

THE SURVEY ON MYSTERY-TYPES HELPED GUIDE BOOK NOMINATIONS

This was the complete list of mystery "types" (or sub-genres, perhaps) that was surveyed in April, 2023.

# For	% For	Types of Mysteries Sorted From Most Selected to Least Selected	2023-2024 Goals for Book Selection
14	88	Legal or Courtroom Stories: with lawyers, courtrooms, judges, juries, or prosecutors, etc.	GROUP A: 7 Books next year
12	75	Police Procedurals: with police detectives, FBI agents, sheriffs, or game wardens, etc.	
11	69	Private Detective (PI) Stories: with anyone who is paid to solve a crime, or find something lost; etc.	
10	63	Investigative Journalist Stories: with reporters who track down sources to uncover injustice at all costs, etc.	
9	56	Amateur Detective Stories: be they storekeepers, knitters, priests, barbers, or barkeeps etc [They may be "cozies," best typified by the works of Agatha Christie which contain no explicit sex, or excessive gore or violence. Otherwise often called "traditional" mysteries.]	GROUP B: 5 Books next year
8	50	Humorous Mysteries: having quirky characters & laugh-out-loud dialog more frequently than the other 15 genres.	
8	50	Medical/Biological Crime Stories: with doctors, coroners, lab techs, or hospital admins, etc.	
7	44	Literary Crime Fiction Stories: with complex plots, deep character development, thought-provoking ideas, and/or blurry endings.	GROUP C: Put on hold for next year.
6	38	Classic Crime Fiction: books & authors that paved the way from 1748 through 1980; cornerstone books in the evolution of crime fiction.	
6	38	Domestic Suspense Stories: where someone (or all) in the family (or neighborhood, or group of "friends") are suspect.	
5	31	Adventure Stories: high stakes searches for lost/stolen/buried treasure, documents, or secrets, etc.	
4	25	Political/Corporate Crime: with civilians trying to stop an injustice or catastrophe, etc.	
4	25	Romance Mysteries: where the mystery plot includes a significant love-story (or fling).	
2	13	Bad Guy Point of View (POV) Stories: with either successful or bungling burglars (heists), assassins, ne'er-do-wells, ex-cons, etc.	
2	13	Military/Espionage Action Stories: with big stakes, everyday spies, or big time bad guys, etc.	
1	6	Animal Mysteries: with pets, tracking dogs, race horses, or other animals as an important part of the plot.	

There were 16 "Types of mysteries" listed in alphabetical order. Each participant could choose up to -- but not more than-- **eight** preferred "types." Coincidentally, 16 MBC participants responded.

#For: Number of people (out of 16 who participated) that chose this "type."

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Subsequently, I decided to focus first on the top 4 types (7 books). Secondly on the next 4 types (5 books). Still, because many books include a blend of types, some of the types listed in Group C show up. Examples:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a literary mystery because of the issues, characters, and ending of the book. But it is certainly also a classic. It also has great courtroom scenes (see "Legal" type.)
- *November Road* is also a literary mystery, for the same reasons, but the main protagonist is a career criminal (like "Bad Guy Point of View" stories).

Good to notice that, while 14 of 16 participants agreed on liking "legal or courtroom stories," **none of the categories got 100% endorsement.**

I did not take the survey, nor did Maddy - we were not among the 16 responders. – Dick