman Wills Crofts 1930's mysteries have recently been republished. They include [\*The 12:30 from Croyden\*](#), [\*Mystery in the Channel\*](#), and [\*The Hog's Back Mystery\*](#) (more recent offering co-authored by Martin Edwards.)



[Ann Cleeves'](#) series include those upon which are based the BBC series [Vera](#) and [Shetland](#). (I especially recommend the BBC series Shetland.)

