



Skullduggery

February 2010

The Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance

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And More ...

Get a Clue

This month's meeting subject.

Valentine's Day usually conjures up visions of hearts, candy, flowers and your beloved--but some of Valentine's Day's origins are quite gruesome and bizarre. (Think wolves & war!)

Some strange crimes have also taken place on this day of "romance," such as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. The bricks taken from the garage where this incident occurred are still in existence and are said to be cursed!

We will be discussing these and other weird items about this lovers holiday!

Some strange St. Valentine's Day facts from *Associated Content*:

According to Brain Candy Holidays, 15 percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

In the United States, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

Chocolate manufacturers currently use 40 percent of the world's almonds and 20 percent of the world's peanuts.

Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

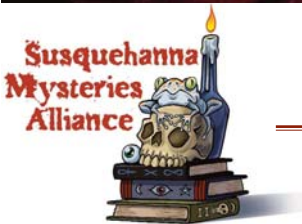
We at Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance hope you and your loved ones had a very sweet St. Valentine's Day!



How to Read a Mystery in the Winter Time



*Candles, Hot Cocoa or Tea,
Comfort Foods, Cozy Blanket & Book*

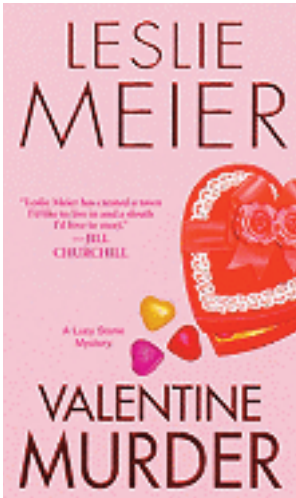


The 50 Greatest Unsolved Mysteries of All Time

According to Time Life's Book of the Same Name

1. The Voynich Manuscript
 2. Who Killed Lord Darnley?
 3. What Became of the Lost Colony?
 4. What Happened to the Lost Dauphin?
 5. Was Napoleon Murdered?
 6. How Did Edgar Allan Poe Die?
 7. Did Lizzie Borden Whack Her Parents?
 8. Who Wiped Out the Ade Family?
 9. Who was Jack the Ripper?
 10. Was Emile Zola Murdered?
 11. What Happened to Bobby Dunbar?
 12. Did Rudolf Diesel Commit Suicide?
 13. How, When, Where Did Ambrose Bierce Die?
 14. How Did Rasputin Die?
 15. Did Anastasia Romanov Survive?
 16. Who was the Axman of New Orleans?
 17. Who Murdered William Desmond Taylor?
 18. Did Mallory and Irvine Conquer Everest?
 19. Where Did Aimee Semple McPherson Go?
 20. An Agatha Christie Mystery: She Disappeared for 11 Days. Where Did She Go?
 21. Did the *White Bird* Beat Lucky Lindy Across the Atlantic?
 22. What Happened to Judge Crater?
 23. Where is Dutch Schultz's Loot?
 24. Whither Amelia Earhart?
 25. Who Killed Sr Harry Oakes?
 26. What Happened to the Nazi Gold?
 27. Who Murdered the Black Dahlia?
 28. Who Offed Bugsy Siegel?
 29. Where Did Richard Colvin Cox Go?
 30. Did the Soviets Kill Commander Crabb?
 31. Was Dag Hammarskjold Assassinated?
 32. Where's the Money from The Great Train Robbery?
 33. Why was Mary Pinchot Meyer Murdered?
 34. How Did Dorothy Kilgallen Die?
 35. Who was The Zodiac?
 36. What Killed Jim Morrison?
 37. Who was D.B. Cooper?
 38. Did Lucky Lucan Live?
 39. Where's Jimmy Hoffa?
 40. Was Pope John Paul I Murdered?
 41. What Happened to the Abducted Children?
 42. Will the Case of the Tylenol Poisoning Ever be Solved?
 43. Where Did the Boston Paintings Go?
 44. Who Killed Jon Benet Ramsey?
 45. Who Wasted the Rappers: Biggie Smalls & Tupac Shakur
 46. Where's Whitey Bulgar?
 47. Where is Natalee Holloway?
 48. Did the Russians Poison Alexander Litvinenko?
 49. Who is Setting the Coatesville, PA Fires?
 50. Are We Alone? (Aliens & UFOs)
- Conspicuously missing from this list are some of the most famous unsolved mysteries of all time**
(According to Melissa):
- Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping
 - Did the Continent of Atlantis Exist?
 - The Bermuda Triangle
 - Death of Marilyn Monroe
 - The Philadelphia Experiment: Did it Happen?
 - Strange Case of Kaspar Hauser
 - Missing crew and passengers of the *Mary Celeste*



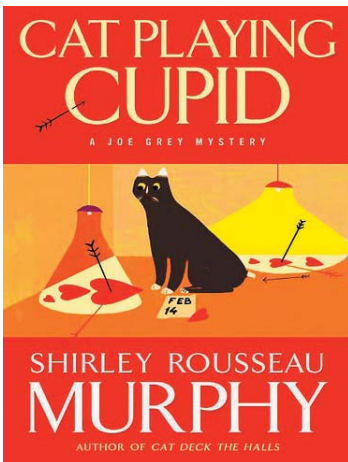


Valentine Murder

Leslie Meier

When plucky freelance writer Lucy Stone joins the library board in her small Maine town, she unexpectedly finds herself knee-deep in murder. Right before her first meeting, Lucy discovers librarian Bitsy Howell shot through the heart in a workroom. A state police detective tells Lucy that only board

members were present at the time of the unpopular librarian's death; he also warns her to stay away from the investigation. Lucy agrees but, still curious, she decides to find out as much as she can about the other suspects, and learns that each board member was hiding a potentially lethal secret. She also discovers that the library's prized antique tankard, which was recently appraised by antique dealer Hayden Northcross, is a fake. Before Lucy can piece together all the clues to reveal the culprit, her children are nearly run over, her car is set afire and her husband is placed in mortal danger.

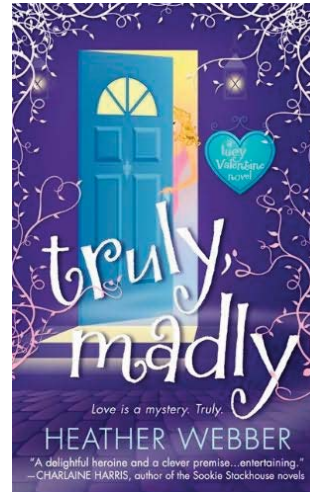


Cat Playing Cupid

Shirley Rousseau Murphy

"I'm a cop in cat skin, working undercover." So says dedicated feline detective Joe Grey just before setting off to search a suspect's condo, in this solid fourteenth entry in Murphy's popular mystery series. This time Joe's gruff but lovable

housemate, Clyde, is on his honeymoon and thus not around to scold Joe for poking his paws into police business, leaving Joe free to investigate a skeleton found in some local ruins and a missing-persons case. The murders are even less of a focus than usual in this long-running cozy series; instead, the mystery of the wild talking cats and their connection with the ruins take up much of the storyline. Even so, this is still a quality mystery, with excellent pacing, ratcheting tension, consistent characters, and suitably nasty villains.



Truly, Madly

Heather Webber

The Boston Valentines have been professional matchmakers for generations, but Lucy Valentine's psychic talent tends to show her people's lost car keys rather than their ideal mates, so she's shocked when her parents stick her with running the company. A vision

leaves her wondering whether a client murdered his girlfriend, so she hires sexy PI Sean Donahue to find the missing woman, but while she's imagining them naked in bed, he's suspecting her of murder. Lucy has to contend with her meddling grandmother's efforts to find her a new boyfriend as she dodges the cops, hunts a killer and struggles to explain the truth to Sean. Fun characters, sparkling prose and a twisty plot add up to a great beginning for Valentine Inc.

Did you know ...

The difference between a *cemetery* and a *graveyard* is that a graveyard has a church on the property. Hence, the *graves* are actually in the *yard* of the church. A cemetery hosts only dead bodies and no house of worship.



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