Female Detectives and Their Sidekicks

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Abstract

A review of What’s a Daring Detective Like Me Doing in the Doghouse?, by Linda Bailey; Who Took Henry and Mr. T?, by Dave Glaze; The Intrepid Polly McDoodle, by Mary Woodbury.

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A Study in Sidekicks: The Detective’s Assistant in Crime Fiction. deadline for submissions: November 13, 2017. This collection aims to explore the changing representations and functions of the detective’s sidekick across a range of forms and subgenres of crime fiction from the nineteenth century to the present day. Forms may include: magazine short stories, serial or non-serial novels, ‘penny dreadfuls’, juvenile story papers, dime and half-dime novels, comics and graphic novels, radio drama, stage plays, film and television, video games. This is a list of fictional female investigators from novels, short stories, radio, television, films and video games. Abigail Adams, future first lady, detects in 1770s Massachusetts in a series by Barbara Hambly (as Barbara Hamilton) begun in 2009. Hilda Adams is a nurse who takes jobs to investigate, in series by Mary Roberts Rinehart, begun in 1914 with The Buckled Bag; played by Joan Blondell in a Warner Bros. film, Miss Pinkerton (1932). Rinehart then adopted this movie nickname for use in her There are female sidekicks to be found, but we have to look closely. They’re distinctly less visible than the Watsons of male-dominated literature, and often come disguised in the role of a best friend, wife, or mother, as opposed to a crime-solving, gunslinging comrade who tramps beside the hero on the dusty path of life. Here are some literary ladies who stood out to me — and could easily hold their own, if given more page time — but if you can think of any more, let me know. A good secondary character will make you believe he or she needs a book of their own, and literature can certain