



# The Best American Mystery Stories 2006

*Scott Turow (Editor), Otto Penzler (Series Editor)*

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"[Most of] these stories are portraits, in styles ranging from sly to harrowing, of how crimes occurred ... If you like all your characters living at the end of a story, this may not be the book for you." -- from the introduction by Scott Turow

Best-selling author Scott Turow takes the helm for the tenth edition of this annual, featuring twenty-one of the past year's most distinguished tales of mystery, crime, and suspense.

Elmore Leonard tells the tale of a young woman who's fled home with a convicted bank robber. Walter Mosley describes an over-the-hill private detective and his new client, a woman named Karma. C. J. Box explores the fate of two Czech immigrants stranded by the side of the road in Yellowstone Park. Ed McBain begins his story on role-playing with the line "Why don't we kill somebody?" she suggested." Wendy Hornsby tells of a wild motorcycle chase through the canyons outside Las Vegas. Laura Lippman describes the "Crack Cocaine Diet." And James Lee Burke writes of a young boy who may have been a close friend of Bugsy Siegel.

As Scott Turow notes in his introduction, these stories are "about crime -- its commission, its aftermath, its anxieties, its effect on character." The Best American Mystery Stories 2006 is a powerful collection for all readers who enjoy fiction that deals with the extremes of human passion and its dark consequences.

## **The Best American Mystery Stories 2006 Details**

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## From Reader Review The Best American Mystery Stories 2006 for online ebook

### Andre says

Come December, I head for Vrooman's and look for the latest installment in the series. Every year's collection is put together by publisher Otto Penzler and new guest editor (**Scott Turow**, in this case). Some years are better than others, but none are dogs. These are great books to bring along while traveling — because they're easier to put down.

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### Brandi W. Wilhelm says

So, I got the rating for this book by averaging my ratings for the individual stories. It's so-so. Stories I recommend: Theft by Karen E. Bender; Pirates of Yellowstone by C. J. Box; Why Bugsy Siegel Was a Friend of Mine by James Lee Burke; Born Bad by Jeffery Deaver; Edelweiss by Jane Haddam; Dust Up by Wendy Hornsby; Louly and Pretty Boy by Elmore Leonard; McHenry's Gift by Mike MacLean; Karma by Walter Mosley; A Temporary Crown by Sue Pike; Ringing the Changes by Jeff Somers; and Vigilance by Scott Wolven. I gave each of these stories a rating of 8 or higher, on a scale of 10. They carried this book, and got it the rating it's received. The rest should be skipped or, preferably, torn from the book and burned. Particularly awful ones were Her Lord and Master by Andrew Klavan; The Crack Cocaine Diet (Or: How to Lose a Lot of Weight and Change Your Life in Just One Weekend) by Laura Lippman; and Ina Grove by R. T. Smith. I gave each of these stories a rating of 1 or less, again on a scale of 10. CNs and other notes were put in the updates while I was reading. Check there for further info, if wanted/needed.

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### Barbara says

Like most collections of stories, I found this one uneven, with a few stories I would reread but most forgettable. A few of the authors are old favorites: Joyce Carol Oates, Jane Haddam, and Laura Lippman. I didn't discover any other, new to me, mystery writers, however. When in the mood for shorter reads, these "Best American..." series are reliable.

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### Yonit says

I "caught" this book! See this New York TImes article: <http://tinyurl.com/5scb55> and [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com)

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### Vince Darcangelo says

Faves:

Karen E. Bender: "Theft"

C.J. Box: "Pirates of Yellowstone"

James Lee Burke: "Why Bugsy Siegel Was a Friend of Mine"

William Harrison: "Texas Heat"

Emory Holmes II: "A.k.a., Moises Rockafella"

Elmore Leonard: "Lousy and Pretty Boy"

Ed McBain: "Improvisation"

Mike Maclean: "McHenry's Gift"

Walter Mosley: "Karma"

Jeff Somers: "Ringing the Changes"

Scott Wolven: "Vigilance"

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### **Ariel Lynn says**

This is a fantastic collection. I think the editors were really careful & chose some amazing stories. Each one was different, yet had the same underlying theme (of the "original" definition of "mystery:" a story where a crime takes place or is otherwise discussed, as the preface described).

As a "wishful thinking" author, I really appreciated the back section of the book where the author's put in what the inspiration & writing process entailed. Loved it.

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### **Carla says**

Fairly typical, and average collection in the 2006 edition, some standouts, and some I didn't enjoy much at all, others that were just fine.

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### **Jennifer Reed says**

I bought this book for the C.J.Box story "The Brothers Grimm." This is a great story about two brothers that the main character runs into in the mountains. They have been illegally living off the land. Since Joe, the main character, is a game warden he feels he has to do something about it. The brothers end up wounding him and running off, and he never finds them. This was a short story that became one of Box's full length novels, which I also read. It is a great story and I used it with my American literature class as an example of western culture.

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### **Harvey says**

- just a pretty fair collection

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### **Debra says**

The 2006 edition of Best American Mystery Stories has been on my to-be-read pile for some time. At last, I picked it up to learn from writers such as James Lee Burke, Jeffery Deaver, Elmore Leonard, and Laura Lippman. It was time well spent.

As editor of this edition, Scott Turow made interesting choices, and I especially liked that some of his selections approach crime from the back door, so to speak. For instance, *Theft* by Karen Bender is about an elderly woman's reflection on her life of crime as she contemplates suicide while on a cruise. There were some great twist endings with many stories. A couple had a lighter touch, while some truly dark pieces made me squirm.

Not surprisingly, my favorite stories had strong character development, which is no small feat in short fiction, but writers like Walter Mosley and Joyce Carol Oates are masters at this. The only two stories I didn't like was an odd piece of about 1,000 words. Even in her bio, the author states surprise that the story was accepted for inclusion. Also, one story was incredibly long and boring with far more telling than action. I haven't read other Best American mystery collections, so can't compare this edition with others, but I will say that 2006 was definitely a good year.

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### **Peter Sidell says**

I have read and enjoyed the series.

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