



## VELMA'S CLUES

COZY MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

meets on the fourth Monday of each month  
at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Meeting Room  
at the Velma Teague Branch Library  
7010 North 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
call (623) 930-3446 for more information

JANUARY 27, 2025	<b>MARTY WINGATE <i>The Garden Plot</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Potting Shed Mystery series</i> )
FEBRUARY 24, 2025	<b>NANCY COCO <i>All Fudged Up</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Candy-Coated Mystery series</i> )
MARCH 24, 2025	<b>T. E. KINSEY <i>A Quiet Life in the Country</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Lady Hardcastle Mystery series</i> )
APRIL 28, 2025	<b>KRISTA DAVIS <i>Murder, She Barked</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Paws and Claws Mystery series</i> )
MAY 19, 2025	<b>DANA STABENOW <i>A Cold Day for Murder</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Kate Shugak Mystery series</i> )
JUNE 23, 2025	<b>JOSI S. KILPACK <i>Lemon Tart</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Cozy Culinary Mystery series</i> )
JULY 28, 2025	<b>KATE KINGSBURY <i>Room with a Clue</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Pennyfoot Hotel Mystery series</i> )
AUGUST 25, 2025	<b>JESSICA BECK <i>Glazed Murder</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Donut Shop Mystery series</i> )
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025	<b>LEE HARRIS <i>The Good Friday Murder</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Christine Bennett Mystery series</i> )
OCTOBER 27, 2025	<b>LEE HOLLIS <i>Death of a Kitchen Diva</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Hayley Powell Food and Cocktail Mystery series</i> )
NOVEMBER 24, 2025	<b>GINGER BOLTON <i>Survival of the Fritters</i></b> <b>We will be joined by the author via Microsoft Meetings</b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Deputy Donut Mystery series</i> )
DECEMBER 22, 2025	<b>LORNA BARRETT <i>Murder Is Binding</i></b> (the inaugural book in the <i>Booktown Mystery series</i> )

Our cozy mystery book club at the Velma Teague Branch Library is a huge success. Please join us!

We will read and discuss the first book in a series. You may read (or may have read) others in the series, but our discussion will center primarily on the first book. At the end of the discussion, participants are encouraged to share their most recent mystery reads.

Books will be available for checkout at the Velma Teague Branch Library Service Desk one month prior to the meeting.

## Velma's Clues Cozy Mystery Book Club

One of the most popular sections in the Glendale Public Libraries is the category or genre of cozy mysteries. Most of us would probably cite Agatha Christie's Jane Marple as the first prototypical cozy sleuth. In somewhat more recent times, we might think of Jessica Fletcher, as played by Angela Lansbury in the television series *Murder, She Wrote*, and in the books still being written by Donald Bain and others.

So, are all cozies peopled by more or less eccentric amateur sleuths? Nope. There are also professional independent detectives as epitomized by Hercule Poirot (again by Agatha Christie) or Sherlock Holmes (originally by Arthur Conan Doyle and by numerous authors since) or, perhaps, Kinsey Millhone (in a series by Sue Grafton).

Let us get started with a few fairly common characteristics of most cozies. Every one of these will, of course, have notable exceptions, so I won't characterize these as RULES. Many cozies take place in a small town, or at least a rather circumscribed society. The vast preponderance of amateur sleuths are women, who are usually involved in some other profession unrelated to the solving of crimes. There is often a significant other, who actually is a professional crime fighter. The crimes are generally not bloody or gory, or at least are seldom described in any graphic detail. Generally, there is little profanity in the dialogue and no explicit sex.

What we have, then, are fairly genteel puzzles that are solved by a gradual discovery of clues. Character development and relationships are very important, and almost always take place over the course of several novels in a series.

Most of the series we read are still being written at the time we read them. Recently we have introduced authors from the "Golden Age" of traditional mysteries and a few outstanding authors from the latter part of the twentieth century. We now hold our meetings on Microsoft Meetings in a virtual setting in addition to the live meeting at the Velma Teague Library. Each discussion includes several handouts with additional information about the author, the series and the subcategory of mystery (i.e. cooking, books and libraries, crafting, etc.) We almost always read the first mystery in a series and, so far, have not duplicated authors or series. The group meets on the fourth Monday of every month beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### Velma Teague Branch Library

7010 North 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Glendale Public Library

[library.glendaleaz.gov](http://library.glendaleaz.gov)

City of Glendale Community Services Department

(623) 930-3590

Glendale, Arizona 85301

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL



**(623) 930-3446**

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

All events at the Glendale Public Library are public, and participants may be photographed by the media and/or City staff for future print and/or online publication.

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12/19/2024