

Pick Up a New Mystery at the Library
Kris Wiley for The News Review

Roseburg readers love mystery books, and Roseburg Public Library is the place to find hot new titles.

I just discovered Swedish author Christoffer Carlsson, who uses his Ph.D. in Criminology to craft compelling police procedurals.

Carlsson's first book translated into English is "Blaze Me a Sun," and I recommend it for fans of Nordic noir – books set in Scandinavian countries that use the harsh landscape and complex characters to create moody dramas. Think Ragnar Jónasson, Anne Holt, Jussi Adler-Olsen and Henning Mankell.

"Blaze Me a Sun" features Sven Jörgensson, a longtime police officer on the west coast of Sweden. It's 1986, and he responds to a call during which a young woman dies – on the same night Prime Minister Olaf Palme is assassinated.

While Sven is considering whether those events are related, there are two more murders, and now he has a serial killer on his hands.

The timeline shifts to the 1990s and then the 2000s as Sven, followed by his son, Vidar, unravel the mystery. It isn't so much a whodunit as it is a psychological thriller that relies on relationships to move the plot forward.

For a lighter read, try "Death Comes to Marlow," the second book in the cozy-adjacent Marlow Murder Club series by Robert Thorogood.

This time, our intrepid trio of amateur detectives – Judith, a whiskey-loving crossword puzzle creator; Suzie, a no-nonsense dog walker; and Becks, wife of the local vicar – solve the mystery of the murdered English knight.

Sir Peter Bailey was killed the day before his wedding and inside a locked room, posing quite a challenge for the murder club. But with a bit of luck, a lot of sleuthing and the help of Detective Sergeant Tanika Malik, the group reveals the culprit.

Fans of mysteries with a dose of humor, such as the Thursday Murder Club series by Richard Osman and "Killers of a Certain Age" by Deanna Raybourn, may want to start with the first book, "The Marlow Murder Club" and then make plans to watch the screen adaptation dropping in 2024 on PBS.

Finally, historical mystery readers may enjoy "The Late Mrs. Willoughby," the second book in the Mr. Darcy and Miss Tilney series by Claudia Gray.

Gray has assembled many of the characters of Jane Austen's classics and reimagined them as friends and neighbors. The protagonists are Jonathan Darcy, son of Fitzwilliam

Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet from “Pride and Prejudice,” and Juliet Tilney, daughter of Henry Tilney and Catherine Morland from “Northanger Abbey.”

In “The Late Mrs. Willoughby,” the young detectives are reunited in Devonshire, home of the characters of “Sense and Sensibility.” This includes John Willoughby, who jilted Marianne Dashwood and married for money.

The main players gather at a rather awkward society party, which turns tragic when Mrs. Willoughby dies. Jonathan and Juliet quickly surmise the deceased was poisoned by one of the guests, and they again join forces to discover the killer.

Gray remains faithful to the spirit of Austen’s books while introducing new characters and creating charming mysteries.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.bibliionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

This Week’s Library Events

Tuesday, October 10, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kit while supplies last

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. – Online Book Group (email kwiley@cityofroseburg.org for the Zoom link)

Wednesday, October 11, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, October 11, 4 p.m. – Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

Thursday, October 12, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 12, 3:30-5 p.m. – Building & Legos

Friday, October 13, 10:30 a.m. – Computer Basics (registration required)