



Psychological Suspense is very popular with a wide range of readers, but it can be hard to find on the shelf.

These are books that produce a chill; physical threats and terrors are replaced by mental ones. They play with our minds in very disturbing ways, and leave us wondering about what really happened. As a reader, you know from the start that things are going to go badly, but you feel compelled to watch the tale unfold.

These are stories of stalking and serial killers in claustrophobic settings, with the potential for disaster at every turn of the page. There are monsters here, but not the supernatural ones of a horror novel; these monsters are human...

If this sounds like your idea of a good read, then use this list to help you locate some of the Psychological Suspense books we have on our shelves here at the Berwyn Public Library.



Hitchcock, Alfred. Call # M ALF

Alfred Hitchcock invented psychological suspense; his stories are still fresh and frightening.

Robotham, Michael. Call # ROB

Robotham writes a terrifying series that follows the cases of a detective and psychologist.

Oates, Joyce Carol. Call # OAT

Oates writes dark, gripping, books filled with social commentary and psychological insight.

Smith, Scott. Call # SMI

Smith puts his characters in difficult situations. We squirm as they make all the wrong decisions while trying to work their way out.

McEwan, Ian. Call # MCE

McEwan provides a more "literary" approach to the genre.

Moerk, Christian. Call # MOE

Moerk is a new and promising voice in the genre.

Harris, Thomas. Call # HAR

In Hannibal Lecter, Thomas has created the ultimate serial killer, one which scares us out of our wits, while enticing us to keep turning the pages.

Marshall, Michael. Call # MAR

Marshall's books blend suspense, paranoia, and an oppressive atmosphere.

Du Maurier, Daphne. Call # DUM

Du Maurier took the Gothic tradition of the Bronte's and moved it terrifyingly into the 20th Century.

Koontz, Dean. Call # KOO

Koontz has sold millions of books that defy genre classification but all deal with the horrors people inflict upon one and other.

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS ON TWELVE MORE AUTHORS!

The Readers' Advisory Department at the Berwyn Public Library in Berwyn, Illinois is a patron-oriented library service committed to the promotion of lifelong reading.



We are excited about sharing and talking about books and are more than happy to suggest "good" titles.

Among other things, we provide monthly lists of new fiction acquisitions, suggested reading lists from our current and past displays, and a periodic newsletter that highlights titles we are excited about.

We also have an extensive list of Internet resources to guide you in your own search for your next book.

The Berwyn Public Library collects all types of fiction, so never apologize for your reading tastes!

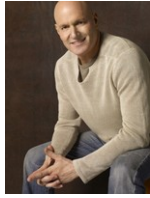
Berwyn Public Library

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Psychological Suspense

Part suspense thriller, part horror, and part mystery, Psychological Suspense is a unique and very popular genre of novels.

**Call # ABL**

Keith Ablow has a dark and twisted series that follows psychiatrist and police consultant, Frank Clevenger as he helps track down the perpetrators of some pretty grisly murders. Ablow's novels are more about the psychology of the villains than they are about the investigations into finding them. Characters reign over action in these graphic novels, but what keeps the readers clamoring for more is Clevenger himself, who may be just as unstable as his clients.

**Call # FRE**

Nicci French is the pseudonym of English journalists Nicci Gerrard and Sean French. Together they write stand-alone and series psychological novels in which the suspense builds relentlessly and the plot twists are both unexpected and highly satisfying. These are novels with strong, but vulnerable female protagonists, who find the killers and sometimes love in the process. Try *The Red Room* in which the police ask psychiatrist Dr. Kit Quinn to consult on the murder of a troubled young girl. But, get more than they bargained for when Quinn uncovers a link to another murder.

**Call # LIN**

Jeff Lindsay has become a best-selling author with his creation of the widely popular and extremely original character Dexter Morgan. Dexter is a serial killer who kills serial killers; it is as simple and as complicated as that. Lindsay's novels turn the serial killer story on its head by adding an appropriate helping of sardonic humor. Dexter is a blood spatter analyst for the Miami Dade police department, but he is also antisocial and psychotic. *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* is the first.

**Call # ABR**

Peter Abrahams likes to lead his main character into a situation the reader knows is a bad idea from the start. For example, in *End of Story*, a young woman who is an aspiring writer agrees to teach a creative writing class at a maximum security prison, where she falls under the spell of a convict in her class. But, no matter the plot, an Abrahams novel puts ordinary heroes and heroines in a dangerous situation; the novel then explains how they wriggle their way out. Expect lots of plot twists and graphic descriptions.

**Call # M FYF**

Frances Fyfield writes both series mysteries and stand-alone Psychological Suspense. Her novels are compelling stories of obsession that address social issues such as date rape or spousal abuse; her settings are dark and her heroines tend to be both emotionally and physically damaged. Try *Undercurrents*. Henry Evans travels back to the small seaside town in England where he lived 20 years ago to find out what has happened to his former love, only to find her in jail for murdering her ill son. Henry investigates, finding a far darker truth.

**Call # M MCD**

Val McDermid offers readers strong women characters and provocative stories that explore abuse and other social ills. These are dark, dramatic stories of sick villains and the people who try to understand them in order to stop them. Her main series features Carol Jordan, a policewoman and Tony Hill, a forensic psychologist and profiler. In *The Torment of Others*, Hill believes that a convicted, and currently incarcerated, killer must be responsible for a recent murder. But how?

**Call # COO**

Thomas Cook writes satisfyingly creepy tales that consider the issues of morality and justice. His storylines are dark and gripping with complex characters and detailed settings. Like many Psychological Suspense authors, Cook's novels blend many genres together. Try the Edgar Award winner *The Chatham School Affair*. The year is 1962 and Elizabeth arrives at a private school for boys where she begins an affair with a married teacher, beginning a chain of events that leads to murder.

**Call # GOO**

Carol Goodman writes lyrical, literary suspense, stand-alone titles. Most of her novels are centered on a past, possible crime that may have connections to the present day. She fills her novels with mythical allusions as she explores the psychology of her characters; placing her characters in a closed environment to add tension. In *The Lake of Dead Languages*, a woman returns as a new teacher to the small private girls school where she once attended as a student only to find that the recent deaths of several students may have a connection to the "suicides" that occurred when she was a student.

**Call # M REN**

Ruth Rendell is the reigning queen of Psychological Suspense with her gripping, claustrophobic, non-series novels of obsession. The tension in Rendell's novels is enhanced by her choice to focus on socially isolated, misfit characters. These are disturbing books in which things start off badly and only get worse. Try *13 Steps Down* where an elderly landlord becomes suspicious of her serial killer obsessed tenant.

**Call # DOB**

Stephen Dobyns writes psychological thrillers which question the psychology within ourselves more than what goes on inside the mind of a serial killer. These are dark books which make the reader squirm. Try *The Church of Dead Girls*. In a small town young girls start disappearing and the citizens, all close friends and neighbors, start turning on each other with disastrous results.

**Call # HIG**

Patricia Highsmith died in 1995, but her Ripley novels still stand out as an example of the best Psychological Suspense has to offer. Tom Ripley is a charming psychopath who plays with his victims. As readers, we are both drawn in by Ripley's magnetism and repelled by his fiendishness. *The Talented Mr. Ripley* is the first in the series.

**Call # M WAL**

Minette Walters, it has been said, writes elegant, complex, atmospheric, psychological puzzles, featuring unbalanced characters, with ever-building suspense. In a recent title, *The Devil's Feather*, a traumatized war correspondent hides from a serial killer, in a rural English cottage.