Female Detectives

COYOTE by Linda Barnes
M BAR
Follow the trail of private detective and part-time Boston cabbie Carlotta Carlyle as she tries to solve the mystery of female illegal immigrants that have disappeared. Even though this is an older book, it has timely content.

MURPHY’S LAW by Rhys Bowen
M BOW
A fun series to read set in a spunky Irish lass comes to the NYC on the run from the Irish police. She tries to get a fresh start on Ellis Island, but is instantly suspected of murdering a fellow shipmate after she is seen arguing with him. This is the first of the Molly Murphy series.

UNNATURAL EXPOSURE by Patricia Cornwell
M COR, LARGE PRINT
Dr. Kay Scarpetta, Virginia’s Chief Medical Examiner, gets wrapped up in the search for a murderer. This most recent murder is similar to that of a serial killer from eight years earlier. With the help of her niece Lucy, who works for the FBI, they are trying to track the killer to see if it is the same murderer. This has some gruesome details.

SWIFT JUSTICE by Laura DiSilverio
M DIS
This is the start to a great new series. A private eye, Charlie Swift has found a somewhat out of her element sidekick for a few good laughs. Set in Colorado Springs, Charlie tries to find a missing young mother of an abandoned baby. This series is the closest to Janet Evanovich’s Stephanie Plum series.

TWELVE SHARP by Janet Evanovich
M EVA, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
Get some great laughs with bounty hunter Stephanie Plum and her oddball cohorts as they try to apprehend Trenton’s criminals in this numbered series. In Twelve Sharp, she tries to clear fellow bounty hunter Ranger’s name when he is suspected of kidnapping.
“S” IS FOR SILENCE by Sue Grafton
M GRA, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, OVERDRIVE EBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK
Any of Grafton’s alphabet series mysteries starring Kinsey Milhone, a private detective based in Santa Teresa, CA, are great reads. Starting with “A” is for Alibi – work your way up through S – reading them in order is not necessary. This series is set in the mid-1980s. In “S” is for Silence, Kinsey tries to solve the disappearance of a woman, Violet, missing since the 1950s. Is she still alive or has she been dead for years?

SHAKESPEARE’S COUNSELOR by Charlaine Harris
M HAR
Follow an amateur sleuth, Lily Bard, in Shakespeare, AR as she solves mysteries in between her daytime job as a cleaning woman. As she attends a weekly therapy session, the group finds one of its members dead. The therapist has a past – which is why she moved to Shakespeare, but is she involved? Who is causing all this pain for the townspeople?

HONKY TONK KAT by Karen Kijewski
M KIJ
Kat Colorado, a private detective living in Sacramento, CA, tries to help her childhood friend turned professional country music star find who is sending her threatening notes and gifts. Kat joins Dakota Jones’ staff to determine who is sending the notes, - a crazed fan, or an insider?

WHISKEY SOUR by Joe Konrath
M KON
In this police procedural with Lieutenant “Jack” Daniels, set in Chicago, she is on the search for a serial killer who calls himself ‘The Gingerbread Man’. In the first of this series, Jack’s boyfriend has left her and the Gingerbread Man has decided to put his focus on her – to add Jack to his collection of women he has tortured and murdered. Jack is a tough woman and it will be interesting getting to know her in the other books in the series. Her character reminds me of Sara Paretsky’s V.I. Warshawski.

NO GOOD DEEDS by Laura Lippman
M LIP, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
Tess Monaghan is the detective in this series with a Baltimore setting. Lippman continually has a great story lines and characters. She includes specific details of the city where she lives that give the books a very realistic feel. When Tess’s boyfriend Crow brings home a runaway the trouble begins. It turns out he is a witness to a murder and Tess and Crow both become involved in unraveling the mystery. The first in the series is Baltimore Blues.
DOUBLE EXPOSURE  
by Barbara Taylor McCafferty and Beverly Taylor Herald  
M MCC  
Join this twin sister writing team and their twin sister amateur sleuth  
characters Bert and Nan Tatum as they solve a mystery set in Louisville, KY.  
Nan’s job at the local radio station turns her into a celebrity when a caller  
asks the sisters to look into a three-year old murder-suicide.

LISTEN TO THE SILENCE by Marcia Muller  
M MUL  
Professional private detective Sharon McCone has a personal discovery  
when her father passes away. In this book, she is solving her own personal  
mystery and her life is at stake. McCone’s investigative firm is set in San  
Francisco – but her travels here take her to several Indian reservations in  
the western U.S.

SACRED COWS by Karen E. Olson  
M OLS  
Join police reporter Annie Seymour on her journey as she tries to discover  
what the whole story is behind two murdered female Yale students in New  
Haven. This journalist is tough and speaks her mind – which gets her in  
trouble with her mother, boss and boyfriend (a New Haven police officer),  
among others.

KILLING ORDERS by Sara Paretsky  
M PAR  
Chicago based private detective, V.I. Warshawski, gets in over her head  
as she tries to discover the whereabouts of missing stock certificates worth  
several million dollars from a Chicago based Dominican priory. V.I. is a  
true hard-boiled type detective.

TILL THE END OF TOM by Gillian Roberts  
M ROB  
This amateur sleuth, Amanda Pepper, is also an English teacher in a  
fictional private high school in Philadelphia. When Amanda discovers a  
body in her school, she can’t help but try to solve the crime, she gets in  
deeper when she learns the dead man was at the school to see her. This  
series begins with Caught Dead in Philadelphia in 1987.
DEVIL'S CORNER by Lisa Scottoline  
M SCO, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK  
Assistant US Attorney Vicki Allegretti, living and working in Philadelphia, gets into trouble while working a case when her ATF partner is shot and killed. Vicki starts an investigation into the murder of her partner and comes up against more than she bargained for.

MAISIE DOBBS by Jacqueline Winspear  
M WIN, BOOK CLUB TO GO  
Set in the late 1920's in England, Maisie is an intelligent young housemaid. Her employers see what she is capable and help get her to Cambridge. Due to the war, she can’t complete her studies. She has spunk, and in a time when women weren’t working especially as detectives she decides to open her own agency.

Compiled by Kristin Redmond