

MYSTERIES AND THRILLERS

Watching You by Lisa Jewell. Atria Books, 2018. 324 pages. This domestic thriller effectively immerses the reader in the lives of neighbors and friends in a small English community. Opening with a murder scene, the novel flashes back three months, and the reader learns what happens through the viewpoint of several characters. Very well done.

The Current by Tim Johnston. Algonquin Books, 2019. 406 pages. Labyrinthine relationships in a small town weave together to connect two crimes – girls drowned in a river – ten years apart in this expertly told mystery. Well-developed characters lend veracity to a novel where the tension is high and the ending unexpected.

Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman. Ballantine, 2018. 339 pages. Any book that opens with a woman digging her husband's grave will keep the reader turning the pages. After the first few pages, the story is told in flashback, starting with how the couple met, and evolving into an intriguing thriller with a surprise ending. Very entertaining.

The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton. Sourcebooks, 2018. 430 pages. Unique, inventive, twisty, and unbelievably clever, this complex yet breezily readable mystery is a novel unlike any other I've read. Every day, the protagonist wakes up in the body of a different guest at a manor house and must attempt to solve a murder.

Blood Orange by Harriet Tyce. Grand Central, 2019. 337 pages. Alison, a barrister in London, desperately juggles a heavy work schedule, her family life, and a lover. When she becomes involved in a murder trial, it proves to be the catalyst for her to discover many hidden secrets in the lives of those around her. Great mystery; killer surprise ending.

Her One Mistake by Heidi Perks. Gallery Books, 2019. 310 pages. This book moves like wildfire, I read it in 2 sittings. Popular school mom Charlotte befriends quiet Harriet, with unforeseen consequences. Psychologically abused by her husband, Harriet has a secret plan that unfolds with tragic consequences. A truly original page-turner, an excellent read.

Never Have I Ever by Joshilyn Jackson. William Morrow, 2019. 337 pages. What a good, suspenseful read! When new neighbor Roux barges into best friends' Charlotte & Amy's book group, it's like a bomb explodes. Real characters, dramatic reveals, and superb plot twists kept me riveted until the jaw-dropping ending. Absolutely compelling.

The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware. Scout Press, 2018. 368 pages. Orphan Harriet Westaway receives a letter about an inheritance, and, sure there's a mistake but desperately needing money, she travels to Trepassen for the reading of the will. Family secrets & strange occurrences enshroud Harriet in this satisfying mystery.

