

## African-American and Black Mysteries

**Abercrombie, Lynn.** Abercrombie is the pseudonym for Walter Sorrells. He is the author of 18 novels. Mechelle Deakes is an African-American detective working the cold case files. Series.

Cold Case Thrillers



1. *The Body Box* (2005)
2. *Blind Fear* (2006)

**Bailey, Frankie Y.** Bailey is a criminal justice professor that explores social issues in her mysteries. Her character is Lizzie Stuart, an African-American crime historian.

Novels

- A Dead Man's Honor* (2001)  
*Death's Favorite Child* (2001)

*Old Murders* (2003)

*You Should Have Died on Monday* (2007)

**Baker, Nikki.** Baker's protagonist is an African-American lesbian stockbroker in Chicago. Series

Virginia Kelly

*In the Game* (1991)

*The Lavender House Murder* (1992)

*The Long Goodbyes* (1993)

*The Ultimate Exit Strategy* (1996)

**Ball, John.** John Ball won an Edgar award for *In the heat of the night*. He also wrote books for Children, was a radio broadcaster, and was Director of Public Relations for the Institute of Aerospace Science.

Series

Virgil Tibbs

1. *In The Heat Of The Night* (1965)

2. *The Cool Cottontail* (1966)

3. *Johnny Get Your Gun* (1969)

aka *Death For A Playmate*

4. *Five Pieces Of Jade* (1972)

5. *The Eyes Of Buddha* (1976)

6. *Then Came Violence* (1980)

7. *Singapore* (1986)

Novels (not specific to African-American themes)

*Operation Springboard* (1958)

aka *Operation Space*

*The First Team* (1971)

*Mark One: The Dummy* (1974)

*Police Chief* (1977)

*The Killing In The Market* (1978)

**John Ball (continued)**

*The Murder Children (1979)*

*Trouble For Tallon (1981)*

*Chief Tallon and the S. O. R (1984)*

*The Kiwi Target (1988)*

*The Van (1989)*

**Banfelder, Robert.** Justin Barnes is an African-American covert operative.

Series

Justin Barnes

1. *The Teacher (2006)*

2. *The Author (2007)*

Novels

*No Stranger Than I (1990)*

**Barnard, Robert.** Barnard has written over 40 novels. His Charlie Peace series features a black Scotland Yard detective.

Charlie Peace

1. *Death and the Chaste Apprentice (1989)*

2. *A Fatal Attachment (1992)*

3. *A Hovering of Vultures (1993)*

4. *The Bad Samaritan (1995)*

5. *No Place of Safety (1997)*

6. *The Corpse at the Haworth Tandoori (1998)*

7. *The Bones in the Attic (2001)*

8. *A Fall from Grace (2007)*

9. *A Charitable Body (2012)*

**Bates, Karen Grigsby.** Bates is a correspondent for NPR. Her sleuth is African-American reporter, Alex Powell.

Series

Alex Powell

*Plain Brown Wrapper (2001)*

*Chosen People (2006)*

**Baxt, George.** Baxt was an agent, screenwriter, and author of several mysteries including gay and African-American Pharoah Love series. He also wrote mysteries about Hollywood celebrities.

Series

Pharoah Love

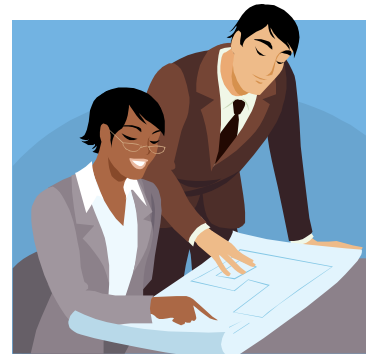
1. *A Queer Kind of Death (1966)*

2. *Swing Low, Sweet Harriet (1967)*

3. *Topsy and Evil (1968)*

4. *A Queer Kind of Love (1994)*

5. *A Queer Kind of Umbrella (1994)*



**Bland, Eleanor Taylor.** Bland's African-American cop relocates to a suburb of Chicago. Her mysteries depict social issues such as homelessness, mental illness, and the rights of children.

Series

Marti MacAlister

1. *Dead Time* (1992)
2. *Slow Burn* (1993)
3. *Gone Quiet* (1994)
4. *Done Wrong* (1995)
5. *Keep Still* (1996)
6. *See No Evil* (1998)
7. *Tell No Tales* (1999)
8. *Scream in Silence* (2000)
9. *Whispers in the Dark* (2001)
10. *Windy City Dying* (2002)
11. *Fatal Remains* (2003)
12. *A Cold and Silent Dying* (2004)
13. *A Dark and Deadly Deception* (2005)

**Brown, Elaine Meryl.** Brown is creative director at Showtime Networks and has created a 1970's mystery series featuring a middle class black family in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Novels

- Playing By the Rules* (2006)  
*Lemon City* (2009)

**Camacho, Austin.** Camacho's O'Brian is an Irish jewel thief and Morgan Stark is a black mercenary soldier whose paths cross when they are double crossed by the same man.

Hannibal Jones is a professional troubleshooter in the Baltimore/D.C. area.

Series

Felicity O'Brian and Morgan Stark

1. *The Payback Assignment* (1999)
2. *The Orion Assignment* (2006)

Hannibal Jones

1. *Blood & Bone* (1999)
2. *Collateral Damage* (2002)
3. *The Troubleshooter* (2004)
4. *Damaged Goods* (2006)
5. *Russian Roulette* (2009)



**Carter, Charlotte.** Carter's heroine is a young African-American jazz musician. The Cook County series features African-American families in 1960's Chicago.

Series

Nanette Hayes

1. *Rhode Island Red* (1997)
2. *Coq Au Vin* (1999)
3. *Drumsticks* (2000)

**Charlotte Carter (continued)**

4. *Rooster's Riff* (2001)

Cook County

1. *Jackson Park* (2003)

2. *Trip Wire* (2005)

**Carter, Stephen L.** Yale law professor, Stephen Carter pens mysteries depicting upper class African-American society in academia, and mysteries of political intrigue.

Series

Elm Harbor

1. *The Emperor of Ocean Park* (2002)

2. *New England White* (2007)

3. *Palace Council* (2008)

Novels

*Jericho's Fall* (2009)

**Corrington, John William & Joyce Hooper Corrington.** Husband and wife that wrote for television including soap operas and movies for television. This series features a black homicide detective in New Orleans.

Series

Ralph "Rat" Trapp: black homicide detective in New Orleans.

*The white zone* (1990)

*A civil death* (1987)

*A project named desire* (1987)

*So small a carnival* (1986)

**Davis, Kenn.** Davis created a Vietnam veteran with an MP background. Bascombe is an art loving African-American P.I. and student working his way through law school. His cases involve the arts in San Francisco.

Series

Carver Bascombe Mystery

1. *The Dark Side* (1976) (with John Stanley)

2. *The Forza Trap* (1979)

3. *Words Can Kill* (1984)

4. *Melting Point* (1986)

5. *As October Dies* (1987)

6. *Nijinsky Is Dead* (1987)

7. *Acts Of Homicide* (1989)

8. *Blood of Poets* (1990)



**Davis, Kyra.** Davis's mother is Jewish and father is African-American. Davis's character is also Biracial.

Sophie Katz

1. *Sex, Murder and a Double Latte* (2005)

2. *Passion, Betrayal and Killer Highlights* (2006)

3. *Obsession, Deceit and Really Dark Chocolate* (2007)

**Kyra Davis (continued)**

4. *Lust, Loathing and a Little Lip Gloss* (2009)
5. *Vows, Vendettas and a Little Black Dress* (2010)

Novels

*So Much for My Happy Ending* (2006)

**Deloach, Nora.** Deloach spent most of her career as a social worker. Her protagonist are a mother and daughter team.

Series

Mama Detective

1. *Mama Solves a Murder* (1994)
2. *Mama Traps a Killer* (1995)
3. *Mama Saves a Victim* (1997)
4. *Mama Stands Accused* (1997)
5. *Mama Stalks the Past* (1997)
6. *Mama Rocks the Empty Cradle* (1998)
7. *Mama Pursues Murderous Shadows* (2000)
8. *Mama Cracks a Mask of Innocence* (2001)

Novels

*Silas* (1992)

**Dickey, Eric Jerome.** Dickey is an author is several genres including romance, action, suspense, and the noir series featuring hit man Gideon.

Series

Gideon Trilogy

1. *Sleeping with Strangers* (2007)
2. *Waking with Enemies* (2007)
3. *Dying for Revenge* (2008)
4. *Resurrecting Midnight* (2009)

**Edwards, Grace F.** Mali Anderson is an ex-cop living in contemporary Harlem.

Series

Mali Anderson

1. *If I Should Die* (1997)
2. *A Toast Before Dying* (1998)
3. *No Time to Die* (1999)
4. *Do or Die* (2000)

Novels

*In the Shadow of the Peacock* (2000)

*The Viaduct* (2003)



**Evans, Mary Anna.** Evans character is an African-American anthropologist.

Series

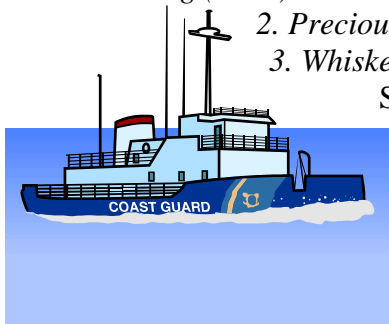
Faye Longchamp Mysteries

1. *Artifacts* (2003)
2. *Relics* (2005) Series
3. *Effigies* (2007)
4. *Findings* (2008)
5. *Floodgates* (2009)
6. *Strangers* (2010)

**Ford, Clyde W.** Ford's character Noble is an ex coast guard commander and marine private investigator.

Charlie Noble Mystery

1. *Red Herring* (2005)
2. *Precious Cargo* (2006)
3. *Whiskey Gulf* (2009) Series



Shango Mysteries

- The Long Mile* (2005)  
*Deuce's Wild* (2006)

**Greer, Robert.** Floyd is an African-American bail bondsman.

C J Floyd

1. *The Devil's Hatband* (1996)
2. *The Devil's Red Nickel* (1997)
3. *The Devil's Backbone* (1998)
4. *Resurrecting Langston Blue* (2005)
5. *The Fourth Perspective* (2006)
6. *The Mongoose Deception* (2007)
7. *Blackbird, Farewell* (2008)
8. *First of State* (2010)

**Grimes, Terris McMahan.** Theresa Galloway is a personal director and amateur sleuth.

Series

Theresa Galloway mystery

1. *Somebody Else's Child* (1996)
2. *Blood Will Tell* (1997)
3. *Other Duties As Required* (2000)

**Hambly, Barbara.** The January series features a creole physician and music teacher in 1830's New Orleans.

Benjamin January Series

1. *A Free Man of Color* (1997)
2. *Fever Season* (1998)
3. *Graveyard Dust* (1999)
4. *Sold Down the River* (2000)

**Barbara Hambly (continued)**

5. *Die upon a Kiss* (2001)
6. *Wet Grave* (2002)
7. *Days of the Dead* (2003)
8. *Dead Water* (2004)
9. *Dead and Buried* (2010)
10. *The Shirt on His Back* (2011)
11. *Ran Away* (2011)

**Handler, David.** Handler writes several mystery series including Berger and Mitry featuring film critic Mitch Berger and his black homicide detective girlfriend Desiree Mitry.

Berger and Mitry

1. *The Cold Blue Blood* (2001)
2. *The Hot Pink Farmhouse* (2002)
3. *The Bright Silver Star* (2003)
4. *The Burnt Orange Sunrise* (2004)
5. *The Sweet Golden Parachute* (2006)
6. *The Sour Cherry Surprise* (2008)
7. *The Shimmering Blond Sister* (2010)
8. *The Blood Red Indian Summer* (2011)

**Hayes, Teddy.** Barnett is a former CIA hit man turned Harlem barkeep.

Series



Devil Barnett  
*Blood Red Blues* (2005)  
*Dead by popular demand.* (2004)

**Haywood, Gar Anthony.** Gunner is an African-American private investigator in South Central L.A.

Series

Aaron Gunner Mystery

1. *Fear of the Dark* (1988)
2. *Not Long for This World* (1990)
3. *You Can Die Trying* (1993)
4. *It's Not a Pretty Sight* (1996)
5. *When Last Seen Alive* (1997)
6. *All The Lucky Ones Are Dead* (2000)

**Himes, Chester.** Himes was a famous African-American writer. His works include *If He ollers Let Him Go* and a series of Harlem Detective novels. In 1958 he won France's Grand Prix de Littérature Policière; two of his novels were made into feature films: *Cotton Comes to Harlem* directed by Ossie Davis in 1970 and *A Rage in Harlem* starring Gregory Hines and Danny Glover in 1991.

### **Chester Himes (continued)**

Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones

1. *For Love of Imabelle* (1957)

*aka A Rage in Harlem*

2. *The Real Cool Killers* (1959)

4. *The Big Gold Dream* (1960)

5. *All Shot Up* (1960)

6. *Cotton Comes to Harlem* (1965)

7. *The Heat's On* (1966)

*aka Come Back, Charleston Blue*

8. *Blind Man with a Pistol* (1969)

*aka Hot Day Hot Night*

*The Crazy Kill* (1959)

*The Harlem Cycle Volume 1 (omnibus)* (1996)

*The Harlem Cycle Volume 2 (omnibus)* (1996)

Novels

*If He Hollers Let Him Go* (1945)

*Lonely Crusade* (1947)

*Cast the First Stone* (1952)

*aka Yesterday Will Make You Cry*

*The Third Generation* (1954)

*The End of a Primitive* (1955)

*Pinktoes* (1961)

*Run Man Run* (1966)

*Black On Black* (1973)

*A Case of Rape* (1980)

*Plan B* (1993)

**Joe, Yolanda.** The Barnett series features African-American reporter in Chicago.

Series

*Georgia Barnett Mystery*

1. *Details At Ten* (2001)

2. *Video Cowboys* (2005)

*Hit Time* (2001)

Novels

*Falling Leaves of Ivy* (1992)

*He Say, She Say* (1996)

*Bebe's By Golly Wow!* (1998)

*This Just In..* (2000)

*The Hatwearer's Lesson* (2003)

*My Fine Lady* (2004)



**Jones, Solomon.** Solomon is the author of fast-paced urban crime fiction.

**Series**

C.R.E.A.M.

1. *C.R.E.A.M.* (2006)
2. *Payback: The Return of C.R.E.A.M.* (2007)

Coletti

1. *The Last Confession* (2010)
2. *The Gravedigger's Ball* (2011)

Novels

- Pipe Dream* (2001)  
*The Bridge* (2003)  
*Keeping Up With the Jones* (2004)  
*Ride or Die* (2004)

**Lacy, Ed.** Leonard Zinberg, aka Lacy was married to an African-American and wrote several novels with African American protagonists including P.I. Toussaint Moore.

David Wintino

1. *Lead with Your Left* (1957)
2. *Double Trouble* (1967)

Toussaint M. Moore

1. *Room to Swing* (1957)
2. *Moment of Untruth* (1964)

Lee Hayes

1. *Harlem Underground* (1965)
2. *In Black & Whitey* (1967)

Novels

- End to Violence* (1950)  
*Sin In Their Blood* (1952)  
    *aka Death in Passing*  
*Strip for Violence* (1953)  
*Enter Without Desire* (1954)  
*Go for the Body* (1954)  
*The Best That Ever Did It* (1955)  
    *aka Visa To Death*  
*The Men from the Boys* (1956)  
*Be Careful How You Live* (1958)  
    *aka Dead End*  
*Shakedown for Murder* (1958)  
*Breathe No More My Lady* (1958)  
*Devil for the Witch* (1958)  
*Blonde Bait* (1959)  
*The Big Fix* (1960)  
*A Deadly Affair* (1960)  
*Bugged for Murder* (1961)  
*The Freeloaders* (1961)  
*South Pacific Affair* (1961)

**Ed Lacy (continued)**

*Two Hot to Handle (1963)*

*The Sex Castle (1963)*

*aka Shoot it Again*



*Pity the Honest (1965)*

*The Hotel Dwellers (1966)*

*The Napalm Bugle (1968)*

*The Big Bust (1969)*

*Hoot It Again (1969)*

*The Woman Aroused (1969)*

*Sleep in Thunder (1972)*

**LaMar, Jake.** LaMar's Ricky Jenks thrillers depict an African-American expatriate living in Paris. His stand alone novels also feature African-American protagonists.

Series

American Mysteries in Paris, Featuring Ricky Jenks

1. *Rendezvous Eighteenth (2003)*

2. *Ghosts of Saint-Michel (2006)*

Novels

*The Last Integrationist (1996)*

*Close to the Bone (1998)*

*If 6 Were 9: A Militant Mystery (2001)*

**Lansdale, Joe R.** Hap is straight and white, Leonard black and gay; are amateur sleuths in East Texas.

*Hap Collins and Leonard Pine*



1. *Savage Season (1990)*

2. *Mucho Mojo (1994)*

3. *The Two-Bear Mambo (1995)*

4. *Bad Chili (1997)*

5. *Rumble Tumble (1998)*

6. *Veil's Visit: A Taste of Hap and Leonard (1999) (with Andrew Vachss)*

7. *Captains Outrageous (2001)*

8. *Vanilla Ride (2009)*

9. *Devil Red (2011)*

10. *Hyenas (2011)*

**Lescroart, John.** Lescroart is the author of several mystery series including the Glitsky, a black, Jewish cop in San Francisco.

Abe Glitsky

1. *A Certain Justice (1995)*

2. *Guilt (1996)*

3. *The Hearing (1999)*

4. *Damage (2011)*

**Lindquist, N.J.** Black cop Jacqueline (Jackie Ryan) in Toronto, Ontario.  
Manziuk and Ryan Mystery  
1. *Shaded Light* (1999)  
2. *Glitter of Diamonds* (2007)

**Lochte, Dick.** Lochte has written several series including this one with Darden featuring Nicolette (Nikki) Hill, a 30-something black prosecutor in Los Angeles, California:  
*The Trials of Nikki Hill* (1998) (with Christopher Darden)  
*L.A. Justice* (2001) (with Christopher Darden)  
*The Last Defense* (2002) (with Christopher Darden)  
*Lawless* (2004) (with Christopher Darden)

**Lovell, Glenville.** Protagonist is Blade Overstreet, a black ex-cop, in New York City.  
*Fire in the Canes* (1995)  
*Song of Night* (1998)  
*Too Beautiful to Die* (2003)  
*Love and Death in Brooklyn* (2004)

**Lupoff, Richard A.** Lindsey and Plum Hobart Lindsey, an insurance claims adjuster for valuable collectibles, and Marvia Plum, a black homicide detective, in Berkeley, California:  
*The Comic Book Killer* (1988)  
*The Classic Car Killer* (1992)  
*The Bessie Blue Killer* (1994)  
*The Sepia Siren Killer* (1994)  
*The Cover Girl Killer* (1995)  
*The Silver Chariot Killer* (1996)  
*The Radio Red Killer* (1997)  
*The Tinpan Tiger Killer* (1998)  
*One Murder At A Time* (2001)  
*The Emerald Cat Killer* (2010)

**McCall-Smith, Alexander.** McCall Smith has written over 50 books on a variety of subjects including a book on the law of Botswana, a children's book, and the extremely Successful No. 1 ladies detective series featuring Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's only - and finest - female private detective.

1. *The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* (1998)
2. *Tears Of The Giraffe* (2000)
3. *Morality for Beautiful Girls* (2001)
4. *The Kalahari Typing School for Men* (2002)
5. *The Full Cupboard of Life* (2003)
6. *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies* (2004)
7. *Blue Shoes and Happiness* (2006)
8. *The Good Husband of Zebra Drive* (2007)
9. *The Miracle at Speedy Motors* (2008)
10. *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built* (2009)



**Alexander McCall-Smith (continued)**

*11. The Double Comfort Safari Club (2010)*

*12. The Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party (2011)*

*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Series Box Set (omnibus) (2003)*

*Blue Shoes and Happiness / Good Husband of Zebra Drive (omnibus) (2008)*

*Precious and the Monkeys (2011)*

*The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (2012)*

**McMillan, Ann.** This series is a medical thriller, historical fiction, and mystery. A black herbalist and conjure woman, and a white widow work together and nurses at the Medical College of Virginia.

Series

Civil War

*1. Dead March (1998)*

*2. Angel Trumpet (1999)*

*3. Civil Blood (2001)*

*4. Chickahominy Fever (2003)*



**Mickelbury, Penny.** Gianna Maglione, a lesbian police lieutenant, and Mimi Patterson, black reporter, in Washington, DC: and Carol Ann Gibson, a African-American defense attorney.

Series

Gianna Maglione

*Keeping Secrets (1994)*

*Night Songs (1995)*

*Love Notes (2002)*

*Darkness Descending (2005)*

**Penny Mickelbury (continued)**

Carole Ann Gibson

*1. One Must Wait (1998)*

*2. Where to Choose (1999)*

*3. The Step Between (2000)*

*4. Paradise Interrupted (2001)*

**Mosley, Walter.** Mosley is the author of more than 35 books in several genres including mystery, science fiction, and literary fiction. He is well known for his Easy Rawlins series set in 1940's/1950's Los Angeles. He also has a present time NYC P.I. Leonard McGill series.

Series

Easy Rawlins

*1. Devil in a Blue Dress (1990)*

*2. A Red Death (1991)*

*3. White Butterfly (1992)*

*4. Black Betty (1994)*

*5. A Little Yellow Dog (1995)*

**Walter Mosley (continued)**

6. *Gone Fishin'* (1996)
7. *Bad Boy Brawly Brown* (2000)
8. *Six Easy Pieces* (2003)
9. *Little Scarlet* (2004)
10. *Cinnamon Kiss* (2005)
11. *Blonde Faith* (2007)

Socrates Fortlow

1. *Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned* (1997)
2. *Walkin' the Dog* (1999)
- The Right Mistake* (2008)

Fearless Jones

1. *Fearless Jones* (2001)
2. *Fear Itself* (2003)
3. *Fear of the Dark* (2006)

Leonid McGill

1. *The Long Fall* (2009)
2. *Known to Evil* (2010)
3. *When the Thrill is Gone* (2011)
4. *All I Did Was Shoot My Man* (2012)

Novels

- RL's Dream* (1995)  
*Blue Light* (1998)  
*The Greatest* (2000)  
*Whispers in the Dark* (2000)  
*The Man in My Basement* (2004)  
*47* (2005)  
*The Wave* (2006)  
*Fortunate Son* (2006)  
*Killing Johnny Fry* (2006)  
*The Tempest Tales* (2008)  
*Diablerie* (2008)  
*The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* (2010)



**Neely, Barbara.** Neely's first novel in the Blanche White series won the Agatha, Macaulay, and Anthony awards. Blanche is a domestic worker and amateur sleuth from North Carolina, relocated to Boston.

Series

Blanche White

1. *Blanche on the Lam* (1992)
2. *Blanche Among the Talented Tenth* (1994)
3. *Blanche Cleans Up* (1998)
4. *Blanche Passes Go* (2000)

**Nelscott, Kris.** Nelscott's character is an African-American private investigator in Memphis.  
Smokey Dalton

1. *A Dangerous Road* (2000)
2. *Smoke-Filled Rooms* (2001)
3. *Thin Walls* (2002)
4. *Stone Cribs* (2003)
5. *War at Home* (2005)
6. *Days of Rage* (2006)

**Norman, Hilary. (aka Alexandra Henry)** Psychological thrillers featuring African-American detective Sam Beckett in Miami.

Series

Sam Becket

1. *Mind Games* (1999)
2. *Last Run* (2007)
3. *Shimmer* (2009)
4. *Caged* (2010)
5. *Hell* (2011)

**Olden, Marc.** Olden is the author of over 40 books including the black samurai series featuring Robert Sand, a martial arts expert and the only non-Japanese trained by a Japanese samurai.

Black Samurai



1. *Black Samurai* (1974)
2. *The Golden Kill* (1974)
3. *Killer Warrior* (1974)
4. *The Deadly Pearl* (1974)
5. *The Inquisition* (1974)
6. *The Warlock* (1975)
7. *Sword of Allah* (1975)
8. *The Katana* (1975)

**Pelecanos, George P.** Pelecanos is a highly successful and prolific writer. His Strange and Quinn series features African-American

former cop and private eye Derek Strange.

Derek Strange and Terry Quinn

1. *Right As Rain* (2001)
  2. *Hell To Pay* (2002)
  3. *Soul Circus* (2003)
  4. *Hard Revolution* (2004)
- Right as Rain, Hell to Pay, Soul Circus (omnibus)* (2005)

**Parrish, P.J.** Parrish are two sisters Kristy Mantee and Kelly Nichols. Their character Louis Kincaid is a biracial private detective in Mississippi.

Series

Louis Kincaid

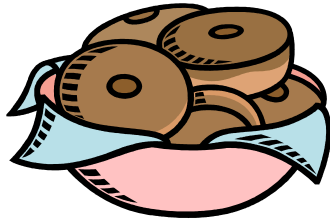
**P.J. Parrish (continued)**

1. *Dark of the Moon* (1999)
2. *Dead of Winter* (2001)
3. *Paint It Black* (2002)
4. *Thicker Than Water* (2003)
5. *Island of Bones* (2004)
6. *A Killing Rain* (2005)
7. *Unquiet Grave* (2006)
8. *A Thousand Bones* (2007)
9. *South of Hell* (2008)
10. *The Little Death* (2009)

**Phillips, Gary.** Phillips' Monk series features a black private eye and owner of a donut shop.

The Chainey series features an ex-showgirl now working as a courier for the mob.

Series



Ivan Monk

1. *Perdition U.S.A.* (1996)
2. *Violent Spring* (1994)
3. *Bad Night Is Falling* (1998)
4. *Only the Wicked* (2000)

Martha Chainey

1. *High Hand* (2000)
2. *Shooter's Point* (2001)
3. *The Perpetrators* (2002)

Novels

- The Jook* (1999)  
*Bangers* (2003)  
*Midnight Mover* (2004)  
*Freedom's Flight* (2009)  
*The Underbelly* (2010)

**Phillips, Mike.** Phillips' Sam Dean is a Jamaican born black journalist in London.

Sam Dean

1. *Blood Rights* (1989)
2. *The Late Candidate* (1990)
3. *Point of Darkness* (1994)
4. *An Image to Die for* (1995)

Novels

- The Dancing Face* (1997)  
*A Shadow of Myself* (2000)

**Rhodes, Jewell Parker.** Voodoo mystery series set in New Orleans.

Series

Marie Laveau Mystery

1. *Voodoo Dreams* (1993)
2. *Voodoo Season* (2005)

**Jewell Parker Rhodes (continued)**

3. *Yellow Moon* (2008)
4. *Hurricane* (2011)

**Sallis, James.** Lew Griffin is an African-American private investigator, poet and music lover in New Orleans.

Series

Lew Griffin

1. *The Long-Legged Fly* (1992)
2. *Moth* (1993)
3. *Black Hornet* (1994)
4. *Eye of the Cricket* (1997)

**James Sallis (continued)**

5. *Blue Bottle* (1998)
6. *Ghost of a Flea* (2001)

**Skinner, Robert.** The protagonist Farrell is a Creole nightclub owner and private investigator in New Orleans.

Series

Wesley Farrell

1. *Skin Deep, Blood Red* (1997)
2. *Cat-eyed Trouble* (1998)
3. *Daddy's Gone A-Hunting* (1999)
4. *Blood to Drink* (2000)
5. *Pale Shadow* (2001)
6. *The Righteous Cut* (2002)

**Smith, Julie.** Talba Wallis is a private investigator by day and poet and performance artist by night in New Orleans.

Talba Wallis

1. *Louisiana HotShot* (2001)
2. *Louisiana Bigshot* (2002)
3. *Louisiana Lament* (2004)
4. *P.I. on a Hot Tin Roof* (2005)

**Smith-Levin, Judith.** Judith Smith-Levin was the first uniformed female police officer in Worcester, MA. Her protagonist is homicide detective Lt. Starletta Duvall.

Series

Starletta Duvall Mystery

1. *Do Not Go Gently* (1996)
2. *The Hoodoo Man* (1998) Series
3. *Green Money* (2000)
4. *Reckless Eyeballin'* (2001)



**Thomas-Graham, Pamela.** Protagonist Nikki Chase is an economics professor and part time sleuth.

Ivy League

*A Darker Shade of Crimson (1998)*

*Blue Blood (1999)*

*Orange Crushed (2004)*

**Tidyman, Ernest.** Tidyman is the author of the very successful Shaft series made into a movie. He also wrote the screenplay for *The French Connection*.

Series

Shaft

1. *Shaft (1971)*

2. *Shaft Among the Jews (1973)*

3. *Shaft's Big Score (1972)*

4. *Shaft Has a Ball (1973)*

5. *Goodbye, Mr. Shaft (1974)*

6. *Shaft's Carnival of Killers (1975)*

7. *Last Shaft (1975)*

**Tramble, Nichelle.** Protagonist Redfield is a young African-American student making his way in life in urban drug ridden Oakland.

Series

Maceo Redfield Mystery

1. *The Dying Ground (2001)*

2. *The Lost Way Back (2004)*

3. *The Last King (2004)*

**Wesley, Valerie Wilson.** Wilson's Hayle is an African-American single mom, ex-cop, and currently a private investigator in Newark, NJ.

Series

Tamara Hayle

1. *When Death Comes Stealing (1994)*

2. *Devil's Gonna Get Him (1995)*

3. *Where Evil Sleeps (1996)*

4. *No Hiding Place (1997)*

5. *Easier to Kill (1998)*

6. *The Devil Riding (2000)*

7. *Dying in the Dark (2004)*

8. *Of Blood and Sorrow (2008)*



**Wimberley, Darryl.** Raines is an African-American detective in north western Florida.

Wimberley also writes stand alone novels including *This King of Colored Town* about

Two African-American teens experiencing the integration of their school.

Series

Detective Barrett Raines Mystery

1. *Rock and a Hard Place (1999)*

**Darryl Wimberly (continued)**

2. *Dead Man's Bay* (2000)
3. *Strawman's Hammock* (2001)
4. *Pepperfish Keys* (2007)
5. *Devil's Slew* (2011)

Novels

- A Tinker's Damn* (2000)  
*The King of Colored Town* (2007)  
*Kaleidoscope* (2008)

**Woods, Paula L.** Justice is a black detective for the L.A.P.D.

Series

Charlotte Justice

1. *Inner City Blues* (1999)
2. *Stormy Weather* (2001)
3. *Dirty Laundry* (2003)
4. *Strange Bedfellows* (2006)

Anthologies edited

*Spooks, Spies and Private Eyes: An Anthology of Black Mystery, Crime and Suspense Fiction of the 20th Century* (1995)

