The Inspector Lynley mystery series
By Elizabeth George

A Great Deliverance [1988]
The first novel in the "Inspector Lynley mystery" series. Fat, unlovely Roberta Teys is found beside her father's headless corpse. Her first words are "I did it. And I am not sorry". As Lynley investigates, he uncovers a series of shocking revelations that shatter the peaceful Yorkshire village.

Payment in Blood [1989]
Inspector Thomas Lynley of Scotland Yard, who first appeared in "A Great Deliverance", investigates the murder of a playwright at a Scottish country house hotel, where the members of a West End theatre company have assembled for the first reading of a controversial new play.

Well-Schooled in Murder [1990]
The novel opens with the brutal murder of a young boy in a country churchyard. Complex and chilling in its implications, it brings Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers to an old and distinguished public school where scandal is set to shatter the calm and confident atmosphere.

A Suitable Vengeance [1990]
Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley, 8th Earl of Asherton, has brought to Howenstow, his ancestral home, the young woman he has asked to be his bride. But the savage murder of a local journalist soon becomes the catalyst for a lethal series of events which shatters the calm of the picturesque Cornish community, tearing apart powerful ties of love and friendship, and exposing a long-buried family secret. The resulting tragedy will forever alter the course of Thomas Lynley's life.

For the Sake of Elena [1992]
Elena shocked anyone meeting her for the first time. In her skimpy dresses and bright jewelry, she exuded intelligence and sexuality, challenging all preconceptions. Until one morning, while out jogging, she is bludgeoned to death. Detectives Thomas Lynley and Barbara Havers investigate.

Missing Joseph [1993]
An Inspector Lynley novel which examines the power of parental love - a power which overrides all other considerations, all other loves and loyalties, but which can only end in tragedy. When the Reverend Sage is poisoned, Deborah St James and her husband call in Lynley, on leave from Scotland Yard.

Playing for the Ashes [1994]
Delivering milk to Gabriella Patten at Celandine Cottage on a sunny April morning, Martin Snell cannot help noticing that something isn't quite right. The gate is off the latch for a start. Peering into the cottage, he sees the blackened armchair, the smoke-stained walls, and immediately telephones the police. But when the body is found it isn't Mrs. Patten. It is Kenneth Fleming, England's star batsman, dead of asphyxiation, dead because someone wanted him to die. When Scotland Yard is called in by the local police force, Inspector Lynley and Detective Sergeant Havers are surprised to find themselves confronted by an almost embarrassing multitude of suspects, from Gabriella to the dead man's teenage son. Nearly everyone with whom Fleming was in contact seems to have a motive for murder - and most of them also seem to have had the opportunity.

In the Presence of the Enemy [1996]
As the editor of a popular left-wing tabloid, Dennis Luxford has made a career out of exposing scandal and destroying reputations. When he is offered the chance of breaking another government 'sleaze' story and boosting the circulation of his paper still further his hesitation seems inexplicable. But at the heart of this particular scoop lies the kidnapping of a ten-year old girl: Luxford's daughter.

To save the life of his first-born child, whom he has never even seen, Luxford must reveal the details of his brief affair with the child's mother on the front page of his
newspaper. But this liaison was no ordinary one-night stand. For the woman involved is Eve Bowen, now the Under Secretary of State for the Home Office. And even when it becomes clear that her daughter Charlotte is missing, Eve refuses to involve the police, insisting that her child’s disappearance is simply a ploy, however despicable, by Luxford to bring down the Tory government.

It is only when events escalate to unbearable heights that New Scotland Yard, in the guise of Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley and his partner Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers, are brought in. And as their investigations move from the heart of parliamentary London to rural Wiltshire, both Lynley and Havers discover that treachery and betrayal lie perilously close to home.

**Deception on His Mind [1997]**

Balford-Le-Nez is a dying sea town on the coast of Essex. When a member of its small Asian community is found dead, Sergeant Barbara Havers finds she must probe not only the mind of a murderer and a case very close to her own heart, but the price people pay for deceiving others and themselves.

**In Pursuit of the Proper Sinner [1999]**

Two bodies are discovered in the middle of an ancient stone circle. Each met death in a different but violent way. As Detective Inspector Lynley wrestles with the intricacies of the case, the pieces begin to fall into place, forcing Lynley to the conclusion that the blood that binds can also kill.

**A Traitor to Memory [2001]**

Virtuoso violinist Gideon Davies has lost his memory of music and his ability to play the instrument he mastered at the age of five. One fateful night at Wigmore Hall, he lifted his violin to play in a Beethoven trio... and everything in his mind related to music was gone. Gideon suffers from a form of amnesia, the cure for which is an examination of what he can remember. And what he can remember is little enough until his mind is triggered by the weeping of a woman and a single name: Sonia. One rainy evening, a woman called Eugenie travels to London for a mysterious appointment. But before she is able to reach her destination, a car swoops out of nowhere and kills her in the street. In pursuing her killer, Thomas Lynley, Barbara Havers and Winston Nkata come to know a group of people inextricably connected by a long-ago crime and punishment no one has spoken of for twenty years.

**A Place of Hiding [2003]**

Millionaire Guy Brouard has made his home on Guernsey and acted as patron and benefactor to many of the islanders. So his murder comes as a shock - and puts many of their schemes in jeopardy. The young woman arrested for the crime is China River, a Californian photographer who was only on Guernsey in the first place as a favour to her brother, Cherokee. In shock at this turn of events, Cherokee seeks help from his only UK contact - Deborah St James, a long-standing friend of his sister. Dealing with personal issues in her marriage and her career, Deborah rushes impulsively to the island to address this miscarriage of justice, accompanied - albeit reluctantly - by her husband, Simon, whose skills as a forensic pathologist and whose connections with Scotland Yard, will prove useful. As the couple penetrates the close-knit Guernsey community in order to solve the crime, they discover it has its roots in the island’s history of Nazi Occupation. They also discover things about themselves, and their own relationship, along the way.

**With No One as Witness [2005]**

When an adolescent boy's nude body is found mutilated and artfully arranged on the top of a tomb, it takes no large leap for the police to recognize this as the work of a serial killer. This is the fourth victim in three months but the first to be white. Hoping to avoid charges of institutionalized racism in its failure to pursue the earlier crimes to their conclusion, New Scotland Yard hands the case over to Lynley and his colleagues. The killer is a psychopath who does not intend to be stopped. Worse, a devastating tragedy within the police ranks causes them to fumble in their pursuit of him.

**What Came Before He Shot Her [2006]**

The brutal, inexplicable death of Inspector Thomas Lynley’s wife has left Scotland Yard searching for answers. Who is the twelve-year-old boy who pulled the trigger? What were the circumstances that led to his horrific act? That story begins on the other side of London, where the three mixed-race Campbell children are sent to live with their...
aunt. The oldest, fifteen-year-old Ness, is headed for trouble as fast as her high-heeled boots will take her. That leaves the middle child, Joel, to care for the youngest, Toby. But before long, Joel has his own problems with a local gang. To protect his family, he makes a pact with the devil--; a move that leads straight to the front doorstep of Thomas Lynley.

The anatomy of a murder, the story of a family in crisis, *What Came Before He Shot Her* is a powerful, emotional novel that only the incomparable Elizabeth George could write.

**Careless in Red** [2008]

After the senseless murder of his wife, Detective Superintendent Thomas Lynley retreated to Cornwall, where he has spent six solitary weeks hiking the bleak and rugged coastline. But no matter how far he walks, no matter how exhausting his days, the painful memories of Helen’s death do not diminish.

On the forty-third day of his walk, at the base of a cliff, Lynley discovers the body of a young man who appears to have fallen to his death. The closest town, better known for its tourists and its surfing than its intrigue, seems an unlikely place for murder. However, it soon becomes apparent that a clever killer is indeed at work, and this time Lynley is not a detective but a witness and possibly a suspect.

The head of the vastly understaffed local police department needs Lynley’s help, though, especially when it comes to the mysterious, secretive woman whose cottage lies not far from where the body was discovered. But can Lynley let go of the past long enough to solve a most devious and carefully planned crime?

**This Body of Death** [2010]

While DI Thomas Lynley is still on compassionate leave after the murder of his wife, Isabelle Ardery is brought into the Met as his temporary replacement. The discovery of a body in a Stoke Newington cemetery offers Isabelle the chance to make her mark with a high profile murder investigation. Persuading Lynley back to work seems the best way to guarantee a result: Lynley's team is fiercely loyal to him and Isabelle needs them - and especially Barbara Havers - on her side. The Met is twitchy: a series of PR disasters has undermined its confidence. Isabelle knows that she'll be operating under the unforgiving scrutiny of the media, so is quick -- perhaps too quick - to pin the murder on a convenient suspect. The murder trail leads Lynley and Havers to the New Forest, and the eventual resolution of the case. Its roots are in a long-ago act of violence that has poisoned subsequent generations and its outcome is both tragic and shocking.

**Believing the Lie** [2012]

[Forthcoming next year...]

The Inspector Lynley Mysteries on DVD

Between 2001 and 2008, 24 episodes of this series were filled and shown over six seasons on British TV, then on “Mystery” on PBS on American television. These episodes have been released on individual discs and in 6 Boxed Sets.

The libraries have all of these episodes on DVD.

This booklist prepared for the members of the Just Desserts mystery fiction discussion group.

Lincoln City Libraries
Lincoln, NE – SDC – 5/2011