Diverse Mystery & Suspense

Teen Services Recommendations
E-Library Edition

Chinese History Fantasy - Mystery

Descendant of the Crane
He, Joan

When her father is murdered, Princess Hesina of Yan is thrust into power, suddenly the queen of an unstable kingdom. Determined to find her father’s killer, Hesina engages the aid of a soothsayer. It is a treasonous act, punishable by death, because in Yan, magic was outlawed centuries ago. Using the information provided, Hesina turns to Akira, an investigator who’s also a convicted criminal with secrets of his own. With the future of her kingdom at stake, can Hesina find justice for her father? Or will the cost be too high.

Native American Female - Mystery

Firekeeper’s Daughter
Boulley, Angeline

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths.

Native American Paranormal Mystery

Elatsoe
Little Badger, Darcie

Elatsoe lives in this slightly stranger America. She can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. Her beloved cousin has just been murdered, in a town that wants no prying eyes. But she is going to do more than pry. The picture-perfect facade of Willowbee masks gruesome secrets, and she will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to tear off the mask and protect her family.

POC, Black Ensemble- Monster Thriller

Beasts of Prey
Gray, Ayana

Indentured to the notorious Night Zoo, Koffi cares for its fearsome and magical creatures to pay off her family’s debts and secure their eventual freedom. When her family’s safety is threatened by the Zoo’s cruel master, Koffi unleashes a power she doesn’t fully understand— and the consequences are dire.

Black Female - Mystery

Off the Record
Garrett, Camryn

A teen journalist uncovers the #metoo scandal of the decade: a bigshot Hollywood director is taking advantage of cast members.

LGBTQ+, Lesbian - Murder Mystery

She’s Too Pretty to Burn
Heard, Wendy

When seventeen-year-old Veronica’s photograph of her introverted girlfriend goes viral, they are sent into a spiral of fame and lethal danger as they navigate the turbulent waters of their relationship, secrets, acclaim, and the underground San Diego art scene.

Asian American - Mystery

How We Fall Apart
Zhao, Katie

Nancy Luo, Krystal Choi, Akil Patel, and Alexander Lin, juniors at Manhattan’s elite Sinclair Prep, are forced to confront their secrets after Jamie Ruan, once their closest friend, is found dead.
Taiwanese-American - Family Secrets

Our Wayward Fate  
Chao, Gloria

Seventeen-year-old Ali is simultaneously swept up in a whirlwind romance and down a rabbit hole of family secrets when another Taiwanese family moves into tiny, predominantly-white, Plainhart, Indiana.

Mormon Female - Murder Mystery/ Thriller

The Perfect Place to Die  
Moore, Bryce

Seventeen-year-old Zuretta Palmer travels to Chicago during the 1893 World’s Fair to find her missing sister, but when the police and the Pinkertons refuse to help her, Zuretta begins her own investigation by becoming a maid at the notorious Castle.

POC, Black Female, Murder Mystery

This Is My America  
Johnson, Kim

While writing letters to Innocence X, a justice-seeking project, asking them to help her father, an innocent black man on death row, teenaged Tracy takes on another case when her brother is accused of killing his white girlfriend.

LGBTQ+ - Murder Mystery

Keep This To Yourself  
Ryan, Tom

After high school graduation, Mac focuses on finding the serial killer who murdered his best friend the previous summer, while working through his own feelings for the deceased.

Muslim American - Murder Mystery

Hollow Fires  
Ahmed, Samira

Aspiring journalist Safiya Mirza investigates the murder of a 14-year-old boy who was wrongfully arrested, labeled a terrorist and eventually killed, seeking to tell the whole truth about the boy and those who killed him because of their hate-filled beliefs.

Asian American - True Crime

From A Whisper To A Rallying Cry : The Killing of Vincent Chin and The Trial That Galvanized the Asian American Movement  
Yoo, Paula

A groundbreaking portrait of Vincent Chin and the murder case that took America’s Asian American community to the streets in protest of injustice.

Black Female - Murder Mystery

Spin  
Giles, L. R.

When DJ ParSec (Paris Secord), rising star of the local music scene, is found dead over her turntables, the two girls who found her, Kya (her pre-fame best friend) and Fuse (her current chief groupie) are torn between grief for Paris and hatred for each other—but when the lack of obvious suspects stalls the investigation, and the police seem to lose interest, despite pressure from social media and ParSec’s loyal fans, the two girls unite, determined to find out who murdered their friend.