International Crime Wave

A Selected Bibliography
This booklist offers a selection of recommended mysteries, detective stories and noir fiction set in different regions of the world. All works are originally written or translated in English, intended for a general adult audience and widely available in libraries.

**Blackout: An Inspector Espinosa Mystery.** By Luiz Alfredo Garcia-Roza. Translated from the Portuguese by Benjamin Moser. Picador, 2009
Rio de Janeiro’s police chief is haunted by the murder of a homeless man.

**Dead before Dying: A Novel.** By Deon Meyer. Translated from the Afrikaans by Madeleine van Biljon. Little, Brown, 2006
Still reeling from his wife’s death, Capetown detective Mat Joubert investigates a series of seemingly random murders.

**Death by Water: A Phryne Fisher Mystery.** Poisoned Pen Press, c2005
Set in 1920s Australia, this novel finds the honorable Miss Fisher scrutinizing a series of jewelry thefts aboard an ocean liner.

**Death of a Valentine.** By M.C. Beaton. Grand Central Pub., 2010
In this satisfying cozy, police sergeant Hamish Macbeth delves into the mysterious death of a Scottish beauty queen.

**Double Blank: An Inspector Llob Mystery.** By Yasmina Khadra. Translated from the French by Aubrey Botsford. Toby Press, c2005
Algiers police superintendent Llob probes the murder of a high ranking diplomat.

**Grotesque.** By Natsuo Kirino. Translated from the Japanese by Rebecca Copeland. Alfred A. Knopf, 2007
The award-winning Japanese crime writer tells a dark, twisted story of two murdered prostitutes.

_Istanbul Noir_. Edited by Mustafa Ziyalan and Amy Spangler. Translated from the Turkish by Amy Spangler & Mustafa Ziyalan. Akashic Books, c2008

Istanbul is characterized as a "fog-covered playground of power and resistance" in this compelling anthology of short fiction.

_A Killing Climate: The Collected Mystery Stories_. By Eric Wright. Crippen & Landru, c2003

This outstanding collection features 14 short crime stories by the award-winning Canadian author.


Mankell’s absorbing mystery finds Detective Wallender eager to leave the Ystad police force, yet committed to solving a friend’s murder.


Israeli police superintendent Ohayon explores the death of a television set designer.

_A Question of Belief: A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery_. By Donna Leon.

Atlantic Monthly Press, 2010

Venetian Police commissioner Brunetti investigates political corruption and business scams during a record heat wave.


Set in Tokyo, this compelling police procedural depicts two murders linked to virtual chat rooms.

_Sister Pelagia and the Red Cockerei: A Novel_. By Boris Akunin.

Translated from the Russian by Andrew Bromfield. Random House, c2009
A Russian orthodox nun is targeted by an assassin while investigating a murder of a controversial religious leader.

Botswana detective Precious Ramotswe is hired to look into a local soccer team’s losing streak.

Homicide detective Peterside probes the bombing of a gubernatorial candidate’s home in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

This distinctive anthology features dark tales of corruption, kidnapping and murder based in Trinidad and Tobago.

*When Red is Black.* By Qiu Xiaolong. Soho Press, c2004
Set in Shanghai, Qui’s third Inspector Chen mystery involves the murder of a dissident writer.

Gangsters, security professionals and corrupt politicians are chief among the shady cast of characters in this gripping Dublin-based thriller.

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Ethnic Services Round Table
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