

Books/Authors for Men

Adams, Harold (*Barbed Wire Noose*) Mysteries set in Minnesota and South Dakota in the 1930's. Not as violent as present era settings.

Baldacci, David (*Total Control, Absolute Power*) Thrillers that involve CIA agents.

Barry, Dave (*Big Trouble, Tricky Business*) Only two novels for this humor columnist. His other books are non-fiction essays and opinions.

Bodett, Tom (*Williewaw, Saving Sweetness*) Humorist who writes of his experiences in Alaska.

Child, Lee (*One Shot, Killing Floor*) Former Army police investigator Jack Reacher is not one for self-doubt. His is a two-fisted style with amazing powers of deduction and a serious conscience.

Coben, Harlen (*No Second Chance, Gone for Good*) Themes of mixed up identities, conspiracy and violence make these thrillers enjoyed by men.

Connelly, Michael (*Chasing the Dime, Narrows*) Set in San Francisco and the West, Harry Bosch, with the same name as the artist, is the main character- an intellectual, non-conformist homicide detective who gets involved in strange investigations.

Crais, Robert (*Forgotten Man, Last Detective*) Elvis Cole investigates cases set in Los Angeles and the western states.

Crichton, Michael (*Andromeda Strain, Prey*) The author is a scientist and uses science as the basis for his plots with high suspense and adventure. Several have been made into thrilling movies.

Deaver, Jeff (*Stone Monkey, Speaking in Tongues,*) Intense, complex plots usually with a California setting. *Garden of Beasts* is the newest involving spies and the Olympics of 1936.

Flynn, Vince (*Term Limits; Transfer of Power; Memorial Day*) Thrillers, Lives in Edina.

Harper, M. A. (*For the Love of Robert E. Lee*) This is the best fictional portrait of Lee in American literature and an outstanding selection for those interested in history especially the Civil War. (Not in our region but so highly recommended I included it)

Hiaasen, Carl (*Double Whammy, Lucky You*) He is a columnist for the *Miami Herald* with a whacky sense of humor writing about strange characters and the Florida setting. His books are funny but not for the squeamish. The newest just released is *Skinny Dip*.

Irving, John (*Prayer for Owen Meany*) An older title that explores fate. Owen Meany is hit by a baseball at a professional game and the novel deals with the resulting changes in his life. Strongly recommended.

Kellerman, Jonathan (*Therapy, Cold Heart, Conspiracy Club*) Alex Delaware is a psychologist who assists in police investigations. Each has excellent plotting and character development.

Leonard, Elmore (*Tishomingo Blues, Mr. Paradise*) He uses Detroit as the location for his major detective. The characters can get into some humorous, complicated situations.

Lescroart, John (*Second Chair, First Law, Hard Evidence*) He writes gripping courtroom drama with well developed characters.

McManus, Patrick (*Real Ponies don't Go Oink, The Bear in the Attic*) He writes with humor about hunting and the outdoors as well as s writing a monthly column in Outdoor Life Magazine.

Parker, Robert (*Bad Business, Widows Walk*) He writes hard-boiled mysteries in several series. Some involve a good sense of humor. His detective characters, Spencer and Hawk, were made into a brief TV series and movies. His settings are East Coast and California.

Patterson, James (*Big, Bad Wolf, First to Die, Along came a Spider*) Excellent plot and character development in his books in the mystery genre. Detective Alex Cross, African American, lives in Washington, DC.

Patterson, Richard North (*Balance of Power*) This author includes themes like spies, mafia involvement with violence and male toughness. He does a good job with complicated plots.

Puzo, Mario (*Omerto, Godfather*) The Mafia is his subject and several have been made into movies.

Sanford, John (*Hidden Prey, Hanged Man's Song*) "Prey" series is set in Minneapolis and features Detective Lucas davenport. "Kidd" series is techno suspense with professional criminal Kidd and friends. Early titles in the Kidd series were originally written under the pseudonym of John Camp.

Westlake, Donald (*Road to Ruin, Money for Nothing*) Comedy, suspense and ingenious plots make these page turners.

Woods, Stuart (*Blood Orchid, Dirty Work*) Popular with both men and women, his book *Chiefs* was made into a TV Movie.

Men sometimes are reluctant to read female authors. Legal thrillers have become very popular since Grisham began writing. Many female writers use lawyers as main characters and investigations for trials as their plots. Here are some authors most men will enjoy.

Barr, Nevada (Federal park ranger)

Cornwell, Patricia (Medical examiner)

Evanovich, Janet (Bail bond enforcer-bawdy humor)

Gerritsen, Tess (Medical setting)

Grafton, Sue (Private investigator)

Hoag, Tami (Female Police detective- sexually explicit)

Reich, Kathy (Medical examiner- works both in North Carolina and Quebec)

Rule, Ann (True Crime)

Scottoline, Lisa (Defense attorney – courtroom drama)

Tracy, P.J. (Mother and daughter team from Minneapolis written up in Star-Tribune Sunday September 5, 2004)

General areas of interest:

Adventure

Biography

Fantasy- Robert Jordan, Dean Koontz

History

Humor: Tom Bodett, Patrick McManus, Christopher Moore,

Science fiction: Kim Stanley Robinson

True crime: Ann Rule

Westerns (see also list of Western authors)