

Notable Crime Fiction Writers

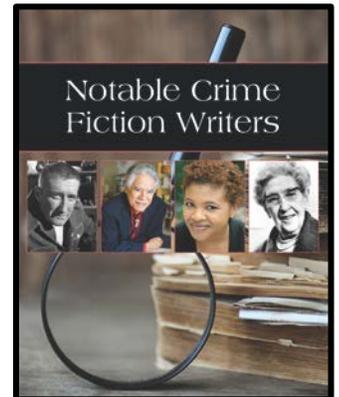
“Crime fiction has gained critical and academic credence over the last 50 years and has greatly diversified its settings, themes, and authorship. **The new edition of this reference set analyzes the lives and works of over 200 major English-language mystery- and detective-fiction writers.** The first volume provides an introductory essay about the growing interest in crime fiction. Entries are then arranged alphabetically and vary in length from two to eight pages. Each entry begins with the author’s pseudonyms, types of plots, and main series and characters. Next, the author’s unique contribution to the genre is covered. A brief biography follows, noting events related to the author’s fiction. The main part of the entry analyzes the author’s writing style, themes, and motifs; notable titles or groups of works are usually noted, summarizing plots and sometimes providing analysis and quotations. Four appendixes and five indexes conclude volume 2. Depth of coverage among essays varies, and the usual suspects are covered (Doyle and Evanovich, for example) as well as some lesser-known writers. While not definitive, **this set should whet the appetite of crime-fiction readers and the general public.**”

– *Booklist*, 2022

“Editor Evans (English, emeritus, Auburn Univ. at Montgomery, AL) curates about 160 entries, compiled in two volumes, updating and distilling information from 2008’s Critical Survey of Mystery & Detective Fiction. **This new book includes more than 100 new entries;** a publisher note states that **Salem sought to include more women and BIPOC authors, as well as those from the LGBTQIA+ community.** Alphabetically arranged entries cover Agatha Christie (author of dozens of mysteries, including those starring Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple), Robert B. Parker (best remembered for his private eye Spenser), Michael Nava (whose books follow gay Mexican American lawyer/sleuth Harry Rios), ...

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REVIEW



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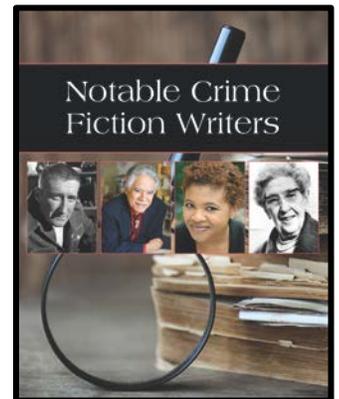
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"...and Barbara Ann Neely (creator of Blanche White, a Black domestic worker and amateur sleuth), among many others. **Detailed articles usually include an author photograph, along with a biography and a list of the author's major works and related reading.** Each article details authors' series, principal characters, and the styles of their plots (amateur sleuth, hardboiled, cozy), along with analysis. Appendixes covering mystery settings and situations, terms and jargon, and the history of mystery writing add to utility. VERDICT: **Beneficial in academic and public settings; a vital resource for readers' advisory and mystery and detective buffs.**

- *Library Journal*

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