



## **The Sleuth and the Scholar: Origins, Evolution, and Current Trends in Detective Fiction (Contributions to the Study of Popular Culture)**

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# The Sleuth and the Scholar: Origins, Evolution, and Current Trends in Detective Fiction (Contributions to the Study of Popular Culture)

## The Sleuth and the Scholar: Origins, Evolution, and Current Trends in Detective Fiction (Contributions to the Study of Popular Culture)

Is the detective novel popular fiction or serious literature? This collection of essays examines the historical, literary, and critical aspects of the genre. Three interrelated aspects of detective fiction are addressed: the mystery story as a vehicle for social criticism, women crime writers, and the American hard-boiled detective story--its origins in cowboy fiction, recent trends, and whether the mean streets still belong exclusively to men. Contributors span the ranks of well-known crime writers, popular critics of detective fiction, and academic scholars. This unusual volume aptly illustrates the nature and attractions of a style of fiction that was once dismissed as merely sensational and is now seen as mainstream.

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