

MEDIEVAL MYSTERIES AND OTHER MAYHEM

A Gere BooksTalk by
Robyn Henderson



Ellis Peters (<http://www.detecs.org/cadfael.html>)

The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael series:

Brother Cadfael is a monk in the Benedictine abbey of St Peter and St Paul in 12th century Shrewsbury, near the Welsh Border. He spent the first 2/3 of his working life as a soldier, fighting in the crusades, and as a sea captain about the coasts of the Holy Land, before giving it up for the monastic life. At the abbey, is he is the herbalist, devising medicines and treatments for the brothers and those in the village. Yet his work is being constantly interrupted by mysterious disappearances and unexplained stabbings.

A Morbid Taste for Bones
One Corpse Too Many
Monk's-Hood
Saint Peter's Fair
The Leper of St. Giles
The Virgin in the Ice
The Sanctuary Sparrow
The Devil's Novice
Dead Man's Ransom
The Pilgrim of Hate
An Excellent Mystery

The Raven in the Foregate
The Rose Rent
The Hermit of Eyton Forest
The Confession of Brother Haluin
The Heretic's Apprentice
The Potter's Field
The Summer of the Danes
The Holy Thief
Brother Cadfael's Penance
A Rare Benedictine

Peter Tremayne (<http://www.sisterfidelma.com>)

Sister Fidelma series:

The Sister Fidelma mysteries are set mainly in Ireland during the mid-seventh century AD. Sister Fidelma is not simply a religieuse, a former member of the community of St Brigid of Kildare. She is also a qualified *dalaigh*, or advocate of the ancient law courts of Ireland.

Absolution by Murder
Shroud for the Archbishop
Suffer Little Children
A Subtle Serpent
The Spider's Web
Valley of the Shadow
The Monk who Vanished
Act of Mercy
Hemlock at Vespers (15 short Sister Fidelma mysteries)
Our Lady of Darkness
Smoke in the Wind
The Haunted Abbot
Badger's Moon
The Leper's Ball

Whispers of the Dead (15 short Ancient Irish Mysteries)
Master of Souls
A Prayer for the Damned
Dancing with Demons
Council of the Cursed
The Dove of Death
The Chalice of Blood
Behold a Pale Horse
The Seventh Trumpet
Atonement of Blood
The Devil's Seal
The Second Death

Paul Doherty (<http://www.paulcdoherty.com>)

Hugh Corbett Series (Spy for King Edward I of England, late 1200s)

Satan in St Mary's (1986)
The Crown in Darkness (1988)
Spy in Chancery (1988)
The Angel of Death (1989)
The Prince Of Darkness (1992)
Murder Wears a Cowl (1992)
The Assassin in the Greenwood (1993)
The Song of a Dark Angel (1994)
Satan's Fire (1995)
The Devil's Hunt (1996)
The Demon Archer (1999)
The Treason of the Ghosts (2000)
Corpse Candle (2001)
The Magician's Death (2004)
The Waxman Murders (2006)
Nightshade (2008)
The Mysterium (2010)

Sorrowful Mysteries of Brother Athelstan (Dominican Monk, 1300s) (*Written originally as Paul Harding)

The Nightingale Gallery (1991)*
The House Of The Red Slayer (1992)*
Murder Most Holy (1992)*
The Anger Of God (1993)*
By Murder's Bright Light (1994)*
The House Of Crows (1995)*
The Assassin's Riddle (1996)*
The Devil's Domain (1998)
The Field Of Blood (1999)
The House of Shadows (2003)
Bloodstone (2011)
The Straw Men (2012)
Candle Flame (2014)
The Book of Fires (2014)

Sir Roger Shalot Tudor Mysteries (1500s)

The White Rose Murders (1991)
The Poisoned Chalice (1992)
The Grail Murders (1993)
A Brood of Vipers (1994)
The Gallows Murders (1995)
The Relic Murders (1996)

Kathryn Swinbrooke Series (physician, 1400s)

(Written originally as C. L. Grace)
A Shrine of Murders (1993)
The Eye of God (1994)
The Merchant of Death (1995)
The Book of Shadows (1996)
Saintly Murders (2001)
A Maze of Murders (2002)
A Feast of Poisons (2004)

Canterbury Tales

An Ancient Evil (1994)
A Tapestry of Murders (1994)
A Tournament of Murders (1996)
Ghostly Murders (1997)
The Hangman's Hymn (2001)
A Haunt of Murder (2002)
The Midnight Man (2012)

Templar

The Templar (2007)
The Templar Magician (2009)

Mathilde of Westminster Series

The Cup of Ghosts (2005)
The Poison Maiden (2007)
The Darkening Glass (2009)

Alan Gordon <http://www.alan-gordon.com>

Fools' Guild Mysteries: (Main character is Theophilos, aka Festes)

Thirteenth Night (1999).
Jester Leaps In (2000).
A Death In The Venetian Quarter (2002).
The Widow Of Jerusalem (2003)
An Antic Disposition (2004)
The Lark's Lament (2007)
The Moneylender of Toulouse (2008)
The Parisian Prodigal (2010).

Michael Jecks (<http://www.michaeljecks.co.uk>)

The Templar/Medieval West Country Series

Excellent series of mysteries set in 14th century medieval England. Sir Baldwin, a Knights Templar, escapes the destruction of his order, and comes to England to inherit the property of his deceased elder brother, Furnhill Manor in the west country of England. He teams with his new friend, Simon Puttock, newly appointed bailiff of Lydford Castle. Simon, working with Baldwin and also alone, is drawn into the intrigue of the times.

The Last Templar (1995/2013)
The Merchant's Partner (1995/2013)
A Moorland Hanging (1996/2013)
The Crediton Killings (1997)
The Abbot's Gibbet (1998)
The Leper's Return (1998)
Squire Throwleigh's Heir (1999)
Belladonna At Belstone (1999)
The Traitor Of St Giles (2000)
The Boy-Bishop's Glovemaker (2000)
The Tournament Of Blood (2001)
The Sticklepath Strangler (2001)
The Devil's Acolyte (2002)
The Mad Monk Of Gidleigh (2002)
The Templar's Penance (2003)
The Outlaws Of Ennor(2004)

The Tolls Of Death (2004)
The Chapel Of Bones (2004)
The Butcher Of St. Peter's (2005)
A Friar's Bloodfeud
The Death Ship Of Dartmouth
The Malice Of Unnatural Death
Dispensation Of Death
The Templar, The Queen And Her Lover
The Prophecy Of Death
King Of Thieves
No Law In The Land
The Bishop Must Die
The Oath
King's Gold
City Of Fiends
Templar's Acre

Ian Morson (<http://www.ianmorson.co.uk>)

William Falconer series

William Falconer is a Regent Master at Oxford University in the 13th century. Addicted to Logic and the teachings of Aristotle, he finds himself using his knowledge to solve the riddles surrounding local murders. William is aided in his detective work by the town constable, Peter Bullock, and other fellow Masters of the university.

Falconer's Crusade
Falconer's Judgment
Falconer and the Face of God
A Psalm for Falconer
Falconer and the Great Beast
Falconer and the Ritual of Death
Falconer's Trial
Falconer and the Death of Kings
Falconer and the Rain of Blood

Niccolo 'Nick' Zuliani series

Nick Zuliani is a Venetian entrepreneur from the same sort of timeframe as Falconer. Finding himself in trouble in Venice, he undertakes to be the bodyguard for Friar Alberoni on his trip to the far-flung Mongol Empire of Kubilai Khan. In Cathay, he falls into being the Great Khan's investigator of crimes, and travels far and wide. .

City of the Dead (2008)
A Deadly Injustice (2011)

Sharon Kay Penman (<http://www.sharonkaypenman.com>)

Justin DeQuincy: (Spy for Eleanor of Aquitaine)

The Queen's Man
Cruel as the Grave
Dragon's Lair
Prince of Darkness

Not mysteries, but great medieval novels by Penman:

Plantagenet Kings:

When Christ and His Saints Slept
Time and Chance
Devil's Brood
Lionheart
A King's Ransom

Welsh Princes:

Here Be Dragons
Fall of the Shadow
The Reckoning

Susanna Gregory (<http://www.susannagregory.com>)

Matthew Bartholomew Series

Matthew Bartholomew is a physician living in fourteenth-century Cambridge. He is a master at the College of Michaelhouse at the University of Cambridge, where he teaches medicine. He and Cambridge Proctor Brother Michael solve all kinds of intrigues and murders that affect Cambridge.

A Plague on Both Your Houses
An Unholy Alliance
A Bone of Contention
A Deadly Brew
A Wicked Deed
A Masterly Murder
An Order for Death
A Summer of Discontent
A Killer in Winter
The Hand of Justice
The Mark of a Murderer
The Tarnished Chalice
To Kill or Cure
The Devil's Disciples
A Vein of Deceit
The Killer of Pilgrims
Mystery in the Minster
Murder by the Book
The Lost Abbot
Death of a Scholar
A Poison Plot
A Grave Concern

Thomas Chaloner Series:

Set in Restoration England, Thomas, is an intelligence agent for the Earl of Clarendon

A Conspiracy of Violence
Blood on the Strand
The Butcher of Smithfield
The Westminster Poisoner
A Murder on London Bridge
A Body in the Thames
The Piccadilly Plot
Death in St. James's Park
Murder on High Holborn
The Cheapside Corpse
The Chelsea Strangler

Writing as Simon Beaufort:

Geoffery Mappestone Series:

Soldier in service to Tancred de Hauteville, later Prince of Galilee

Murder in the Holy City
A Head for Poisoning
The Bishop's Brood
The King's Spy
The Coiners' Quarrel
Deadly Inheritance
The Bloodstained Throne
A Dead Man's Secret

The Medieval Murderers (see websites of the various authors)

A group of Medieval mystery writers that combine forces to write a book that travels through several generations (centuries), tracking a common item/issue.

Writers include: Michael Jenks, Susanna Gregory, Ian Morson, Karen Maitland, Bernard Knight, Philip Gooden, and CJ Sansom.

The Tainted Relic: An Historical Mystery
The Sword of Shame
House of Shadows
The Lost Prophecies

King Arthur's Bones
The Sacred Stone
Hill of Bones
The First Murder

Bernard Knight

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowner_John_Mysteries)

Crowner John Mysteries:

Set in the late 1100s, Sir John de Wolfe, a former Crusading knight is appointed to the office of Keeper of the Pleas of the King's Crown i.e. the King's Crowner or Coroner, for the county of Devon. As Crowner, Sir John has to investigate all sudden deaths, murders, rapes, assaults, fires, wrecks and catches of royal fish, as well as trying to drive as much custom (through fines and taking of property owned by convicted criminals) as possible into the royal treasury, instead of the old manor and shire courts.

The Sanctuary Seeker (1998)
 The Poisoned Chalice (1998)
 Crowner's Quest (1999)
 The Awful Secret (2000)
 The Tinner's Corpse (2001)
 The Grim Reaper (2002)
 Fear In The Forest (2003)
 The Witch Hunter (2004)
 Figure of Hate (2005)

The Elixir of Death (2006)
 The Noble Outlaw (2007)
 The Manor of Death (2008)
 Crowner Royal (2009)
 A Plague of Heretics (2010)
 Crowner's Crusade (2012), actually a prequel to the series, taking place chronologically before The Sanctuary Seeker

Margaret Frazer (<http://www.margaretfrazer.com>)

Sister Frevisse Series:

Set in the mid-1400s, Sister (aka Dame) Frevisse is hosteler of the St. Frideswide priory and an amateur sleuth. St. Frideswide priory is located in Oxfordshire, and home to ten (more or less) nuns. Dame Frevisse is related to Geoffery Chaucer, which leads to some interesting storylines.

The Novice's Tale
 The Servant's Tale
 The Outlaw's Tale
 The Bishop's Tale
 The Boy's Tale
 The Murderer's Tale
 The Prioress' Tale
 The Maiden's Tale
 The Reeve's Tale

The Squire's Tale
 The Clerk's Tale
 The Bastard's Tale
 The Hunter's Tale
 The Widow's Tale
 The Sempster's Tale
 The Traitor's Tale
 The Apostate's Tale

Kate Sedley (<http://detecs.org/roger.html>)

Roger the Chapman (peddler) series:

Entered into the Benedictine abbey at Glastonbury at a young age, Roger decides that Christianity is not his calling and leaves the abbey at age 18. The series starts in 1471, young Roger, who has

recently quit monastic life for the freedom of the open road, peddling his wares from town to town, proves to be an intrepid investigator.

Death and the Chapman
The Plymouth Cloak
The Weaver's Tale
The Holy Innocents
The Eve of Saint Hyacinth
The Wicked Winter
The Brothers of Glastonbury
The Weaver's Inheritance
The Saint John's Fern
The Goldsmith's Daughter
The Lammas Feast

Nine Men Dancing
The Midsummer Rose
The Burgundian's Tale
The Prodigal Sun
The Tree Kings of Cologne
The Green Man
The Dance of Death
Wheel of Fate
The Midsummer Crown
The Tintern Treasure
The Christmas Wassail

Other great medieval novels:

Bernard Cornwell (<http://www.bernardcornwell.net>)

The Last Kingdom Series

The Saxon Stories tell the tale of Alfred the Great and his descendants through the eyes of Uhtred, an English boy born into the aristocracy of ninth-century Northumbria, captured by the Danes and taught the Viking ways.

The Last Kingdom
The Pale Horseman
Lords of The North
Sword Song
The Burning Land
Death of Kings
The Pagan Lord
The Empty Throne
Warriors of the Storm
The Flame Bearer

The Grail Quest:

Story of Thomas of Hookton, an archer and veteran of Crecy, a mercenary, and later in the army of Edward, Prince of Wales (The Black Prince) has family legacy to the Holy Grail

1356
The Archer's Tale
Vagabond
Heretic

The Warlord Trilogy (The Arthur Books) Series:

The Winter King
Enemy of God
Excalibur

Stand Alone books:

Stonehenge
Agincourt
Fiona Buckley: Ursula Blanchard

Other Medieval Mystery Authors:

Sharan Newman: Catherine LeVendeur
Ariana Franklin: Adelia Aguilar
CJ Sansom: Matthew Shardlake
Jay Ruud: Merlin Mysteries
Candance Robb: Owen Archer
Alys Clare: Hawkenlye Mysteries