

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
Dunklin County Library

Reading adult mystery thrillers offers numerous benefits. They sharpen your critical thinking, analytical skills, mental agility, and memory by challenging you to piece together clues and follow intricate plots. These books offer a powerful emotional release and stress reduction. In essence, reading a thrilling mystery for adults is not just about solving a puzzle; it is a dynamic experience that engages your mind, provides emotional release, and offers a safe way to explore complex human experiences.

House of Bone and Rain by Gabino Iglesias is a gripping, eerie crime thriller. In Puerto Rico, five teenage friends, Gabe, Xavier, Tavo, Paul, and Bimbo, are no strangers to death, but when Bimbo's mother is murdered, their grief turns to a fierce desire for vengeance. As a devastating hurricane approaches the island, mirroring the turmoil within them, they vow to find her killers. Bimbo, consumed by grief, becomes relentless in his pursuit of justice, transforming into someone unrecognizable. As they plot their revenge, an ancient belief looms: hurricanes are said to carry malevolent spirits to shore, imposing their dark order on the world.

Police Chief Jeep Mullane, a former NYPD detective, finds himself back on Long Island's North Shore, heading a small local department. He's a sharp, grounded "have-not" in a world of inherited wealth and power, a stark contrast to his working-class roots as an NYPD cop's son. Jeep's past and present collide when the body of his childhood friend, Johnny Chambliss, a reckless "golden boy" from a privileged background, is found in Bayville waters. Now, Jeep must navigate Johnny's secretive, wealthy family and his enigmatic ex-wife as he untangles a complex mystery involving theft, corrupt local moguls, and decades-old secrets, all while confronting his grief. *Johnny Careless* is Kevin Wade's razor-sharp debut novel.

Daisy Pearce's *Something in the Wall* is set in a British village with folklore, psychological tension, and quirky characters. Struggling child psychologist Mina, adrift in a stifling British heatwave and contemplating her upcoming marriage, finds solace only in a bereavement group, mourning her brother's death. Her quiet life takes a sharp turn when she meets journalist Sam Hunter, who offers her a proposition: investigate the case of thirteen-year-old Alice Webber, who claims she's being haunted by a witch. Desperate for experience, Mina agrees, believing she can help Alice and Sam get his story. However, Alice's behavior only intensifies, and Mina soon discovers Banathel, Alice's remote village, is steeped in a dark history of superstition and witchcraft. The villagers harbor sinister traditions and mistrust outsiders. As Mina races to uncover the truth behind Alice's disturbing symptoms, she confronts the village's deep-seated beliefs and unearths a shocking connection to her past.

Molly the maid is back in a Nita Prose mystery novel entitled, *The Maid's Secret*. Molly Gray, Head Maid and Special Events Manager at the Regency Grand Hotel, is on the verge of two momentous events: a taping of the TV show *Hidden Treasures* and her wedding to Juan Manuel. When Molly brings some old trinkets to the show, one is revealed to be a rare, multi-million-dollar artifact, catapulting her from rags-to-riches and sparking a media frenzy. However, on auction day, the treasure vanishes, thrusting Molly and her friends into the center of a brazen art heist. The key to solving the mystery lies in a long-forgotten diary belonging to Molly's Gran. Through it, Molly uncovers her grandmother's secret past: a forbidden love with a man her wealthy family disapproved of. As fate would have it, Gran's greatest love is someone Molly knows quite well.