The All-Time Greats

Philip Marlowe
Author: Raymond Chandler
Type: hard-boiled, Los Angeles

Nick Charles/ Nora Charles
Author: Dashiell Hammett
Type: soft-boiled

The Continental Op
Author: Dashiell Hammett
Type: hard-boiled

Sam Spade
Author: Dashiell Hammett
Type: hard-boiled

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About the terminology used in this booklist . . .

Those mystery series described as “soft-boiled” have less blood and mayhem, explicit sex, and profanity than “hard-boiled.”

Look for these detective stories in the mystery section, 1st floor Main Reading Room. Some are available in large print.

Tell me about a great book to read

The Golden Age of Mystery

Dan Fortune
Author: Michael Collins
Type: hard-boiled, physical disability

Bertha Cool/ Donald Lam
Author: A.A. Fair
Type: soft-boiled, Los Angeles

Mike Shayne
Author: Brett Halliday
Type: hard-boiled, Miami

Bill Crane
Author: Jonathan Latimer
Type: soft-boiled, humor

Lew Archer
Author: Ross Macdonald
Type: hard-boiled

Mike Hammer
Author: Mickey Spillane
Type: hard-boiled, New York

Maud Silver
Author: Patricia Wentworth
Type: soft-boiled, eccentric, similar to Miss Marple, England

Nero Wolfe/ Archie Goodwin
Author: Rex Stout
Type: soft-boiled, eccentric, New York
Contemporary Authors

Carlotta Carlyle
Author: Linda Barnes
Type: Boston

Wil Hardesty
Author: Richard Barre
Type: hard-boiled, California, Vietnam Veteran

Nate Heller
Author: Max Allan Collins
Type: hard-boiled, historical

Elvis Cole
Author: Robert Crais
Type: hard-boiled, romance, Los Angeles

Milo Milodragovitch/ C.W. Sughrue
Author: James Crumley
Type: hard-boiled, the West

Marcus Didius Falco
Author: Lindsey Davis
Type: soft-boiled, historical, ancient Rome, humor

Amos Walker
Author: Loren D. Estleman
Type: hard-boiled, Detroit

Kinsey Millhone
Author: Sue Grafton
Type: California

John Francis Cuddy
Author: Jeremiah Healy
Type: hard-boiled, Boston

Cordelia Gray
Author: P.D. James
Type: London

Bernard Gunther
Author: Philip Kerr
Type: hard-boiled, historical, Nazi Germany

Thomas Hickey
Author: Ken Kuhlken
Type: hard-boiled, historical, San Diego

Patrick Kenzie/ Angela Gennaro
Author: Dennis Lehane
Type: hard-boiled, Boston

Sharon McConne
Author: Marcia Muller
Type: romance, social issues, San Francisco

V.I. Warshawski
Author: Sara Paretsky
Type: hard-boiled, social issues, Chicago

Spenser
Author: Robert B. Parker
Type: hard-boiled, Boston

Nameless
Author: Bill Pronzini
Type: hard-boiled, San Francisco

Lydia Chin, Bill Smith
Author: S.J. Rozan
Type: Asian-Americans, New York

Gordianus the Finder
Author: Steven Saylor
Type: historical, Ancient Rome

Neal Carey
Author: Don Winslow
Type: world travel, hard-boiled

Tess Monaghan
Author: Laura Lippman
Type: romance, Baltimore, Maryland

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