

MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY MYSTERY BOOK CLUB READING LIST 2023-2024

| Meeting Day | Book Title | Author | Type | MVLC |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------|
| Sep 29, 2023 | <i>Thirteen</i> | Cavanagh, Steve | Lawyer | 25 |
| Oct 27 | <i>Better the Blood</i> | Bennett, Michael | Cop | 29 |
| Nov 17 | <i>Friday the Rabbi Slept Late</i> | Kemelman, Harry | Amateur | 4/40 |
| Dec 29 | <i>Past Reason Hated</i> | Robinson, Peter | Cop | 11 |
| Jan 26, 2024 | <i>Skinny Dip</i> | Hiasson, Carl | Humor | 25+ |
| Feb 23 | <i>The Bookseller</i> | Pryor, Mark | Cop | 17 |
| Mar 29 | <i>What Comes After</i> | Tompkins, Joanne | Literary | 33 |
| Apr 26 | <i>The Maid</i> | Prose, Nita | Amateur/ Accused | 128 |
| May 31 | <i>Cimarron Rose</i> | Burke, James Lee | Lawyer | 12 |
| Jun 28 | <i>All the Sinners Bleed</i> | Cosby, S. A. | Cop | TBD |
| Jul 26 | <i>The River We Remember</i> | Krueger, William Kent | Literary | TBD |
| Aug 30 | <i>Bitter Medicine</i> | Paretsky, Sara | PI | 8/50 |

WITH BLURBS

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|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------|---|
| Sep 2023 | <i>Thirteen</i> | Cavanagh, Steve | 2019 | Eddie Flynn, a lawyer who used to be a con man. What happens when a murder trial defendant is not the real killer – someone on the jury is the killer who has framed the defendant? |
| Oct | <i>Better the Blood</i> | Bennett, Michael | 2023 | Set in contemporary New Zealand, Hana Westerman, a tenacious Māori detective, juggles single motherhood, endemic prejudice, and the pressures of her career as she takes on a bizarre case that has links going back eight generations. Worse, it has connections to an event when Hana was a new cop when a Māori Chief was killed, calling into question her loyalties. Twisty and thought provoking. |

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| Nov | <i>Friday the Rabbi Slept Late</i> | Kemelman, Harry | 1964 | Rabbi David Small is surprised when the local police chief informs him that the body of a young murdered woman was found in the grass, on the synagogue property (in a small fictional town like Marblehead, MA). And the woman's purse was found in the Rabbi's car parked nearby! The Rabbi is the sleuth. |
| Dec | <i>Past Reason Hated</i> | Robinson, Peter | 1991 | Chief Inspector Alan Banks has transferred from the London Metropolitan Police, hoping for a quieter life in the Yorkshire Dales. But the stabbing death of a secretive woman in her own house just three days before Christmas puts proof to the idea that murder and perplexing puzzles are everywhere. |
| Jan 2024 | <i>Skinny Dip</i> | Hiasson, Carl | 2004 | Part serious commentary on environmental issues; part series of dark comedic events in Florida. A bumbling scientist hopes to get rich helping ruthless agribusiness tycoons; his wife finds out what he's up to, so he tries to murder her. She survives a push into the Atlantic and is now out to get him with the help of a former, down-on-his-luck cop. |
| Feb | <i>The Bookseller</i> | Pryor, Mark | 2012 | After Hugo Marston, head of security at the US embassy of Paris, watched helplessly as his friendly bookseller was abducted at gunpoint, he chooses to look into the crime. Before long, other booksellers' bodies are found floating in the Seine. As Marston looks deeper, and the police disregard his suggestions, he himself becomes a target of the unknown assassins. Yet he presses on to find his enemy's lair. Just as the killer intended. |
| Mar | <i>What Comes After</i> | Tompkins, Joanne | 2021 | Isaac and Lorrie are both living as neighbors along the Pacific coast in Washington, each having had to deal with the violent death of a son; one was murdered by the other who then killed himself. From anger, abandonment, and violence... can there be redemption, kindness, soul searching and creating a new family from tragedy? After violent crimes, how do people "move on"? What comes after? |
| Apr | <i>The Maid</i> | Prose, Nita | 2022 | A highly professional maid at a boutique hotel in New York City likes her work, but when a wealthy guest is murdered in his bed, and the police begin to suspect her of the murder, she must find a way to clear her name in this unusually told, twisty tale. |
| May | <i>Cimarron Rose</i> | Burke, James Lee | 1997 | Billy Bob Holland, an attorney and former Texas Ranger, is hired to defend a teenager accused of rape and murder. But in fact, the accused is Holland's own son. |
| Jun | <i>All the Sinners Bleed</i> | Cosby, S. A. | 2023 | Contemporary setting. Titus Crown is the first Black sheriff of this Virginia county. Titus investigates a school shooting in which both a teacher is shot by a student, and the student shooter is killed by Titus's deputies. As Titus investigates the shootings, he unearths terrible crimes and a serial killer who has been hiding in plain sight. "Cosby delivers a fine climax. Then, in an epilogue, he serves up a final treat that's worth the whole trip." – Stephen King |
| Jul | <i>The River We Remember</i> | Krueger, William Kent | 2023 | In 1958, a small Minnesota town is rocked by the murder of its most powerful citizen, and the Sheriff, a WW2 hero, must solve the crime. But doing so stirs up old secrets and grievances among the townsfolk. Both a complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of midcentury American life from an author of novels "as big-hearted as they come." |
| Aug | <i>Bitter Medicine</i> | Paretsky, Sara | 1987 | Chicago PI "Vic" Warshawski knows from the start that Consuelo Alvarado's baby is trouble. Consuelo is sixteen. Diabetic. And the daughter of a friend. When she goes into labor too early, even Vic's wild drive to get her to the hospital can't save either Consuelo or her child. Frustrated, she starts investigating possible malpractice at the emergency room. Then, when a brutal murder and the violent destruction of a women's clinic put her at the center of a very dirty conspiracy, justice may be the only remedy for a hurt that cuts deep...and chills right to the bone. |