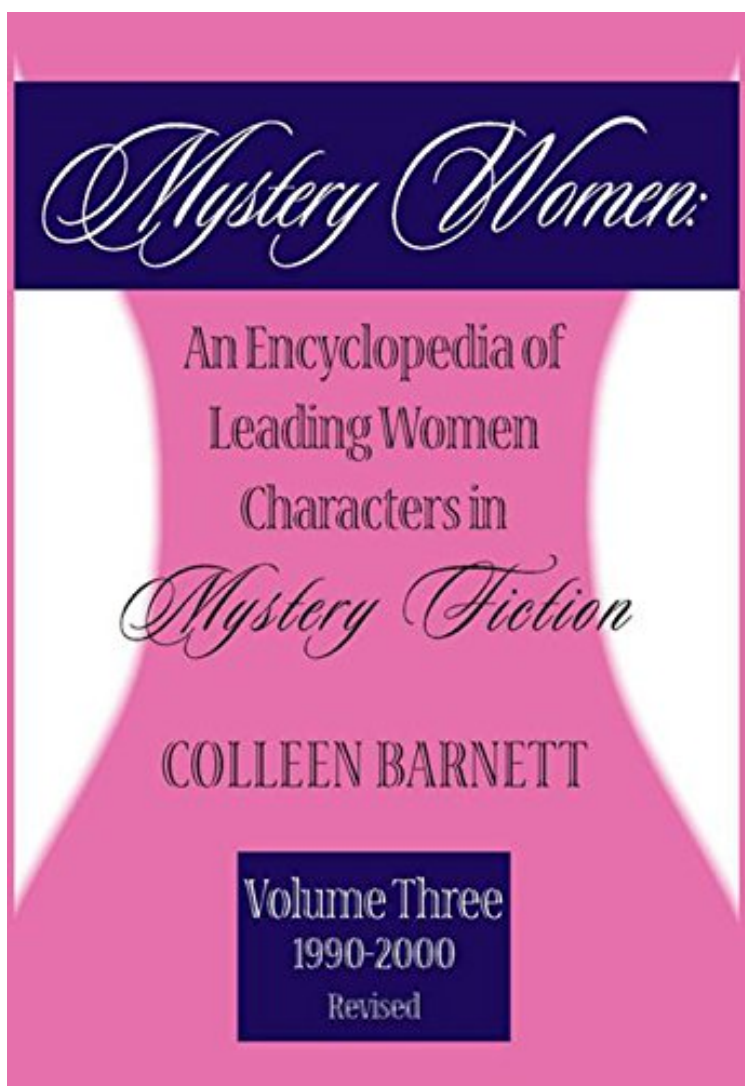


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Many bibliographers focus on women who write. Lawyer Barnett looks at women who detect, at women as sleuths and at the evolving roles of women in professions and in society. Excellent for all women's studies programs as well as for the mystery hound. Look at the popularity of such reading guides as Willetta Heising's *Detecting Women* (3rd ed. 0-9644593-7-X) or Amanda Cross' fiction (*Honest Doubt* 0-345-44011-0 11/00).

"The amount of reading Ms. Barnett has done for these books boggles my mind. (Dare I say it is "incredible?") She discusses almost 700 series characters, with brief descriptions of virtually all their cases (over 3,000 titles) and succinct discussions of their personal lives and physical appearances. Barnett is careful not to give too much information regarding plot surprises and solutions. Prone to find errors in reference works, I was happily frustrated by the overall accuracy of Ms. Barnett's research and writing. This is a work that will need periodic updating, but for the periods covered in the two volumes, 1860-1989, Colleen Barnett has written the definitive work" --*Deadly Pleasures*" Barnett, a lawyer and teacher of political science, has collected mystery fiction with female protagonists for more than 20 years. Here she focuses on those protagonists instead of on female mystery writers. Barnett offers a unique and highly subjective approach to the genre. Recommended where there is an interest in 'mystery women' and for readers' advisory services." *Library Journal* From the Author This is the second volume of the "Mystery Women" series on which I began work in 1975. Although most research on early protagonists was covered in Volume 1 (1860-1979), the increased interest in female sleuths led to so many new series that only a ten year period could be covered in Volume 2. However among the characters and authors included are many of the most prestigious figures in mystery fiction. The real life acceptance of women in fields previously dominated by men made it possible to create realistic female sleuths who were doctors, lawyers, police detectives, and private investigators. New problems arose with new opportunities. The protagonists had to balance personal lives (husbands, lovers, children) with careers. A variety of solutions were represented in the new series. Volume 2 was nominated for an Agatha by Malice Domestic in 2003. About the Author Colleen Barnett traced her interest in mystery novels to those in her father's library. She moved from there to the Green Bay, Wisconsin library where she was borrowing adult mysteries at an early age. She entered law school in 1947 when only a small minority of the students were female, but dropped out to marry and raise a family. She returned to the University of Wisconsin Law School after a career in social services and graduated cum laude. Her experiences in social work and the legal system made her aware of the social, economic, and legal handicaps under which professional women functioned. That and her lifelong interest in the mystery novel motivated her 29 years of work on the three volumes of "Mystery Women"