

**Chapter 1 : All Time Faves: Thrilling Short Stories of Mystery and Suspense - Indian Prairie Public Library**

*Books shelved as mystery-short-stories: Blood on the Tracks: Railway Mysteries by Martin Edwards, Continental Crimes by Martin Edwards, Resorting to Murd.*

Short Stories About Murder In these stories there is a killing early on, someone is accused of murder, or a major character has murderous plans. Lamb to the Slaughter Roald Dahl Mrs. She is dazed by the news; she gets a frozen leg of lamb and strikes her husband with it. Read here The Tell-Tale Heart Edgar Allan Poe An unnamed narrator describes how he killed a man; he tries to convince his listener of his sanity and wisdom. The local authorities investigate while two of their wives collect some items for the accused. Henry A ranger, Lt. Sandridge, searches for the Cisco Kid, a murderer with a quick temper and quick draw. He confronts her and they argue, leading to him accidentally killing her. Another man is arrested for the crime. The grandmother wants to go to Tennessee instead, so she talks about an escaped murdererâ€”The Misfitâ€”who is suspected to be on his way to Florida. A large anthology of pulp crime short stories, including many rarely seen titles. But living in a small town makes it more difficult to get away with crimes. He tries to dispose of the body and feign ignorance about what happened. The men feel that they should mete out justice themselves and decide to lynch him. The sheriff hears about the plan. While in town, he stays at the home of a family friend, and quarrels with another man there. Pepe stabs the man and has to flee to the mountains. Han is arrested and, along with the circus manager and stagehand, is questioned by a judge about the death. He tries to determine if it was premeditated or accidental. Wet Saturday John Collier Mr. Princey has his daughter, Millicent, go over the details of a serious occurrenceâ€”so serious that he believes she could be put in a criminal-lunatic asylum, or possibly hanged. Princey has to figure out what will be done with it. Willoughby is on vacation to calm his nerves and relax, on the advice of his doctor. While resting on a train, he overhears an experienced lawyer telling the story of the most interesting case he ever worked on. Hosea Snow, the richest man in town, was found murdered; one of his nephews, Ben, was arrested for the crime. They like spending their time in seclusion reading, writing, and talking to each other. One day, they read a newspaper report of the violent murder of two women. Read here Miss Hinch Henry Sydnor Harrison An old woman and a clergyman on the subway talk about the latest sensational storyâ€”Miss Hinch, an actress and expert impersonator, killed John Catherwood with a sword. She was seen minutes after the killing, but then seemingly disappeared for the next ten days. With her uncanny ability to become someone else, the policeâ€”and a famous detective, Jessie Darkâ€”are stumped. Hedges is out drinking with two younger friends, Merriam and Wade. Hedges gets quarrelsome and swings a chair at Merriam. He ducks and shoots Hedges, killing him. Read here The House Behind Lydia Davis There is a house in front with spacious apartments inhabited by people with higher incomes, and a house behind with more cramped apartments and lower income residents. The narrator, who lives in the house behind, tells the story of a murder that happened in the courtyard a year ago. This story is a parable for the resentment that can arise from class differences. There is an old man in the area that the people call insane. When the old man hears a news story he always claims to be related to the person in question. The Chicago papers are reporting that a man murdered his wife for no apparent reason. She has android blood under her nails, and on a bronze stake is written the name Vandaleur. This confuses the searchers, because androids are designed not to kill. Meanwhile, the owner, Vandaleur, takes his android and flees. Jenkins As Madge is getting ready to drive to Colchester, she gets a phone call from Mr. Tabor, who asks her if she would drive his niece Eunice back home. She agrees but is uncomfortableâ€”Mr. Madge picks up Eunice. She finds her off-putting and unsettling. Mumsford Larry French Bibs, a janitor at a school, takes a bat from the equipment room and hides in wait for the principal. He gets some things together and carefully goes downstairs. As he approaches the kitchen he can tell someone is there. She maintains her innocence, claiming a blow from her husband caused blindness and that she was in the hospital at the time of his death. Sir Matthew believes a manslaughter plea is preferable. In the town lived a Negro man, Dick Prosser, who worked for the father of one of his young friends. Dick is a former soldier, very tidy, an excellent worker, religious, a crack shot, and he addresses the boys with respect. Henry The narrator goes to Tennessee for a meeting with

Azalea Adair. During his stay he meets Major Caswell, a widely disliked man considered a nuisance and loafer. He arranges a meeting in a seamy pub to discuss the details. They return home one evening after an unusually hard work day, exhausted. Dukhram asks for some food; his wife responds harshly. Dukhram flies into a rage. A beautiful woman comes in and shows him a picture of a dead man. She says he was her brother. The death was ruled an accident but she believes he was murdered. This will mean passing thru territory contiguous to the dangerous Reguibat tribe. They are also armed in case they are confronted. They agree to share accommodations in Baker Street. He is visited by Inspector Lastrade of Scotland Yard. She is perfectly agreeable and caters to all his needs. Jim feels there is a barrier between them. His name and the names of three friends are on the front page of the paper. While they were on a fishing trip, they found a dead woman. They reported the incident to the police, but not until they came back two days later. Lourdes was a mail-order bride whose husband died under highly suspicious circumstances. Mahmood is interested in hearing about what happened. She talks of some concerns about her own husband. Lovecraft Three thieves decide to visit the Terrible Old Man, known for being rich and feeble. There are many rumors about him in Kingsport and people usually stay away. Borden is a miser. Borden is a joyless glutton. The weather is intolerably hot. Lizzie Borden murders her parents one morning. The Continental Op is called in. Another one is on the way. While walking on the grounds he finds a knife. He starts thinking about the possibilities. While attending a costume ball a man is found stabbed. After being taken home a woman is found dead in her bed from a cocaine overdose. I will continue to add stories about murder to this page as I find them. Find short stories aboutâ€¦

## Chapter 2 : Short Stories for Middle School

*This tender story -- one of the most famous titles in the short story genre -- is a must-read. The story is about a young couple and how they meet the challenge of buying each other a Christmas gifts when they don't have enough money.*

Return to Content Good story openings: Here are 8 famous first lines that teach us how to begin a novel in style: Good story openings make us want more information A strong story opening immediately makes you want to know more. The author tantalizes you with incomplete knowledge. The snow in the mountains was melting and Bunny had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation. This is a lot to compress into a first sentence. Yet many celebrated novels do open with lines that establish theme. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way â€” in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. The parallel construction contrasting extreme opposites is memorable due to its repetitive, poem-like structure. It also clearly establishes theme. The societal extremes of poverty and wealth, power and powerlessness that Dickens examines are introduced by the polar opposites of his opening sentence. Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. The opening line is effective for two reasons. On one hand, it makes a claim we might argue with. Secondly, the opening sentence is well constructed. The sentence structure draws our attention to this opposition. An interesting story opening sets story development in motion Interesting first lines of novels often begin with striking character actions that prepare the stage for further developments. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes. Orwell shows his character making a mistake in the first line. Take the first line of the first book in J. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. Creative first lines take licence to play with narrative time A portrait of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Many story openings cut forward to later events or recall much earlier ones than the main time-frame of the story. Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendia was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice. Why will Buendia face the firing squad? This is something we read on to find out. Inviting first lines of novels orient us with context Inviting opening lines of novels lay down context for the events that follow. When he was nearly thirteen my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow. Scout as narrator is a witness to the pain of others: Salinger does this brilliantly in The Catcher in the Rye, creating a vivid impression of the cynical Holden Caulfield: What are your favourite famous first lines? Paste them in the comments. Once you have a great opening line, you still need the rest of the scene to deliver. Go here to get your free guide to beginning, developing and ending compelling scenes.

### Chapter 3 : Reading Room: Detective, Crime, and Murder Mystery Stories

*Each story, presented in e-book format (PDF), is available free to download. Click a title below and wait for the file transfer to complete. More stories in the "Vintage Short Mystery Classics" series are added monthly.*

Poirot has many characteristics which have made him a legend all over the world - the odd moustache, the egg-shaped face and his high opinion of himself. He will though most likely be best remembered for his ability to solve complicated mysteries with the help of his little grey cells. Arthur Conan Doyle Sherlock Holmes is the fictional creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who wrote about the detective in a series of 60 stories published between and Holmes was famous for his extra-keen powers of observation, which he used to solve perplexing crimes and mysteries. He operated from his flat at b Baker Street in London, assisted by his friend Dr. Holmes was an immediate hit and remains so popular that he is sometimes mistaken for a real historical figure. Ellery Queen serves as much as investigator as author. He can entertain his reader by relating his own adventures or those of his father, retired Inspector Richard Queen, of the New York Police Department. Like a bloodhound, Queen is a private investigator who works from his apartment on West 87th Street in New York. His stories are famous for their realistic approach to deduction, and the full dialogues of the colorful and amusing personages who abound in them. Chesterton A short story collection "The Innocence of Father Brown" began the career of one of most unlikely fictional detectives. The stories reveal a drab and seemingly unexceptional Roman Catholic priest -- an Englishman -- "formerly of Cobhole in Essex, and now working in London. He is also a hard-working and dedicated priest and, in addition to that, he has an uncommon gift for solving crimes. Raymond Chandler Marlowe is perhaps the leading icon of the "hard-boiled" school of mystery writing. The fictional creation of author Raymond Chandler, Marlowe is a private detective, a smart and tough lone wolf with a sense of honor. He works mainly in Los Angeles where Chandler himself had lived. Erle Stanley Gardner The world most famous literary lawyer. Readers were enthusiastic and he gave up law and wrote eighty more Masons. He engages in detection to support his two loves, food and orchids. He says of orchids that they are "his concubines: Lord Peter Wimsey author: Merdle" after a character in Little Dorrit by Charles Dickens. What makes Archer unique among this group is not just the fact that the books are a sustained narrative spanning three decades, but that they also made the genre relevant to a changing society. He made his debut in in the pages of Black Mask, in the serialized first part of The Maltese Falcon, and the genre has never been the same. Louise Penny Medieval Trilogy - author: Linda Howard Abe Glitsky - author: John Lescroart Abraham Stroud - author: Robert W Walker Alan Grofield - author: Donald Westlake Alastair Ransom - author: Peter Lovesey Alex Cross - author:

**Chapter 4 : Detective Stories - Short Stories**

*Read free Very Short Mystery Stories written by amazing authors from all over the world!*

Read "Walter Mitty" 2, words 2. She overhears some remarks that upset her routine. Read "Miss Brill" 2, words 3. Read "Luck" 1, words This verdict was a great surprise to me. If its subject had been Napoleon, or Socrates, or Solomon, my astonishment could not have been greater. Two things I was well aware of: Therefore I knew, beyond doubt or question, that the world was mistaken about this hero: So I meant to find out, at a convenient moment, how the Reverend, all solitary and alone, had discovered the secret. The merchant sells another product at a much higher price to make up for it. Read "The Chaser" 1, words 5. Read "Snow" words 6. His family waits for him on the front porch, eager to know if the house will be lost. Read "Home" words This story has a bit of a twist ending. It packs a great deal of meaning into a few words and would allow for a lot of discussions. Read "Yours" words This story deals with friendship, identity, and Hispanic culture. He tries to figure out what to do. Read "Grace Period" scroll down to exercise 2J; words After looking around, she takes a dreamlike walk. He is captured and has a physical transformation inflicted upon him as a prerequisite to meeting the queen. This story can be read as an allegory for the experiences of Chinese immigrants in America. It could also represent the treatment of Chinese women or women in general at different times. Read "On Discovery" words When he speaks to Zebras in their own language, they are stunned; the cat takes the opportunity to tie up the zebras and kill them. This short fable illustrates the function of the storyteller. Read "The Zebra Storyteller" words There are many paintings with an accompanying book that describes them. The narrator focuses on a painting of a young woman and looks up the story of when she modeled for the portrait. Read "Oval Portrait" 1, words The Chateau into which my valet had ventured to make forcible entrance, rather than permit me, in my desperately wounded condition, to pass a night in the open air, was one of those piles of commingled gloom and grandeur which have so long frowned among the Appennines, not less in fact than in the fancy of Mrs. To all appearance it had been temporarily and very lately abandoned. We established ourselves in one of the smallest and least sumptuously furnished apartments. It rains and hails too much, ruining the crop, prompting Lencho to write a letter. This story has a humorous ending. Read "A Letter to God" 1, words She quickly enters the show window, removes the mannequin, and strikes its pose. Read "The Pose" 1, words Peretz Early every Friday morning, rabbi Nemirov vanishes. His followers wonder where he goes and what he does. One of them decides to find out for sure. Read "If Not Higher" 1, words He likes to make small connections with his charges and ask about their families. His daughter gets left behind, but is rescued at the last minute by a young sailor. Read "The Blue Jar" 1, words The man is comfortable with books and writing, but there is distance between him and his wife. My father was a workman, a house painter. He did not rise in the world as I have done. I worked my way through college and became an historian. We own this house in which I sit. This is my room in which I work. Already I have written three histories of peoples. I have told how states were formed and battles fought. You may see my books standing straight up on the shelves of libraries. They stand up like sentries. She tries to choose gifts with more care. Nilson feels a bit peculiar. He takes a walk in the nearby gardens. He sees his neighbor, which makes him feel awkward because they have never spoken. Read "The Japanese Quince" 1, words The couple seated by her start asking about her background. Bill finds her conversation simplistic; she refuses to argue anything. Lots of people come by to get the details, asking him if it was an accident. He keeps saying his daughter was hungry, and she had been a lot lately. Read "Daughter" 1, words His wife starts talking about being out of milk, and of a theater tour in New York. He talks about frying up some cattails and other things they can do where they are. Read "Blackberries" words She learns some English words, eventually becoming aware of the communist threat. Read "Snow" words It is about how school was in the old days. He and Margie talk about how different school used to be with human teachers. Read "The Fun They Had" 1, words This means a lot to the engineer. Read "The Far and the Near" 1, words Read "The Trout" He expects the thief to return, so he prepares a surprise. Read "Ruthless" 1, words Outside, the woods lay in clear October sunlight: Inside, a man smiled grimly as he turned from the bathroom cabinet, entered the primitive living

room of his mountain camp, and crossed to a closet set in the pine wall. Somerset Maugham A servant meets Death in a Baghdad marketplace and flees from him. Read "The Appointment in Samarra" words Ross Ivan is known in his village as a timid, fearful man. One night he is challenged to cross the cemetery. Read "Cemetery Path" words Valgardson Moved by childhood memories, a man leaves his own affluent neighborhood and goes exploring. He ends up in a seedy area. Read "Identities" 1, words As she starts to head home she makes a shocking discovery. Read "The Flowers" words Read "The Key Game" words Read "My Name" words In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. It is like the number nine. It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, song like sobbing. These short stories contain plenty of discussion points as well, and they are a great way to introduce different styles of writing.

### Chapter 5 : 8 Classic Detective Stories That AREN'T Sherlock Holmes | HuffPost

*These short stories established many of the conventions that Doyle would follow years later in his Holmes stories, including that of narrating the adventures of the brilliant detective from the.*

Share Shares What if you were to die, but no one was able to identify your body? What if you committed a series of terrible crimes, but no one could identify you as the culprit? Once again, here are some strange stories involving individuals whose true identity has never been uncovered. A mail train was traveling from Leeds to Bristol with 50 passengers aboard, but because of the thick fog, the crew failed to see a red signal before reaching Charfield railway station. They wound up crashing into a freight train, and the derailment ignited some gas cylinders, causing a massive fire. A total of 15 passengers lost their lives, and 23 others were injured. This incident would open up a most unexpected mystery after it was discovered that two of the deceased passengers were an unidentified young boy and girl. The fire burned these two children beyond recognition. They could not be matched to any of the other passengers, and no one ever came forward to claim them. After the crash, a memorial to victims was built in Charfield, and the two children were buried there. The last appearance of this woman is believed to be sometime during the early s. By this time, word had spread about her appearances, so members of the media showed up in Charfield on the anniversary date. When they tried to approach the woman one year, she took off and has not been seen since. After tying up the couple and their young son, Mr. Cruel proceeded to sexually assault their year-old daughter. On December 27, , he broke into the home of another family , tying up the parents and kidnapping their year-old daughter. She was sexually assaulted before being released 18 hours later. On July 3, , Mr. Cruel broke into another home and kidnapped a year-old girl. She was held captive and sexually assaulted in a house for 50 hours before he released her. On April 13, , year-old Karmein Chan was abducted from her home. Karmein remained a missing person for one year before her decomposed body was found. She was shot three times in the head. The modus operandi of these crimes is so similar that police are certain they were committed by the same man. Cruel would bathe his female victims before releasing them to eliminate potential forensic evidence, often going to meticulous lengths to clean up after himself. According to one surviving victim, Mr. Cruel set up a camera to document his sexual assaults on her, and authorities believe he is likely involved in the distribution of child pornography. In spite of an extensive investigation in which over 27, suspects have been checked into, Mr. Cruel has never been identified. Authorities could not have guessed that this routine drug bust would open the doors to a bizarre mystery that has turned into a bureaucratic nightmare. He cannot be deported back to his home country until it can be determined which country he actually originated from. A fingerprint check has revealed that Walker has lived under at least eight different identities in numerous countries. However, since Walker has already lied about his identity on multiple occasions, the Cameroon government will not accept him without definitive proof that he is Michael Mvogo. Even after making a failed attempt at a constitutional challenge to secure his release, Andrea Jerome Walker continues to remain in limbo as a man without an identity. The left side of her skull had been bludgeoned, and her throat was slashed all the way to her spine. She was also lying on top of a beach towel with a bandana and pair of jeans being used as a pillow beneath her head. Her age was believed to be between 20 and 40 years old. There is some speculation that the unidentified woman might have been Rory Gene Kissinger, a year-old criminal who escaped from jail in after being arrested in a drug raid. Bulger was known to frequent the Provincetown area, and eyewitness reports placed him with a woman resembling the Lady of the Dunes in Bulger was also known for removing the teeth of his murder victims to prevent identification. There is some speculation that the Lady of the Dunes was a prostitute Bulger had picked up, but if she is Rory Gene Kissinger, one theory is that Bulger had her killed to prevent her from snitching about criminal activities. Thus far, there is no definitive evidence connecting Bulger to the crime, and since DNA samples for Kissinger do not exist, she has never been conclusively identified as the Lady of the Dunes. West Memphis Police Department On May 5, , the town of West Memphis, Arkansas, would be plagued by one of the most controversial criminal cases of all time after the brutal murder of three eight-year-old boys: The case generated so much controversy that the West Memphis Three were released

from prison in after entering an Alford plea. He was bleeding, covered in mud, and looked disoriented and shell-shocked. By the time police arrived to take a report, the man had already left, but since they were preoccupied with the search for the missing boys, they did not inspect the washroom until the following day. Small blood samples were taken from the washroom wall, but the evidence was never sent for analysis and inexplicably went missing. Traven published 12 novels and several short stories under this pseudonym. His most famous novel is probably *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, a adventure story that was eventually adapted into an acclaimed, Academy Award-winning film starring Humphrey Bogart. Yet in spite of writing such an iconic piece of work, Traven managed to take the secret of his true identity to his grave. However, there is no evidence that anyone named Traven Torsvan Croves actually existed. It is believed that B. Traven spent the early part of his life living in Europe, as many of his works were written in German before they were translated into English. Traven wrote most of his novels while living in Mexico and worked hard to maintain his privacy. He limited his interactions with other people, and very few photographs of him exist. There are many theories about who Traven might be, but the best candidate is Ret Marut , a German actor who disappeared after fleeing Europe in . Traven started publishing his novels in Mexico. Marut was also known for being very protective about his identity, and it is speculated that he previously lived under a different name before he became an actor. Whatever the real truth, the identity of B. Traven continues to remain a mystery.

Corll worked alongside two teenage accomplices, Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. In , Henley shot Corll to death to prevent him from murdering one of his friends. He uncovered a faded Polaroid of what appeared to be a handcuffed teenage boy. Since the boy looks genuinely terrified , there is little doubt that the picture was taken right before Corll murdered him. Henley also denies knowing who the boy is. One possible theory is that the victim might be Darren Bruce Hillis , a year-old who vanished from Virginia in . The unknown assailant started off his crime spree by setting fire to a series of lumberyards in . When the city responded by posting guards at lumberyards, the perpetrator decided to start bombing homes and tenements. When federal agents were called in to investigate, the bombings suddenly came to an end, and the assailant soon turned to murder. Over the course of one week in November, at least nine women were attacked by an unknown male, who proceeded to rape them and club their helpless bodies with a heavy object before leaving them for dead. In , the investigation turned toward an incarcerated man named James C. Coyner, who was serving time in prison for grave robbery. Four female skulls were found in his trunk, and since he had mentioned being in Toledo before his arrest, he was looked at as a possible suspect. However, no evidence ever connected Coyner to the crimes, and the infamous Toledo Clubber was never identified.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Throughout her childhood, Monica Libao moved around a lot and spent the first 15 years of her life living at 28 different addresses with her parents, Pablo and Burma. After she turned 16, Monica discovered a secret after her mother became ill and Monica caught a glimpse of her medical records. She noticed that Burma underwent a hysterectomy nearly two decades before Monica was even born. After confronting Burma about this, Monica was told that one of her older half-sisters was her real biological mother. After giving birth to Monica when she was 19, the sister gave her up and let Burma and Pablo raise her instead. The story got even more bizarre when Monica found her old birth certificate, which stated she was born in Chicago but listed no hospital or doctor and had been filed when Monica was seven years old. Years later, during a heated family get-together, Monica finally learned about an incident where her mother hid her from the police while she was a baby. She became convinced that her parents had kidnapped her from her real family, which would explain why the Libaos moved around so much during her youth. Monica has since hired investigators to look into her past and find out who she really is. He was believed to be between five and seven years old and had been struck on the head with a blunt instrument. Curiously, the boy was dressed in upscale clothing, suggesting that he hailed from a wealthy family. According to Edmond, the Nortons took Homer on a trip to Argentina, where he was subsequently killed in a car accident. Further suspicion surrounded Edmond Lemay because his third wife mysteriously disappeared in , and he faced legal trouble for forging her signature on some checks. However, no definitive evidence was ever found to connect Homer Lemay to the Little Lord Fauntleroy case, so the mystery remains unsolved nearly a century later. Robin Warder is a budding Canadian screenwriter who has used his encyclopedic movie knowledge to publish numerous articles at Cracked. He is

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also the co-owner of a pop culture website called The Back Row and recently worked on a sci-fi short film called Jet Ranger of Another Tomorrow. Feel free to contact him here.

### Chapter 6 : Vintage Short Mystery Classics

*The goal of this list is to give mystery writers, or any writer for that matter, an idea of the publications that will bring the most readers to their mystery short stories. If you're looking for an editor for your short story, please contact me.*

### Chapter 7 : Very Short Mystery Stories - Typotic

*Short Stories of Mystery and Suspense; Women's Fiction. Women's Fiction. Cedar Cove Readalikes; Gentle Reads; Issue-Driven Women's Fiction; Needleworking Fiction;*

### Chapter 8 : 10 Totally Mysterious Stories Involving Unidentified People - Listverse

*Crippen & Landru publish mystery short story collections. Of particular interest is what they call "Lost Classics," a series of anthologies of mostly uncollected stories by authors who might be enjoyed by a new generation of readers.*

### Chapter 9 : Read free Mystery and crime Short Stories on Booksie.

*Short Stories About Murder In these stories there is a killing early on, someone is accused of murder, or a major character has murderous plans. See also Crime.*