

Berendt, J. (1994) *Midnight in the garden of good and evil: A Savannah story*. New York: Random House.

Robarts Library, F294 .S2 B48 1994

Shots rang out in a Savannah, Georgia mansion in the misty, early morning hours of May 2, 1981. Berendt's suspenseful and witty narrative captures the unpredictable twists and turns of the true landmark murder case of antiques dealer Jim Williams who shot his lover Danny Hansford. Was it murder or self-defense? As the dramatic and gripping tale unfolds, much is revealed about the alliances, hostilities, and intrigues that thrive in the small southern town. Filled with eccentric characters including an uproariously funny black drag queen and sweet-talking, piano-playing con artist.

Cooper, B. (2009) *Innocence lost: A play about Steven Truscott*. Winnipeg: Scirocco Drama.

Robarts Library, PS8555 .O663 I55 2009

Award-winning playwright Beverley Cooper creates an emotionally taut and tense dramatization of the Steven Truscott case. In June of 1959, 12-year-old Lynne Harper was found raped and strangled in a farm woodlot near Clinton, Ontario. A few months later her classmate, 14-year-old Steven Truscott, was convicted of the murder. He was sentenced to death by hanging, although he always maintained his innocence. Sarah, a young farm girl, tells the story that recreates a world of small town life that gets thrown into a nightmare of grief, fear, police questioning and rumour. This is a dramatic and powerful portrayal of the human cost of what is now considered to be Canada's most notorious wrongful conviction. This play was a finalist for the 2009 Governor General's Award for Fiction.

Spears, H. (2000) *Required reading: A witness in words and drawings to the Reena Virk Trials, 1998-2000*.

Toronto: Wolsak and Wynn.

Robarts Library, PS8537 .P37 R46 2000

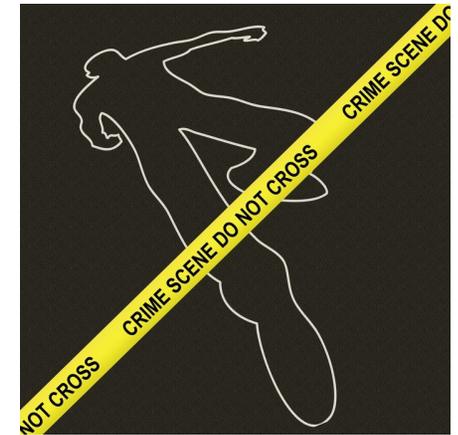
Find out what goes on during a trial through the eyes of an impartial courtroom artist. In 1999 and 2000, two Victoria teenagers were convicted of the murder of their school-fellow, fourteen-year-old Reena Virk. Spears includes some 50 of the more than 500 drawings she prepared as courtroom artist to accompany poems that record her experience of the process. A thought-provoking visual and verbal record that is unsentimental and powerful, it records these children and their stories in an attempt to understand what happened and why it happened. Spears is an award-winning Canadian poet, artist and novelist who lives in Denmark. *Required Reading* won the Pat Lowther Award for poetry in 2002.

Lehman, E., Hitchcock, A., Grant, C., Saint, E. M., Mason, J., Landis, J. R., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Warner Home Video (Firm). (2009) *North by Northwest*. Burbank, CA: Turner Entertainment and Warner Bros. Entertainment.

Robarts Library, Media Commons, VideoBluray 900071

Hitchcock delivers a masterful mystery movie that is suspenseful, fun and light-hearted. New York ad man Roger Thornhill is mistaken for CIA agent George Kaplan by a gang of spies, and as assassin by the police. To clear his name, Thornhill must find the real Kaplan. What follows is a series of misadventures as he is pursued across the States while being helped by a beautiful blonde. Wisecracking leading man Cary Grant as the "wrong man" gives a memorable performance; and the thrilling twists and turns in the plot end in a cliffhanger finale. Released in 1959, this Hitchcock classic is considered by some as one of the top mystery movies ever made. Co-stars include Eva Marie Saint as the blonde femme fatale and James Mason as the sinister villain.

Clueless?



To Mystery, Murder and Mayhem...

At the heart of each detective or mystery novel and film is a puzzle. The seven included in this guide are compelling and suspenseful—pleasurable ways to hone logic, analysis and deductive reasoning skills as you follow clues—all skills used in legal research.

Thought-provoking and compelling ways of looking at legal systems and the concept of justice are also provided through the artistic and creative lens of poetry, plays and nonfiction that entertain and enlighten—*Innocence Lost: A Play About Steven Truscott*, *Required Readings* about the Reena Virk Trials, and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

A selected guide to books and films that will satisfy your inner sleuth....

Your Clues to Great Reads . . .

Atkinson, K. (2004) *Case histories: A novel.* New York: Little, Brown and Co.
Robarts Library, PR6051 .T66 C37 2004

In this compelling, suspenseful and darkly humorous detective novel set in Cambridge, England, Jackson Brodie, a former police inspector turned private investigator, sets out to unravel three seemingly disparate cases from the past. Case one is the disappearance of a three-year-old girl from a tent in her garden, case two is the murder of a husband with an axe, and case three is the apparently motiveless murder of a solicitor's daughter. As Brodie digs into the past to find the truth, startling connections and discoveries emerge, and he is caught up in his clients' grief, joy, and desires. A lovable character who listens to country-western music and is a divorced dad, Brodie also seeks some resolution in his life. The tense plotting, red herrings, and intricately woven storylines will tease and torment you. This is the first book in award-winner Kate Atkinson's Jackson Brodie series.

Deverell, W. (2009) *Snow Job.* Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.
Robarts Library, PS8557 .E835 S66 2009

Deverell's hilarious mystery is a fast-paced satire featuring wily old lawyer Arthur Beauchamp. He has followed his wife, the leader and first elected member of the Green Party, to Ottawa. But he hates Ottawa's cold, politics, and living in his wife's shadow. When a delegation of government officials from Bhashyistan is blown up on Bronson Avenue and the shares of a Calgary-based oil company promptly drop like a stone, Beauchamp jumps to the defence of the missing suspected assassin. Wildly imaginative, utterly Canadian, and irresistibly funny, this is a must-read.

Penny, L. (2006) *Still life.* New York: St. Martin's Minotaur.
Available by request at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, Canlit offsite 03759

Follow the clues to unravel secrets that hide a murderer? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death. Jane Neal, a talented artist and much loved resident, has been found dead in the woods in the rural Quebec village of Three Pines. Is it a tragic hunting accident or something more? This seemingly peaceful town filled with memorable characters hides some dark secrets that revolve around love, friendship and tragedy. The intricate and quirky storyline and plot will surprise and enthrall. This book is the first in a series by Canadian mystery writer Louise Penny, and has won numerous awards.



Pyper, A. (1999) *Lost girls.* Toronto: HarperFlamingo-Canada.
Robarts Library, PS8581 .Y64 L67 1999

Spellbinding and chilling, this mystery will hook you from the start with its dark comedy and fast-paced plot. Bartholomew Christian Crane is a criminal defence lawyer who wins. Thirty-three and ripe for his first murder trial, he is sent to a desolate Northern Ontario town where two fourteen-year-old girls have gone missing and presumably lie on the bottom of a lake. Though everyone believes the girls' creepy English teacher Thom Tripp is guilty, there is little other than substantial evidence. As he works on a defence for Tripp, the trial quickly slides into a nightmarish blur between dream and reality, featuring a ghost that haunts the lake's waters. Pyper is a Canadian writer whose first novel *Lost Girls* was a national bestseller and award-winner.

Sansom, I. (2006) *The case of the missing books.* London: Harper Perennial.
Robarts Library, Copy on order

This funny, comic mystery follows an unlikely detective librarian as he blunders through his investigation to find 15,000 missing books. Israel Armstrong, a shy, passionate, intelligent, Jewish vegetarian has just arrived in Ireland to take up his first post as a librarian. But the library's been shut down, and his new outreach position is to drive an old mobile library van up the coast. What's worse, when he finally gets inside the library he finds the 15,000 books he was supposed to fill the van with are missing. And his boss won't let him resign until he finds them all. This begins a wild goose chase full of humor and farce as Armstrong searches for the missing books. This is the first book in the series featuring the book-mobile librarian detective Israel Armstrong.

Walters, M. (1992) *The ice house.* London: Macmillan.
Robarts Library, PR6073 .A566 I24 1992

Dark and edgy, Walters weaves a complex psychological mystery surrounding three reclusive women who live in an English manor house. Phoebe Maybury, is suspected of killing her husband ten years earlier. So when an unidentifiable corpse is discovered on the grounds of Streech Grange, Police Inspector Walsh and his assistant, Detective Sergeant McLoughlin, assume that a conviction for murder can only be a formality. To discover the truth, they will have to untangle the women's secrets.

