

**GROUP A BOOKS: CHOOSE UP TO 7 FROM THESE 14 CHOICES**

**88% of Our Group Prefers Legal Thrillers and/or Courtroom Drama: Here are 5 possibilities.**

A01	<u>Cimarron Rose</u>	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.
A02	<u>Thirteen</u>	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?
A03	<u>By Way of Sorrow</u>	Gigl, Robyn	2022	Erin McCabe, a NJ criminal defense attorney, takes as a client, a young, Black, transgender prostitute accused of murdering a wealthy politician's son. As she considers all avenues of a defense, she and her client find that lives are in danger.
A04	<u>The Local</u>	Hartstone, Joey	2022	James Euchre is a small town Texas lawyer with persuasive jury skills. He is forced into defending a wealthy Pakistani-American entrepreneur who stands accused of killing a beloved judge -- who was also Euchre's good friend and mentor. Then, the deeper he digs, the more he fears that either an innocent man will be sent to death row or a murderer will be set free.
A05	<u>A Plague of Secrets</u>	Lescroart, John	2009	The series features Dismas Hardy, ex-Assistant District Attorney turned defense attorney, and Abe Glitsky, a black, Jewish cop and homicide detective. In this case, Hardy's wealthy socialite client has a business that is not at all what it seems to be, as more people associated with it are murdered. Plagued by lies and deception, there is one terrible secret that defense attorney Dismas Hardy is duty-bound to protect. Even if the price is his client's life.

**75% of Our Group Prefers Police Procedurals with law enforcement protagonists: Here are 5 possibilities.**

A06	<u>Better the Blood</u>	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.
A07	<u>All the Sinners Bleed</u>	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
A08	<u>The Dark Flood</u>	Meyer, Deon	2022	Because of events in the previous book in the series, Benny Griessel, an aging, alcoholic police inspector and his partner Vaughn Cupido are banished from their Cape Town, South Africa high-profile squad, to a detective bureau in a "quiet" small suburban university town. Here they perform well on two cases: a missing university student, and a missing billionaire real estate manipulator. Neither case is as boring as they thought. And a great read for us.
A09	<u>The Bookseller</u>	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.
A10	<u>Past Reason Hated</u>	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.

**69% of Our Group Prefers Private Detective (PI) stories: Here are 4 possibilities.**

A11	<u>Free Fall</u>	Crais, Robert	1994	Elvis Cole is a Hollywood private eye. A woman hires him to look into her fiancé, a decorated LA cop with an elite plainclothes unit. She's worried that he's in trouble. As Elvis starts to look into it, with the help of his backup strongman Joe Pike, they plummet into a world of South Central gangs, corrupt cops, and conspiracies of silence. And before the case is through, every cop in the LAPD will be gunning for a pair of escaped armed-and-dangerous killers: Cole and Pike.
A12	<u>The Last Place You Look</u>	Lepionka, Kristen	2017	Roxane Weary is a PI in Columbus, Ohio. She has been asked to look into the murder conviction of a man on death row because the convict's sister says, she has just seen the "dead victim" (a blond woman named Sarah) alive and well. Roxane's father had been a Columbus cop. When she realizes that Sarah's vanishing act is linked to one of her father's unsolved murder cases involving another teen girl, she is drawn in. As her investigation gets darker and darker, Roxane will have to risk everything to find the truth. Lives depend on her cracking this case—hers included.
A13	<u>Bitter Medicine</u>	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.
A14	<u>The Art of Violence</u>	Rozan, S. J.	2020	Lydia Chin is a 30-something Chinese American private eye who often works with another PI, Bill Smith, a 40-something Army brat. While a serial killer is stalking and killing women in New York's contemporary art scene, Sam Tabor, formerly convicted of killing but now on parole, contacts Smith for help. Smith has many mental health issues and worries that he could be the serial killer. As Smith and Chin work the case, evidence one way or the other is hard to find... or keep. Then more bodies. Is Sam Tabor a serial killer, or just a crazy artist?

## GROUP B BOOKS: CHOOSE UP TO 5 FROM THESE 10 CHOICES

**56% of Our Group Prefers Amateur detective stories, aka cozies or traditional mysteries: Here are 5 choices.**

B01	<u>The Murder of Mr. Wickham</u>	Gray, Claudia	2022	In a whodunit set in Jane Austen's world of fiction, Mr. Wickham—one of literature's most notorious villains—meets a sudden and suspicious end at a party on Emma's estate. Two young adult children of other Austen characters are the amateur sleuths: Jonathan Darcy and Juliet Tilney
B02	<u>Clark and Division</u>	Hirahari, Naomi	2021	Aki Ito (F), just released from the Japanese-American detainment camp at Manzanar in 1944, hopes to meet up with Rose, her older sister in Chicago. Instead, on arrival, she learns that Rose was killed by a subway train - a suicide. Aki does not accept that her sister would die that way and is determined to learn the truth.
B03	<u>Friday the Rabbi Slept Late</u>	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.
B04	<u>The Thursday Murder Club</u>	Osman, Richard	2020	Four residents at a retirement home complex have formed a "murder club" that meets on Thursdays to discuss some cold case files they managed to get - as a "recreational" activity. When the retirement home owners engage in unscrupulous real estate deals unpopular with the residents, protests ensue- and then a murder. The retirees in the club -unhappy with the police efforts- decide to investigate on their own.
B05	<u>The Maid</u>	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.

**50% of Our Group Prefers a good humorous mystery: Here is at least one option.**

B06	<u>Skinny Dip</u>	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.
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**44% of Our Group Prefers literary crime fiction (a theme, complex characters, blurry endings): Try these four.**

B07	<u>November Road</u>	Berney, Lou	2018	It's November, 1963, and Frank Guidry, a loyal street lieutenant to New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello, is now on the run because he knows too much about the assassination of JFK. There is suspense as he is pursued by fellow gangsters, exacerbated by surprising changes as he meets, assists, and becomes involved with a woman-in-need along the way.
B08	<u>The River We Remember</u>	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."
B09	<u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>	Lee, Harper	1960	The story is known for Atticus Finch's defense of Tom Robinson, a poor black man, in a false charge of rape, and a stacked deck of prejudicial factors in the trial. Finch, one of the best know protagonists in all of American literature- also the narrator's father, is the moral hero for many. As narrator, his daughter Jean Finch (Scout), is a secondary protagonist calling attention to issues of class, courage, compassion, and gender roles in the Deep South through minor characters and subplots.
B10	<u>What Comes After</u>	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?