
The Sonny Tarrant series by Thomas Serrell Thomas. Sonny Tarrant is a gangster in 1930s and 1940s London. Start with Dancing in the Dark (1992)


The Bess Crawford Series by Charles Todd. Though raised in England's upper-middle class, Bess Crawford is a battlefield nurse tending to the wounded in France and England at the beginning of World War I. Start with Duty to the Dead (2009)


In Flanders Fields
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
~ Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was a soldier, physician and poet

The historical sleuth is one of the most popular mystery subgenres. Historical mysteries require the sleuths to rely upon their own wits to solve the crime.

Historical mysteries also provide a different set of motives for the criminal. The similarities and differences between the contemporary world and the world in which mystery is set are highlighted.

Finally, historical mysteries also allow for the use of real historical figures as characters or detectives.
A Sampling of Popular Authors of Historical British Mystery Series Titles


The Inspector Wilkins series by James Anderson. Set in the 1930s, the action of the books takes place in a large fictional British estate belonging to George Henry Alyvin Saunders, the 12th Earl of Burford. Start with The Affair of the Bloodstained Egg Cosy (1975)


The Blotto and Twinks series by Simon Brett features Blotto, the Honourable Devereux Lyminster, and his sister Twinks. Start with Blotto, Twinks, and the Ex-King's Daughter (2009)

The Kate Shackleton series by Frances Brody. Kate Shackleton, a private detective whose husband is MIA in WWI in 1920s Bradford, Yorkshire, England. Start with Dying in the Wool (2009)


The Dandy Gilver series by Catriona McPherson. Dandy Gilver, a well-to-do woman in 1920s Scotland. Start with Armistice Ball (2005)

