Who’s your favorite amateur gumshoe?

Philip Trent
Author: E.C. Bentley
Type: soft-boiled; written in the early 20th century and considered classics.

Nigel Strangeways
Author: Nicholas Blake
Type: soft-boiled; written in the early 20th century and considered classics.

Jane Marple
Author: Agatha Christie
Type: soft-boiled; English village setting.

Anthony Gethryn
Author: Philip MacDonald
Type: soft-boiled; written in the early 20th century and considered classics.

Hilary Tamar
Author: Sarah Caudwell
Type: legal

Gervase Fen
Author: Edmund Crispin
Type: academia, humorous

Dr. Sam: Johnson/ James Boswell
Author: Lillian de la Torre
Type: soft-boiled, historical

Rabbi David Small
Author: Harry Kemelman
Type: Massachusetts, religion

Tell me about a great book to read

Look for these detective stories in the Mystery Section, 1st floor Main Reading Room.

Who’s your favorite amateur gumshoe?

John Putnam Thatcher
Author: Emma Lathen
Type: banking

Pamela North/ Jerry North
Author: Frances and Richard Lockridge
Type: soft-boiled, New York, humorous

Brother Cadfael
Author: Ellis Peters
Type: historical, religion

Meg Langslow
Author: Donna Andrews
Type: soft-boiled, humorous

Agatha Raisin
Author: M.C. Beaton
Type: soft-boiled, humor

Charles Paris
Author: Simon Brett
Type: theater, humor

Who’s your favorite amateur gumshoe?

Jane Jeffrey
Author: Jill Churchill
Type: soft-boiled, Chicago area

Myron Bolitar
Author: Harlan Coben
Type: hard-boiled

Kate Fansler
Author: Amanda Cross
Type: academia, feminism

Goldy Bear Schulz
Author: Diane Mott Davidson
Type: soft-boiled, cooking, Colorado

Temple Barr/ Midnight Louie
Author: Carole Nelson Douglas
Type: soft-boiled, cats

Gideon Oliver
Author: Aaron Elkins
Type: forensics

Owen Keane
Author: Terence Faherty
Type: religion

Patricia Anne Hollowell/ Mary Alice Crane
Author: Anne George
Type: soft-boiled, Southern USA, humor
Who's your favorite amateur gumshoe?

Tell me about a great book to read.

Annie Laurance/ Max Darling
Author: Carolyn G. Hart
Type: soft-boiled, Southern USA

Henrie O
Author: Carolyn G. Hart
Type: Darker than Annie Laurance series

Claire Malloy
Author: Joan Hess
Type: soft-boiled, humor, Arkansas

Mary Russell/ Sherlock Holmes
Author: Laurie King
Type: historical, Victorian England

Elizabeth MacPherson
Author: Sharon McCrumb
Type: soft-boiled, romance, Appalachia

Easy Rawlings
Author: Walter Mosley
Type: hard-boiled, historical, African-American, California

Catherine Le Vendeur
Author: Sharan Newman
Type: historical, Middle Ages, Religion

Faith Sibley Fairchild
Author: Katherine Hall Page
Type: soft-boiled, culinary

Jim Qwilleran/ Koko/ Yum Yum
Author: Lilian Jackson Braun
Type: soft-boiled, cats

Look for these detective stories in the Mystery Section, 1st floor Main Reading Room.

Vicky Bliss
Author: Elizabeth Peters
Type: soft-boiled, art, antiquities

Amelia Peabody
Author: Elizabeth Peters
Type: soft-boiled, historical (1900-1999), archeology

Jenny Cain
Author: Nancy Pickard
Type: soft-boiled, Massachusetts, small town, family life

Alan Gregory
Author: Stephen White
Type: hard-boiled, Colorado, psychology

Susan Henshaw
Author: Valerie Wolzien
Type: soft-boiled, Connecticut

As an aid to locating good mystery reads . . .
Make Mine a Mystery: a Reader's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction R 808.3 Nie

This book provides an overview of each mystery writer's style and major themes as well as plot summaries for specific titles. If you already have a favorite mystery writer, you can use this source to find other mystery writers that may appeal to you.

Be sure to check out the many web sites dedicated to detective stories. You will find links to them from the Library's online Reader's Corner, Literature Links.

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" series.