

Yorktown Library Book Club - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wed., June 10, 2026

Victorian Mysteries

The Darwin Affair by Timothy Mason

Summary: When an assassination attempt is made on Queen Victoria, and a petty thief is murdered moments later a block away, Chief Detective Inspector Charles Field surmises that the crimes are connected. Field's investigation soon exposes a shocking conspiracy: the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* has set off a string of terrible crimes. As the investigation takes Field from the London to Oxford, the list of possible conspirators grows, and the body count escalates. As he edges closer to murderer, he uncovers dark secrets that were meant to remain forever hidden.

The House on Vesper Sands by Paraic O'Donnell

Summary: High up in a house on a dark, snowy night, a lone seamstress stands by a window. So begins the swirling, serpentine world of Paraic O'Donnell's Victorian-inspired mystery, the story of a city cloaked in shadow, but burning with questions: why does the seamstress jump from the window? Why is a cryptic message stitched into her skin? And how is she connected to a rash of missing girls, all of whom seem to have disappeared under similar circumstances? On the case is Inspector Cutter, a detective as sharp and committed to his work as he is wryly hilarious. With the help of two unlikely accomplices, Inspector Cutter peels back the mystery layer by layer. He leads them all, at last, to the secrets that lie hidden at the house on Vesper Sands

Maude Horton's Glorious Revenge by Lizzie Pook

Summary: Twenty-year-old Constance has run away from her life in Victorian London, joining the Makepeace, an expedition vessel bound for the icy and unexplored Northwest Passage of the Arctic Two years later: Maude Horton is searching for the truth. After being told by the British Admiralty that her sister's death onboard the Makepeace was nothing more than a tragic accident, she receives a diary revealing that Edison Stowe had more of a hand in Constance's death than the returning crew acknowledged. In order to get the answers she needs, Maude joins Edison on a dangerous new venture to extract the truth from him in any way possible.

A Curious Beginning by Deanna Raybourn

Summary: London, 1887. After burying her spinster aunt, Veronic is free to resume her world travels in pursuit of scientific inquiry--and the occasional romantic dalliance. But fate has other plans when Veronica thwarts her own attempted abduction with the help of an enigmatic German baron, who offers her sanctuary in the care of his friend Stoker, a reclusive and bad-tempered natural historian. But before the baron can reveal what he

knows of the plot against her, he is found murdered--leaving Veronica and Stoker on the run from an elusive assailant as wary partners in search of the villainous truth.

A Study in Scarlet Women by Sherry Thomas

Summary: With her inquisitive mind, Charlotte Holmes has never felt comfortable with the demureness expected of the fairer sex in upper class society. But she never thought that she would become a social pariah, an outcast fending for herself on the mean streets of London. When the city is struck by a trio of unexpected deaths and suspicion falls on her sister and her father, Charlotte is desperate to find the true culprits and clear the family name. She'll have help from friends new and old--a kind-hearted widow, a police inspector, and a man who has long loved her. But in the end, it will be up to Charlotte, under the assumed name Sherlock Holmes, to challenge society's expectations and match wits against an unseen mastermind.

The Woman in the Water by Charles Finch

Summary: London, 1850: A young Charles Lenox struggles to make a name for himself as a detective...without a single case. Scotland Yard refuses to take him seriously and his friends deride him for attempting a profession at all. But when an anonymous writer sends a letter to the paper claiming to have committed the perfect crime--and promising to kill again--Lenox is convinced that this is his chance to prove himself. The writer's first victim is a young woman whose body is found in a naval trunk, caught up in the rushes of a small islets in the middle of the Thames. With few clues to go on, Lenox endeavors to solve the crime before another innocent life is lost. When the killer's sights are turned toward those whom Lenox holds most dear, the stakes are raised and Lenox is trapped in a desperate game of cat and mouse. In the tradition of Sherlock Holmes, this newest mystery in the Charles Lenox series pits the young detective against a maniacal murderer who would give Professor Moriarty a run for his money.