

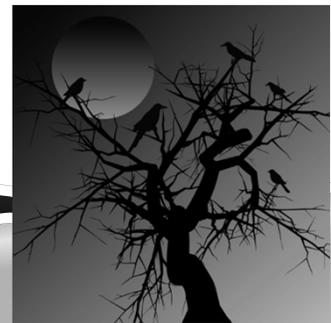
EDGE OF YOUR SEAT THRILLER AND SUSPENSE FICTION



Alicia McGrath
Library Services Division
KDLA

SUSPENSE? THRILLER? SUSPENSE AND THRILLER?!

- In general suspense novels are darker and more psychological.
- In a thriller all the elements are secondary to incident, action, and movement.
– David L.Vineyard
- English call them Thrillers and Americans call them Suspense novels.
- Suspense is experienced through the hero's and villain's point of view.
- Thrillers take you on the inside of the protagonist's actions and thoughts.
- Pacing is the most important element in both genres.



SOME HISTORY

- Early Models: Homer's *Odyssey* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*
- Birth of the Thriller occurred in the 19th century with *The Last of the Mohicans* and *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.
- In the early 20th century, chasm between “respectable” adventure stories and seedier pulp novels until the arrival of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett.
- First “modern” suspense novels: *The Riddle of the Sands* by Erskine Childers (1903) and *The Four Just Men* by Edgar Wallace (1906)
- Period after World War II significant for the genre.
- Reflective of the events and societal influences of the times.



OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

- Characteristics of the Genre:

Characters and readers can always expect the worst.

Has to have a villain.

Protagonist is in dangerous situations and must rely on his/her physical and mental abilities to survive.

Has action and excitement i.e. a roller coaster ride up to the last page.

- Appeal of the Genre:

Exotic locales

Vicarious thrills for the reader

Reader is privy to secrets

Story line

Plot and pacing

Characters

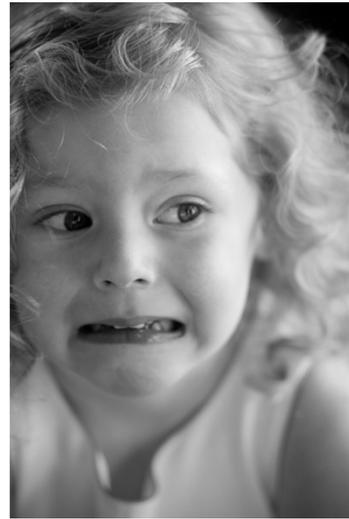
YOU KNOW YOU ARE READING IF ...

Gannon's Adventure/Suspense Rules

1. Sometimes your friends are deadlier than your enemies.
2. Cynicism is a prerequisite for success in the spy business.
3. Never sit next to anyone on a plane who is sweating profusely, talking to himself, and clutching a large, bulky item.
4. You have a better chance of surviving a disaster if you are evil, insane, or both.
5. If your country doesn't have a secret weapon, you can always steal one!
6. All secret weapons have cool code names.
7. The United States always wins!
8. Just when you think you've forgotten all about a former lover, he or she is accused of murder and becomes your client.
9. It takes a thief to catch a thief!
10. Female serial killers are much more common than in real life.
11. You can always count on maniacs to reappear in a sequel.
12. Serial killers *always* have a method to their madness.
13. There is no such thing as "minor" surgery.
14. Bioengineered viruses always cause those infected to become homicidal maniacs, who eventually explode in a shower of blood.
15. There is never a simple "off" switch.
16. Sometimes it's not paranoia—they really *are* out to get you!
17. Heroes always start out by being in the wrong place at the wrong time.
18. Hitler did not die in his Berlin bunker.
19. Nazis are very long-lived, and loads of them still exist today.
20. Nazis are no match for vampires or werewolves.
21. Anyone can be brainwashed to do anything.
22. Masters of the martial arts can kill with any part of their body—*any* part . . .
23. Old KGB agents never die, they just pop up now and then, nastier than ever!
24. Evil dictators are notoriously difficult to bump off.



SUSPENSE



SUSPENSE VS. MYSTERY



Suspense fiction



Definition

Used for works whose prime purpose is to produce a feeling of frightened anticipation. These works may contain secondary elements, espionage, romance, or psychology.

Related Genres

[Romantic suspense fiction](#) [Spy stories](#)



Mystery fiction



Definition

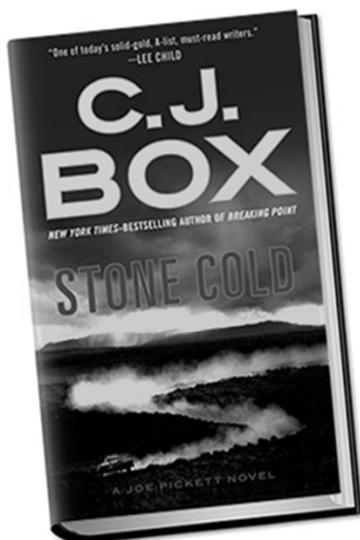
Used for novels and stories dealing with the detection and solution of crime.

Related Genres

[Noir fiction](#)

EXERCISE - STONE COLD: SUSPENSE OR MYSTERY?!

Stone Cold



The electrifying new Joe Pickett novel from the *New York Times*–bestselling author.

Everything about the man is a mystery: the massive ranch in the remote Black Hills of Wyoming that nobody ever visits, the women who live with him, the secret philanthropies, the private airstrip, the sudden disappearances. And especially the persistent rumors that the man's wealth comes from killing people.

Joe Pickett, still officially a game warden but now mostly a troubleshooter for the governor, is assigned to find out what the truth is, but he discovers a lot more than he'd bargained for. There are two other men living up at that ranch. One is a stone-cold killer who takes an instant dislike to Joe. The other is new—but Joe knows him all too well. The first man doesn't frighten Joe. The second is another story entirely.

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SUSPENSE AUTHORS

*according to Berwyn Public Library, Illinois

Suspense Fiction

AUTHORS

Baldacci, David. [Call # BAL](#)

Baldacci's plots are fast-paced with a lot of twists and often feature government or corporate corruption, political deception or the Mafia. The stories involve sympathetic characters who find themselves in some kind of immediate danger.

Deaver, Jeffery. [Call # DEA](#)

Though he has several stand-alone thrillers, Deaver is best known for his Lincoln Rhyme series about a quadriplegic forensic investigator who teams up with policewoman Amelia Sachs who covers the crime scenes for him.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Call # KEL](#)

Kellerman's series about Alex Delaware, a semi-retired psychologist, who serves as a criminal psychologist consultant for the LAPD, are complex and exciting stories that usually contain an unexpected ending.

Patterson, James. [Call # PAT](#)

Patterson's original series featuring Alex Cross is probably his best known, although he also writes the Women's Murder Club series and numerous stand-alone novels. His thrillers are fast-paced, sometimes violent and are told from the perspective of both the killer and the police.

Pearson, Ridley. [Call # PEA](#)

In his stand-alone titles and the Lou Boldt series, Pearson's tightly weaved plots present interesting forensic details, crimes that are methodically investigated, and a lot of plot twists and chase scenes.

Sandford, John. [Call # SAN](#)

The Prey series, set in Minnesota, are fast-paced, crime driven suspense stories involving Minneapolis police Lt. Lucas Davenport. Sanford is best known for his intricate plots and multi-faceted characters.

Woods, Stuart. [Call # WOO](#)

Woods writes three different series – the Stone Barrington series, the Holly Barker series, and Lee family saga. His books are all page-turners complete with twists, betrayals, and a lot of action.

TITLES



Child, Lee. *The Killing Floor*

Jack Reacher, a former military policeman, is in Margrave, Georgia searching for the grave of a long-dead black musician, when he finds himself accused of an execution style murder. But he discovers that the victim is his brother Joe, a U.S. Treasury official. Reacher needs the help of Finley, the chief of detectives, and Roscoe, a female officer to find his brother's killers and uncover a sinister conspiracy.

MARY HIGGINS

Clark, Mary Higgins.
Nighttime is My Time

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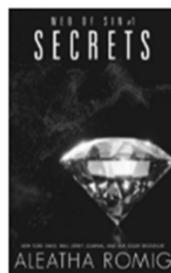
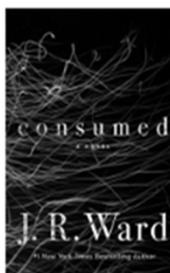
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Suspense

Suspense is a feeling of uncertainty and anxiety about the outcome of certain actions, most often referring to an audience's perceptions in a dramatic work. Suspense is not exclusive to fiction, though. Suspense may operate in any situation where there is a lead up to a big event or dramatic moment, with tension being a primary emotion felt as part of the situation. In the kind of suspense described by film director Alfred Hitchcock, an audience experiences suspense when they expect something bad to happen and have (or believe they have) a superior perspective on events in the drama's hierarchy of knowledge, yet they are powerless to intervene to prevent it from happening. In broader definitions of suspense, this emotion arises when someone is aware of his lack of knowledge about the development of a meaningful event; thus, suspense is a combination of anticipation and uncertainty dealing with the obscurity of the future. In terms of narrative expectations, it may be contrasted with mystery or curiosity and surprise. ([less](#))

NEW RELEASES TAGGED "SUSPENSE"



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ROBERT DUGONI

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
4 MILLION READERS AND COUNTING



Genres > Fiction

Thriller

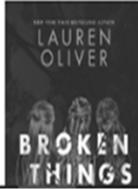
Thrillers are characterized by fast pacing, frequent action, and resourceful heroes who must thwart the plans of more-powerful and better-equipped villains. Literary devices such as suspense, red herrings and cliffhangers are used extensively.

Thrillers often overlap with mystery stories, but are distinguished by the structure of their plots. In a thriller, the hero must thwart the plans of an enemy, rather than uncover a crime that has already happened. Thrillers also occur on a much grander scale: the crimes that must be prevented are serial or mass murder, terrorism, assassination, or the overthrow of governments. Jeopardy and violent confrontations are standard plot elements. While a mystery climaxes when the mystery is solved, a thriller climaxes when the hero finally defeats the villain, saving his own life and often the lives of others. ([less](#))

NEW RELEASES TAGGED "THRILLER"



TANA FRENCH



BROKEN THINGS



SAW KILL GIRLS



THE LIES WE



THE LOST MAN

RELATED GENRES

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Mystery	Spy Thriller
Suspense	Legal Thriller
Mystery Thriller	



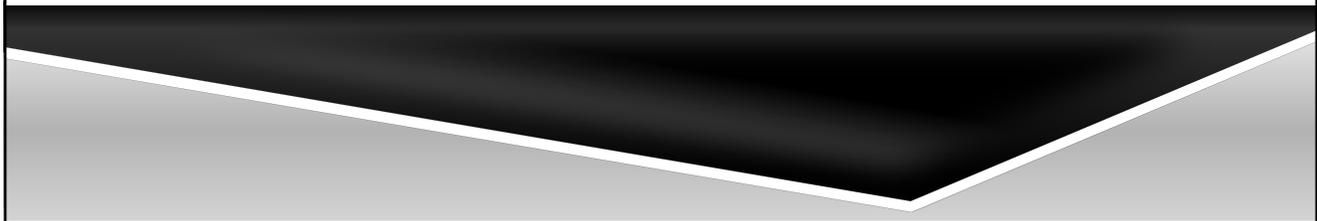
ROBERT DUGONI

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

4 MILLION READERS
AND COUNTING



THRILLER



WHAT IS A THRILLER??

“Today, thriller novels provide a rich literary feast embracing a wide variety of worlds — the law, espionage, action-adventure, medicine, police and crime, romance, history, politics, high-tech, and religion. But old or new — and this vibrant field never stays still — all thrillers share certain characteristics. Like Homer in ancient Greece keeping his audiences captive with his tales, thriller authors are constantly aware that their readers are looking to them to provide the sudden rush of emotions, the excitement, sense of suspense, apprehension, and exhilaration that drive the narrative, sometimes subtly with peaks and lulls, sometimes at a constant, breakneck pace. By definition, if a thriller does not thrill, it is not doing its job.” [From the Wakefield Public Library webpage (<http://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/lists/zrathrillers.htm>) quoting: <http://www.thrillerwriters.org> 3/28/06]



MORE ON THRILLERS . . .

- In the Thriller the primary emphasis is on incident, action, adventure, and movement with the protagonist — even when he is an innocent caught up in larger events — taking a proactive role in those events. — David L .Vineyard @ <http://mysteryfile.com/blog/?p=5199>

Usually four basic types with combinations also:

1. Chase & Pursuit
2. The Quest
3. The Journey
4. The Mission

- For a reader, it is any story that speeds up the pulse or shortens their breath. - *Genreflecting*.



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The Counterfeit Agent
 (John Wells, book 8)
 Alex Berenson



Innocent Blood
 (Order of the Sanguines, book 2)
 Rebecca Cantrell and
 James Rollins



The Death Trade
 (Sean Dillon, book 20)
 Jack Higgins



Caught
 Lisa Moore



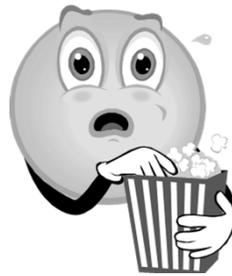
The Bootlegger
 (Isaac Bell, book 7)
 Clive Cussler and Justin
 Scott



Influx
 Daniel Suarez

Coming soon

Mar 2014 **The Accident** by
 Chris Pavone
 Mar 2014 **Watching You**
 (Joseph O'Loughlin, book 6) by
 Michael Robotham
 Mar 2014 **The Janson**
Option (Paul Janson) by Paul
 Garrison and Robert Ludlum
 Mar 2014 **The Cairo Affair**
 by Olen Steinhauer
 Mar 2014 **Apocalypse** (Ethan
 Warner, book 3) by Dean
 Crawford
 Mar 2014 **Citadel** (Languedoc
 Trilogy, book 3) by Kate Mosse
 Mar 2014 **Blood Pact** (Kirk
 McGarvey, book 17) by David
 Hagberg
 Mar 2014 **Eat What You**
Kill by Ted Scofield
 Mar 2014 **Storm** (Sylo, book
 2) by D J MacHale
 Mar 2014 **Stay Where You**



SUBGENRES OF THRILLERS

ADVENTURE THRILLERS:

- Plot-driven stories that rocket along to big climaxes with less attention paid to details and character development.
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: Clive Cussler

Ted Bell and the Alexander Hawke Series

James Rollins



CONSPIRACY THRILLERS:

- One person (with a little bit of help from friends) exposes the truth against “Them”.
- Two subset genres:
 1. Espionage Thriller
 2. Religious Conspiracy Thriller

ESPIONAGE THRILLERS

- Spies & Tradecraft
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: Daniel Silva (Gabriel Allon Series)

Brad Thor (Scot Harvath)

John LeCarre

Preston & Childs (Gideon Crew)

Alan Furst

Ian Fleming

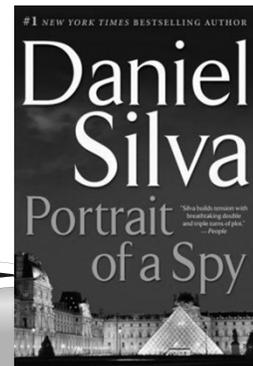
Olen Steinhauer (Milo Weaver)

Vince Flynn (Mitch Rapp)

Barry Eisler (Ben Treven & John Rain)

Jeff Abbott (Sam Capra)

Alex Berenson (John Wells)



RELIGIOUS CONSPIRACY THRILLERS

- Puzzle-driven; little known aspects of theological history brought into the modern world
- Started with 2003's *The DaVinci Code* by Dan Brown
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: Raymond Khoury (Sean Reilly & Tess Chaykin series)

James Becker (Chris Bronson)

Steve Berry (Cotton Malone)

Paul Christopher (Finn Ryan / Templars)

Charles Brokaw (Thomas Lourds)



CRIME THRILLERS:

- Written from the viewpoint of people who live to break the law (Protagonist)
- Antagonists are usually other criminals and/or bad cops
- Expect deception, betrayals, and violent resolutions
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: Richard Stark (Parker Series and *Firebreak*)

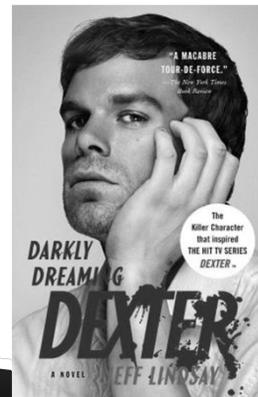
Ace Atkins

Jeffrey Lindsay (Dexter)

Thomas Perry

Tom Piccirilli

Andrew Vachss (Burke and his stand-alones)



CYBER & TECHNO THRILLERS:

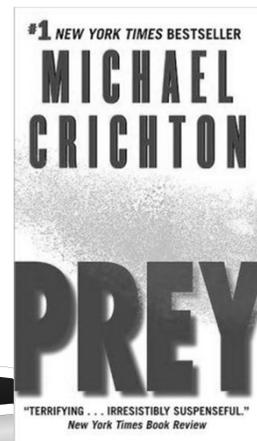
- Mainly about computers and the people who operate them using cutting edge technology.
- Focus is on uncovering secrets without the proper wisdom
- Detailed enough, but not too detailed as to slow down the plot.
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author & Title: Michael Crichton's *Prey*

Lincoln Child

P.J. Tracy (Monkeewrench series)

Daniel Suarez



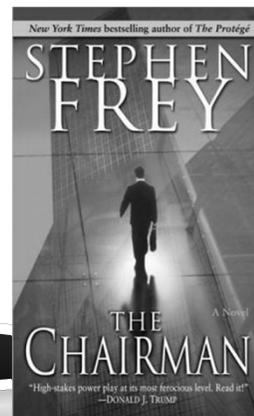
FINANCIAL THRILLERS:

- All about industry insiders taking advantage of loopholes or complex transactions where huge amounts of money are at stake.
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: Stephen Frey (Christian Gillette-*Chairman*)

Joseph Finder (Nick Heller)

Norb Vonnegut



FORENSIC THRILLERS:

- The main protagonist is usually some type of forensic scientist who gets more involved than they should.
- The appeal for this subgenre is the elaborate detail about state-of-the-art detection methods.

- Suggested Authors:

Essential Authors: Jeffery Deaver (Lincoln Rhyme series); Iris Johansen (Eve Duncan); and Kathy Reichs (Temperance Brennan)

Jefferson Bass (Body Farm)

Tess Gerritsen (Rizzoli & Isles)

Simon Beckett (David Hunter)

Jeffery Deaver (Kathryn Dance)

Lisa Black (Theresa MacLean)

Meg Gardiner (Jo Beckett)

LAW ENFORCEMENT THRILLERS:

- This subgenre blurs the line with law enforcement mysteries, but the key points that make it into a Thriller are:
 1. increased risk for main character
 2. relies on self so danger more personal
 3. the end focus is stopping the villain permanently

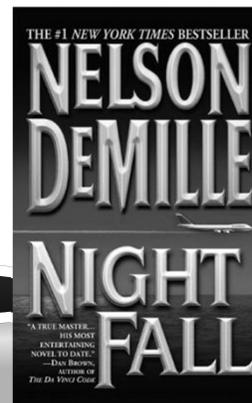
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author & Title: Nelson DeMille's *Night Fall*, part of the John Corey series

Ace Atkins (Quinn Colson)

Jeffery Deaver's *The Bodies Left Behind* and *Edge*

T. Jefferson Parker (Charlie Hood)



LEGAL THRILLERS:

- Courtroom scenes with legal maneuvering
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Authors & Titles: Scott Turow's *Reversible Errors* and Linda Fairstein's *The Deadhouse* (Alexandra Cooper series)

James Scott Bell (Ty Buchanan) Lisa Scottoline (Rosato & Assoc./Stand-alones)

Laura Caldwell (Izzy MacNeil) Randy Singer

Robert Dugoni (David Sloane) Joseph Teller (Jaywalker)

James Grippando (Jack Swytek) John Grisham

Philip Margolin (Amanda Jaffe & Dana Culter/Brad Miller)

Steve Martini (Paul Madriani)



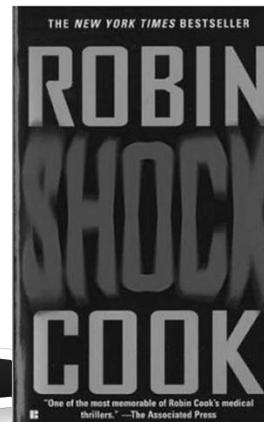
MEDICAL THRILLERS:

- Medicine, symptoms, and villains that challenge dedicated medical personnel.
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author & Title: Robin Cook's *Shock*

Daniel Kalla

Michael Palmer



MILITARY TECHNO THRILLERS:

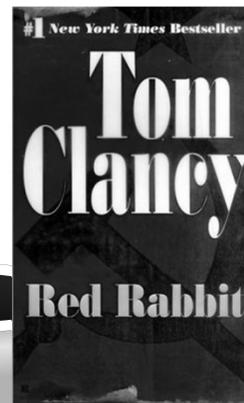
- About courageous people with cool gadgetry that protect us.
- Has lots of military information and lingo.
- They are not tied to particular news stories in order to make them timeless.
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: Tom Clancy (Jack Ryan)

Larry Bond (Red Dragon Rising series & Jerry Mitchell series)

Dale Brown (Patrick McLanahan)

Jack Coughlin (Sniper)



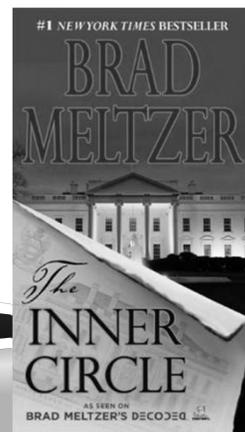
POLITICAL THRILLERS:

- Wide-eyed innocents or intrepid reporters uncovering really corrupt politicians
- Big on backroom finagling details
- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author: David Baldacci (Camel Club)

Michael Lawson (Joe DeMarco)

Brad Meltzer



PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:

- Suggested Authors:

Essential Author & Title: George Pelecanos' *The Night Gardner*

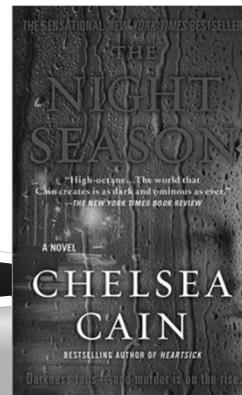
Peter Abrahams Gregg Hurwitz

Nelson DeMille Wendy Corsi Staub (Live To Tell and stand-alones)

Robert Harris Richard North Patterson

John Hart Greg Iles (Penn Cage and stand-alones)

Chelsea Cain (Archie & Gretchen)



RELIGIOUS THRILLERS:

- Generally aimed at a conservative, evangelical audience
- Heroes rely on God's assistance
- Usually fall into two categories: Inspired and Spiritual Warfare
- Suggested Authors:

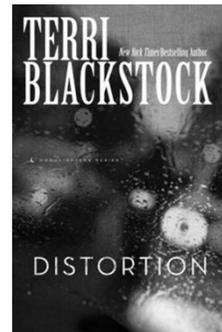
Essential Author: Ted Dekker (Paradise series-*Showdown*)

Terri Blackstock (Intervention/Restoration and stand-alones)

T. Davis Bunn (Storm Syrell and stand-alones)

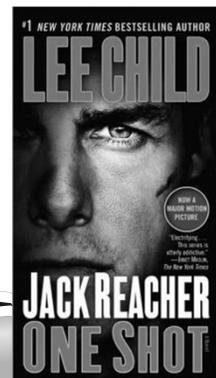
Lynette Eason (Deadly Reunions/Women Of Justice and stand-alones)

Joel C. Rosenberg (Jon Bennett & Erin McCoy/12th Imam)



VIGILANTE:

- This subgenre focuses on the punishment of injustice and the protagonist operates outside the law and has his/her own code
- “White Knight” thrillers
- Violent
- Suggested Authors:
 - Essential Author & Title: *One Shot* (Jack Reacher series) by Lee Child
 - Max Allen Collins (J.C. Harrow/Mike Hammer/Nathan Heller)
 - Randy Wayne White (Doc Ford)
 - Stephen Hunter (Bob Lee Swagger/Earl Swagger/Ray Cruz)
 - Greg Rucka (Attitus Kodiak/Jad Bell/Queen & Country)



OVERALL TRENDS FOR SUSPENSE/THRILLERS

Serial Murders with increasing violence.

Historical featuring World Wars I and II.

Technology and Forensics important to the good and bad guys.

Terrorists and conspiracies with more international settings and characters.

Supernatural elements are playing a bigger role.

Wider audiences due to being highly adaptable to media.

Growth in: Apocalyptic Thrillers, Christian Thrillers and more women authors and characters.

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Veterans Day closure
KYVL services downtime - systems migration
Central Region training for public library staff and trustees at Adair County Public Library on 8 November
RESOLVED - EBSCO intermittent access issues

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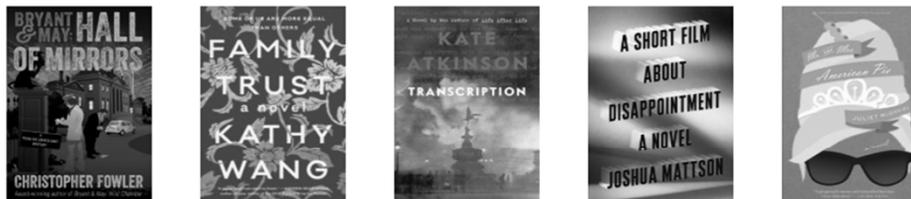
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The Big Thrill (<http://www.thebigthrill.org/>)

Stop You're Killing Me (<http://www.stopyourekillngme.com>)

The Rap Sheet (<http://therapsheet.blogspot.com>)

Fantastic Fiction (<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/>)

Novelist's Suspense/Thriller Article by Joyce Saricks

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Book Source: *Genreflecting*

Blood, Bedlam, Bullets, and Badguys: a Reader's Guide to Adventure/Suspense Fiction

by Michael B. Gannon, c2003.

Some website resources from: <http://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/novelist-special/keeping-up-with-the-fans-thrillers-on-the-web>

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