



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 58th Avenue
call (623) 930-3446 for more information

- JANUARY 26, 2026 **KATE KINGSBURY *Room with a Clue***
(the inaugural book in the *Pennyfot Hotel Mystery series*)
- FEBRUARY 23, 2026 **ELLIE ALEXANDER *Meet Your Baker***
(the inaugural book in the *Bakeshop Mystery series*)
- MARCH 23, 2026 **ERICA RUTH NEUBAUER *Murder at the Mena House***
(the inaugural book in the *Jane Wunderly Mystery series*)
- APRIL 27, 2026 **MARGARET MIZUSHIMA *Killing Trail***
(the inaugural book in the *Timber Creek K-9 Mystery series*)
- MAY 18 2026 **DARYL WOOD GERBER *Final Sentence***
We will be joined by the author via Microsoft Meetings
(the inaugural book in the *Cookbook Nook Mystery series*)
- JUNE 22, 2026 **VICTORIA GILBERT *A Murder for the Books***
(the inaugural book in the *Blue Ridge Library Mystery series*)
- JULY 27, 2026 **GIGI PANDIAN *The Accidental Alchemist***
We will be joined by the author via Microsoft Meetings
(the inaugural book in the *Accidental Alchemist Mystery series*)
- AUGUST 24, 2026 **ASHLEY WEAVER *Murder at the Brightwell***
(the inaugural book in the *Amory Ames Mystery series*)
- SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 **BREE BAKER *Live and Let Chai***
(the inaugural book in the *Seaside Café Mystery series*)
- OCTOBER 26, 2026 **MAYA CORRIGAN *Crypt Suzette***
We will be joined by the author via Microsoft Meetings
(the inaugural book in the *Five-Ingredient Mystery series*)
- NOVEMBER 23, 2026 **MARGARET MARON *Bootleggers Daughter***
(the inaugural book in the *Judge Deborah Knott series*)
- DECEMBER 28, 2026 **GAIL OUST *Rosemary and Crime***
(the inaugural book in the *Spice Shop Mystery series*)

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 58th Avenue

Glendale Public Library

www.glendaleaz.com/library

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.