



How to Write Killer Historical Mysteries

By Kathy Lynn Emerson

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The core of the book is Emerson's personal take on writing and selling historical mysteries, but it also includes contributions from over forty other historical mystery writers practical advice, anecdotes, and suggestions for research and input from assorted editors, booksellers, and reviewers. For both historical mystery writers and readers. This book embodies its subtitle: *The Art & Adventure of Sleuthing Through the Past*. Veteran author Emerson published her first mystery twenty-three years ago, and this is her thirty-sixth published book. It draws on her experience in researching, writing, selling, and sustaining both her Lady Appleton series (Elizabethan England) and her Diana Spaulding series (1880s U.S.). This unique reference book also includes the contributions of more than forty other historical mystery writers. Their books backgrounds and settings are as diverse as Ancient Egypt and Rome, antebellum New Orleans, early Constantinople, Jazz Age England and Australia, Depression-era California, turn-of-the-century New York, Victorian England, and eighteenth-century Venice

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Emerson, author of the Lady Appleton and Diana Spaulding mystery series, turns her hand to how it's done in this useful guide to writing historical crime fiction. Drawing on her own works and those of her fellow historical-mystery writers (Kerry Greenwood, Alan Gordon, Carola Dunn, and others), she lays out, in commonsense sequence, the stages of planning and writing a historical mystery. Chapters on choosing setting and character, research, crafting a plot, and selling your book offer much of the same information as similar chapters in other how-to books for mystery writers, but the information is nicely tailored for this particular genre. Published writers probably won't find much here that they don't already know, but budding historical novelists will discover a wealth of helpful tips and may want to keep a notebook handy to jot them down. The book finds its niche and fills it well. --David Pitt

Review

"...a comprehensive guide, full of seasoned advice and rich examples." -- Hallie Ephron, author of *Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel*

"I can't imagine a question about historical mysteries that isn't answered here. Do not start writing your historical mystery without this book!" -- Carolyn Wheat, author of *How To Write Killer Fiction*

About the Author

Kathy Lynn Emerson is the author of fourteen historical mysteries; three novels of historical romantic suspense, three contemporary mysteries, assorted nonfiction, romance, and children's fiction.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ernest Baker:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be up-date about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *How to Write Killer Historical Mysteries* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Gerald James:

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Jack McCurdy:

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