

The Merchant of Menace: Murder Most Shakespearean

Murder most foul, as in the best it is,
But this most foul, strange, and unnatural.
- "Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" (Ghost at I, v)

Gooden, Philip. Shakespearean Murder Mystery series

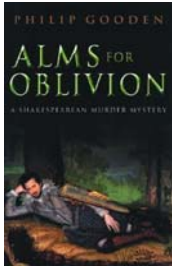
Nick Revill is an actor in the Lord Chamberlain's Men and each book centers around a performance of a Shakespeare play.



[The Pale Companion](#) (2002)

It is midsummer in 1601 and Nick Revill and his fellow actor are journeying across the Wiltshire Downs to a country house, to perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for a wedding. It should be a pleasant jaunt, but soon Nick finds the Dream has turned into a nightmare.

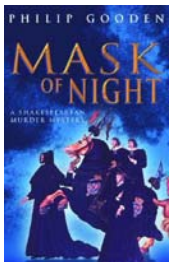
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[Alms for Oblivion](#) (2003)

When Nick Revill's friend Peter arrives in London hoping to tread the stage, what else can Nick do but invite him to join his own troupe, the Chamberlain's Company, who are about to put on a private production of "Troilus and Cressida." Yet within days Peter Agate is found dead, stabbed to death at Nick's lodgings, Nick is forced to prove his innocence and sets off on a quest.

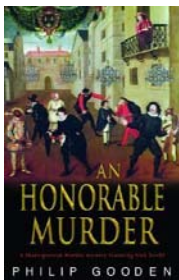
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[Mask of Night](#) (2004)

When the Black Death strikes London, all the theatres are closed down. The Chamberlain's Men, high to Oxford where a local physician has offered to pay for a private performance of "Romeo and Juliet", although his motives are obscure. Is he trying to reconcile two apparently warring families to the prospect of a marriage, or is he simply looking for a chance to act himself?

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[An Honorable Murder](#) (2005)

In 1604, Nick's troupe is helping to celebrate an impending peace treaty between England and Spain by performing a play with courtier, Sir Philip Blake, among the cast. When Blake's character is supposed to descend from the heavens the drop results in his death, investigating the apparent accident becomes Nick's responsibility through the forceful request of a shadowy figure.

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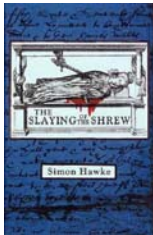
Goodman, Carol. [The Sonnet Lover](#) (2007)

Did Shakespeare pen a series of passionate sonnets, unknown to modern scholarship, ardently praising a mysterious dark-haired beauty? This tantalizing question is raised in a letter to literature professor Rose Asher. But the letter's author, Rose's star pupil, is not telling. A troubled, enigmatic young man, he plunged to his death in front of the college's entire faculty, an apparent suicide. Determined to find the truth, Rose journeys from New York to Italy, back to the magnificent Tuscan villa where as an undergraduate she first fell in love.

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Hawke, Simon **Shakespeare and Smythe series**

Symington Smythe and Will Shakespeare meet at a tavern on the road to London and become travel companions and fast friends. They wheedle their way into a company of players and wind up in the middle of romance, mystery and intrigue.



[The Slaying of the Shrew](#) (2001)

Shakespeare, Smythe, and their band of thespians are contracted to provide entertainment at a rural estate as part of a large wedding pageant. When the headstrong bride turns up dead, and overheard conversations contain conspiratorial plots against the families involved, Will and Tuck must once again pull double duty as thespians and sleuths to solve the case.

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[Much Ado about Murder](#) (2002)

The plague is in town and the theaters are closed by royal decree. To make ends meet, Smythe resorts to smithing while Will becomes a poet for hire involved with the affairs of a certain dark lady . . . until entertainment-starved London is rocked by an apparent crime of passion with all of the requisite elements of a Greek tragedy.

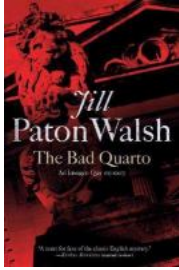
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[The Merchant of Vengeance](#) (2003)

With companion Smythe at his side, Shakespeare makes a sojourn for research purposes into the Elizabethan underworld, where contracts are blood bonds and the quality of mercy is stretched to its very limits. He becomes embroiled in a tangle of unlucky young lovers, anti-Semitism, and rogue justice.

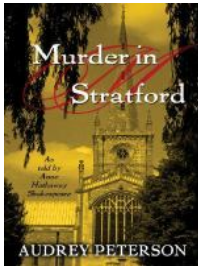
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Paton Walsh, Jill. [The Bad Quarto](#) (2007)

Imogen Quy, a nursing student at St. Agatha's College, Cambridge University is inquisitive by nature. So her interest is piqued when a research fellow plummets to his death from a beautiful old tower in mysterious circumstances, especially when an undergraduate takes it upon himself to confront the suspected murderer through an unorthodox production of the bad quarto a shortened, pirated script of Shakespeare's "Hamlet".

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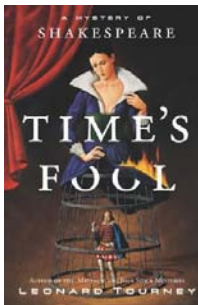


Peterson, Audrey. [Murder in Stratford: As Told By Anne Hathaway Shakespeare](#) (2005)

"When a famous man dies," says Anne Hathaway Shakespeare, "it's always the men who write about his life. Why don't they ask the wife?" And so she tells the story "the way it was." Anne and Will's marriage is tested by distance and his fame, but when Will's boyhood friend, the handsome and arrogant Richard Quiney, is murdered in the garden of the Shakespeare home in Stratford-upon-

Avon and Will himself is accused of the crime, Anne turns detective and solves the case.

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Tourney, Leonard. [Time's Fool: A Mystery of Shakespeare](#) (2004)

The crime's the thing. When Shakespeare is contacted by his dark mistress, the former love of his life, he is excited to see her again after so long a separation. She is now disease-ridden and near death...and she intends to blackmail him, threatening to expose their affair to the world unless he pays her considerable doctor's bills. A sudden fire cuts their meeting short and takes her life. Torn between grief and anger, Shakespeare learns that the fire was no accident, and that he is being stalked by a person obsessed with bringing his life to ruin.

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