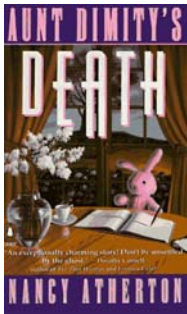


# Michele Patterson's Likely Suspects, Part 1

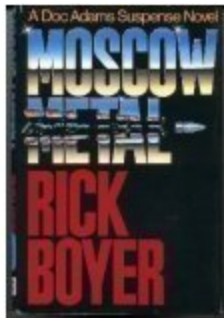
Michele Bradford Patterson, Schusterman-Benson's resident mystery guru and *Tulsa World* mystery columnist, is naming names and fingering suspects. Michele rates new mysteries on a scale of 1 to 5 in her monthly Sunday column. She has worked for Tulsa City County Library for over 35 years. Michele always says that on a scale of 1 to 5, "No book deserves a 5" but these are her choices for the best of the best so maybe they are close!



Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity's Death](#). (1992)

After her beloved mother's death, Lori is scraping by as an office temp in Boston when she receives a letter from a Boston law firm informing her of the death in England of Miss Dimity Westwood. Lori is shocked because she had thought adventurous Dimity was her mother's fictional creation.

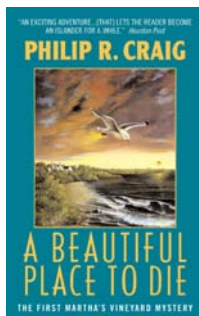
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Boyer, Rick. [Moscow Metal](#). (1987)

Oral surgeon Charlie Adams is having a bad week- first his cat dies a mysterious, painful death, then Doc's wife Mary is felled by a strange fever. These strange events are caused by a deadly pellet of irradiated thallium Mary found in the cat's body. Mary recovers, but the FBI is called in because the poison ("Moscow metal") is used mostly in KGB assassinations and because an Adams neighbor, a refugee Hungarian scientist, has vanished.

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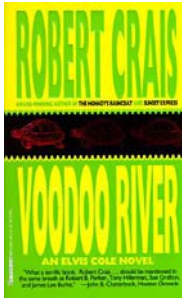


Craig, Philip R. [A Beautiful Place To Die](#). (1989)

Retired cop J. W. Jackson is a passionate fisherman, an enthusiastic cook and appreciative gourmand, a quoter of Keats and Babar stories, and a dogged sleuth. When one of J. W.'s fishing buddies is killed in the explosion of a boat belonging to another fisherman J. W. dusts off his investigative skills, focusing on the boat owner's spoiled son, a former druggie. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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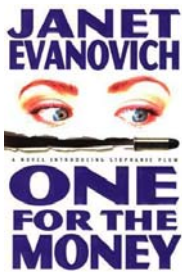
Crais, Robert. [Voodoo River](#). (1995)



Los Angeles private eye Elvis Cole is hired by television star Jodi Taylor to find Taylor's birth parents. Soon after Cole arrives in Louisiana's bayou country to begin his inquiries, a local investigator is killed. With the help of his loose-cannon partner Joe Pike, Cole discovers that Jodi's natural father was a young black man who was killed by Jodi's maternal grandfather. The crime was buried for 30 years until the murdered investigator uncovered it and tried to blackmail Jodi about it.

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Evanovich, Janet. [One for the Money](#). (1994)



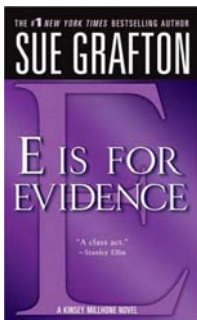
Stephanie Plum of Trenton, NJ, is a recently laid-off lingerie buyer who has no job, no car and no furniture. She does have a hamster, a deranged grandmother, two caring parents and several pairs of biking shorts and sports bras. Finding work with her cousin Vinnie, she becomes a bounty hunter and scrounges money enough to buy a gun, a Chevy Nova and some Mace. Her first assignment is to locate a cop accused of murder. From [Publishers Weekly](#), Copyright 1994 © Reed Business

Friedman, Kinky. [Greenwich Killing Time](#). (1986)



Former country-singer Kinky Friedman (he of the "Texas Jewboys") makes his fiction debut with a wise-cracking, dirty-talking, cheerfully lurid mystery--featuring a narrator-hero named Kinky Friedman, former country-singer and amateur Sleuth. The first murder victim: handsome bisexual bartender Frank Worthington. The chief suspect? Sloppy newsman Mike McGovern, Worthington's neighbor and Kinky's good buddy. So, to clear his pal's name, Kinky goes into sleuthing action, concentrating on the four bedmates in Worthington's recent past: gorgeous dancer Barry, prim chef Peter, exotic singer Nina, and naive actress Darlene--who becomes victim #2 before she can divulge a Big Clue to Kinky. From [Publishers Weekly](#), Copyright 1986 © Reed Business

Grafton, Sue. [E Is For Evidence](#) (1988)



While private detective and former cop Kinsey Millhone is investigating a possible case of industrial arson involving a company owned by the family of a former schoolmate, someone tries to make it look as if she's on the take. A mysterious \$5000 appears in her bank account. She sets out to clear herself, while two or possibly more cases of murder occur, including one by bombing.

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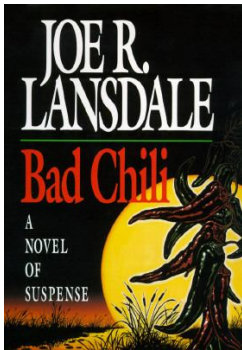


Hallinan, Timothy. [Four Last Things](#) : a Simeon Grist suspense novel (1989)

Simeon Grist, former professor of English at UCLA and fledgling L.A. private eye, makes his debut in this clever mystery. To propel his plot, Hallinan adroitly depicts a new religion with avaricious leaders, New Age channeling and an overlay of California kookiness. Hired by the head of security of Monument Records to follow employee Sally Oldfield, suspected of selling information to competitors, Grist develops a liking for the woman.

Then she is brutally murdered, and Grist is shocked to find that an impostor assigned him to the case

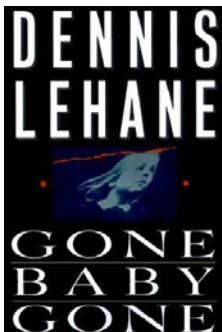
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Lansdale, Joe. [Bad Chili](#). (1997)

Think your love life is complicated? Leonard Pine, fired from his job as the Hot Cat Club's bouncer (don't ask why), is mopey because his boyfriend Raul has taken a shine to biker Horse McNee. After threatening and cold-cocking the Other Man, Leonard is naturally the number one suspect when Horse is found in his car, run off the road, shotgunned to death by a weapon a lot like Leonard's--though Lt. Charlie Blank has no way of comparing them until he finds out where Leonard's hiding. --

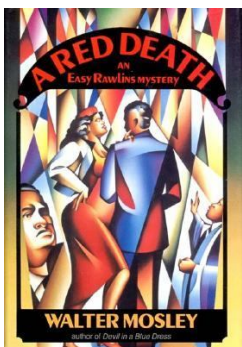
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Lehane, Dennis. [Gone Baby Gone](#). (1998)

Vanished, in this complex and unsettling fourth case for PIs Patrick Kenzie and Angie Gennaro, is four-year-old Amanda McCready, taken one night from her apartment in Dorchester, a working-class section of Boston, where her mother had left her alone. In tracing the history of Amanda's neglectful mother, whose past involved her with a drug lord and his minions, the investigators quickly find themselves tangling with Boston's crime underworld and involved in what appears to be a coup among criminals.

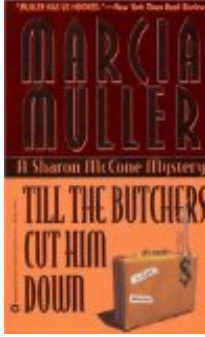
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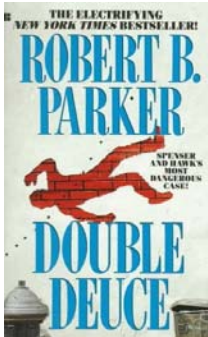
Mosely, Walter. [A Red Death](#). (1991)

Easy Rawlins has used stolen money to purchase a pair of L.A. apartment buildings, where he masquerades as the janitor, quietly enjoying the fruits of ownership and dabbling in private investigation. But he is suddenly in the grip of powerful government forces. When the IRS wants to know where Easy got the money to become a landlord, Easy's sole recourse is to agree to work undercover for the FBI on a witch-hunt to net Reds.

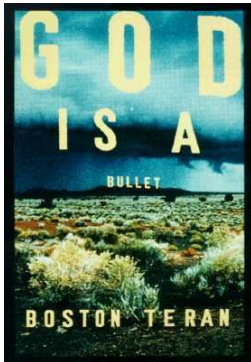
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Muller, Marcia. [Till The Butchers Cut Him Down](#). (1995)  
San Francisco PI, Sharon McCone, has just left the All-Souls Legal Cooperative and opened her own business when an eccentric friend from her UC-Berkeley days, who now specializes in rescuing failing corporations, asks her to find out who is sabotaging his efforts to save a San Francisco shipping firm and threatening his life. T. J. "Suitcase" Gordon reports some odd accidents, but McCone suspects that the obsessively private man may also be paranoid.  
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Parker, Robert B. [Double Deuce](#). (1992)  
In Parker's 23rd Spenser novel, our hero finds himself, at the behest of his pal Hawk, defending the residents of a gang-terrorized Boston housing project known as Double Deuce. The drive-by shooting of a teenage mother and her child brings the duo into a confrontation with gang leader Major Johnson and his posse.  
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Teran, Boston. [God Is A Bullet](#). (1999)  
Strung-out on junk and tattooed with the dates of helter-skelter-style deaths they've caused, the kids who walk "The Left-Handed Path" talk Satanic talk and spread terror through the very Christian Southern California town of Clay. This tautly paced and harrowing debut thriller begins with the cult's murder of desk cop Bob Hightower's ex-wife and her husband, and the kidnapping of his 14-year-old daughter, Gabi. Desperate and driven, Hightower takes a leave of absence to look for the abducted girl. From [Publishers Weekly](#), Copyright 1999 © Reed Business