

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to know

Forensic Fiction

Fiction that features the use of forensic evidence in the solving of crimes.

A relatively recent sub-genre in which pathologists or forensic scientists, or a professional investigator and a team of technicians, play a major role in solving a crime. Common tropes include finding evidence at a crime scene, blood spatter, DNA, bones, fingerprints, or other forensic details. There is usually a race against the clock to catch the perpetrator before someone else dies or another major crime is committed. Similar to the **police procedural** and **legal fiction**, writing forensic fiction requires the author to perform a great deal of background research to achieve accuracy.

Common Elements

Forensic investigations
Scientific procedures
Crime scenes

Morgues
Crime labs

Benefits of Reading

Stimulates in readers an interest in science and data
Encourages in readers the use of data and interpretations for problem solving
Provides readers with a glimpse into the

fascinating world of forensic science
Inspires readers to look beyond the obvious and explore multiple meanings of data

Modern Literary Examples

<i>Along Came a Spider</i> (1993) by James Patterson
<i>The Bone Collector</i> (1997) by Jeffrey Deaver
<i>Book of the Dead</i> (2007) by Patricia Cornwell

<i>Carved in Bone</i> (2006) by Jefferson Bass
<i>Déjà Dead</i> (1997) by Kathy Reich
<i>One Grave Too Many</i> (2004) by Beverly Connor
<i>Red Dragon</i> (1981) by Thomas Harris