

McClendon, Lise  
[\*The Bluejay Shaman\*](#), 1994  
[\*Nordic Nights\*](#), 1999  
[\*Blue Wolf\*](#), 2001  
[\*One O'Clock Jump\*](#), 2001

McGerr, Patricia (HR only)  
[\*Murder is Absurd\*](#), 1967  
[\*Stranger With My Face\*](#), 1968  
[\*Pick Your Victim\*](#), 1976

McKimmey, James (HR only)  
[\*Blue Mascara Tears\*](#), 1965  
[\*A Circle in the Water\*](#), 1965

McPherson, Scott  
[\*A Step Ahead of Death\*](#), 2011  
[\*Congo Mission\*](#), 2013

Potts, Jean (HR only)  
[\*Death of a Stray Cat\*](#), 1955  
[\*An Affair of the Heart\*](#), 1972  
[\*The Troublemaker\*](#), 1972  
[\*Go, Lovely Rose\*](#), 1988

Reynolds, William J.  
[\*Moving Targets\*](#), 1986 †  
[\*Money Trouble\*](#), 1988 †  
[\*The Nebraska Quotient\*](#), 1986 †  
[\*Drive-By\*](#), 1995 †

Salzmann, Cynthia  
[\*Dying to Decorate\*](#), 2005  
[\*Crime & Clutter\*](#), 2007

Shields, Jody  
[\*The Fig Eater\*](#), 2000

Sprague, Gretchen  
[\*Death in Good Company\*](#), 1998  
[\*Maquette for Murder\*](#), 2000  
[\*Death by Thunder\*](#), 2005 (HR only)

Thompson, Jim  
[\*The Criminal\*](#), 1986 (1953)  
[\*The Killer Inside Me\*](#), 1991 (1952)  
[\*After Dark, My Sweet\*](#), 1990 (1955)

Thrasher, L.L.  
[\*Cat's Paw, Inc.\*](#), 1991  
[\*Charlie's Bones\*](#), 1998

Wiltse, David  
[\*The Serpent\*](#), 1983  
[\*Prayer for the Dead\*](#), 1992  
[\*Heartland\*](#), 2001 †  
[\*The Hangman's Knot\*](#), 2002 †

Winslow, Don.  
[\*California Fire and Life\*](#), 1999  
[\*Death and Life of Bobby Z\*](#), 1997  
[\*The Power of the Dog\*](#), 2005  
[\*Savages\*](#), 2010  
[\*The Gentlemen's Hour\*](#), 2011  
[\*Satori\*](#) (authorized sequel to Trevanian's  
Shibumi 2011  
[\*The Kings of Cool\*](#), 2012

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## Crime and Mystery Fiction by Nebraska Writers

In Nebraska, the historical giants of crime fiction are Mignon Good Eberhart (1899-1996) and Jim Thompson (1906-1977). Eberhart was a classic creator of fictional detectives who combined her mysteries with elements of the romance novel. With some 59 novels to her credit, she is the most prolific Nebraska novelist ever. By the late 1940s Eberhart was the third highest earning woman mystery writer in the world, after Agatha Christie and Mary Roberts Rinehart.

Jim Thompson's writing had a much sharper bite than Eberhart's. Growing up in Oklahoma and in the Sandhills around Burwell, Nebraska, Thompson knew a dark, unforgiving world of labor and want. Thompson came to himself as a writer in Lincoln in the 1930s, under the tutelage of Lowry Wimberly. His writing explored the dark side of the American experience, the inner world of the criminally insane, or the fatal inspirations of a half-formed, trapped, and uncomforted American everyman. Readers and critics have a greater appreciation for his work today than they did during his lifetime.

If Mignon Eberhart's heroines all find their way from some exotic setting, to middle class dreams and ideals, Jim Thompson's stories corrode middle class dreams and distort them into nightmares.

Nebraska's contemporary writers of crime and mystery fiction include writers now recognized as among the genre's most popular and distinguished American practitioners. Among them: Richard Dooling, Sean Doolittle, Julie Kaewert, Alex Kava, Harley Jane Kozak, Lise McClendon, William J. Reynolds, David Wiltse and Don Winslow.

Here, together with works by Eberhart and Thompson, is a sampling of crime and mystery fiction from Nebraska writers.

† indicates books set in Nebraska

Ashbrook, Harriette (Heritage Room only)  
[\*The Murder of Steven Kester\*](#), 1931  
[\*Murder Comes Back\*](#), 1940

Browne, Howard (HR only)  
[\*Halo in Brass\*](#), 1947, 1988 †  
[\*The Taste of Ashes\*](#), 1957, 1988  
[\*Pork City\*](#), 1988  
[\*Scotch on the Rocks\*](#), 1991

Clausen, Lowen  
[\*First Avenue\*](#), 1999

Cohen, Mark  
[\*The Fractal Murders\*](#), 2004  
[\*Bluetick Revenge\*](#), 2005

Dooling, Richard  
[\*Bet Your Life\*](#), 2002 †  
[\*Brain Storm\*](#), 1998

Doolittle, Sean  
[\*Dirt\*](#), 2001  
[\*Burn\*](#), 2003  
[\*Rain Dogs\*](#), 2006 †  
[\*The Cleanup\*](#), 2006 †  
[\*Safer\*](#), 2009  
[\*Lake Country\*](#), 2012

Eberhart, Mignon G.  
[\*The Patient in Room 18\*](#), 1929, 1994  
[\*While the Patient Slept\*](#), 1930, 1995  
[\*While the Patient Slept, DVD\*](#), 2012  
[\*The Mystery of Huntings End\*](#), 1930, 1998 †  
[\*From This Dark Stairway\*](#), 1931, 1996  
[\*Death in the Fog\*](#), 1933, 1996  
[\*Dead Yesterday & Other Stories\*](#), 2007

Eickhoff, Randy Lee (HR only)  
[\*A Hand to Execute\*](#), 1987  
[\*The Gombeen Man\*](#), 1992

Frisbie, Jo, with Gunnar Horn (HR only)  
[\*Murder in the Old Mill\*](#), 1979 †

Garcia, Ricardo (HR only)  
[\*Coal Camp Justice\*](#), 2005

Greenlief, K.C.  
[\*Cold Hunters Moon\*](#), 2002  
[\*Death at the Door\*](#), 2003

Horn, Gunnar, with Jo Frisbie (HR only)  
[\*Murder on Maple Street\*](#), 1984

Kaewert, Julie  
[\*Unsolicited\*](#), 2000  
[\*Unbound\*](#), 1997  
[\*Untitled\*](#), 1999  
[\*Uncatalogued\*](#), 2002

Kava, Alex  
[\*A Perfect Evil\*](#), 2000 †  
[\*Split Second\*](#), 2001  
[\*One False Move\*](#), 2004 †  
[\*A Necessary Evil\*](#), 2006  
[\*Damaged\*](#), 2010  
[\*Hotwire\*](#), 2011  
[\*Fireproof\*](#), 2012  
[\*Stranded\*](#), 2013  
[\*Breaking Creed\*](#), 2015

Kozak, Harley Jane  
[\*Dating Dead Men\*](#), 2004  
[\*Dating is Murder\*](#), 2005  
[\*Dead Ex\*](#), 2007  
[\*A Date You Can't Refuse\*](#), 2009

Lawrence, Margaret  
[\*Hearts and Bones\*](#), 1996  
[\*Blood Red Roses\*](#), 1997  
[\*The Burning Bride\*](#), 1998

Lewandowski, Lois  
[\*The Fatal Heir\*](#), 2007  
[\*The Burden of Truth\*](#), 2009

Lorens, M. K.  
[\*Ropedancer's Fall\*](#), 1990  
[\*Dreamland\*](#), 1992  
[\*Sweet Narcissus\*](#), 1993