

Honors Forensics (SUPA) Summer 2013 Assignment

Welcome to **Honors Forensics**. I've prepared what I consider an "enjoyable and ambitious" summer assignment that asks only that you become acquainted with the science of Forensics by reading a novel. Most of the novels on the reading list involve some kind of crime (mostly murders) and how professional forensics investigators use their training to solve them.

Before (during or after) beginning your novel, you should consult any website to identify and define the roles of the following Forensics Experts:

- Medical examiner
- Toxicologist
- Serologist
- Entomologist
- Odontologist
- Anthropologist
- Crime Scene Investigation Unit: photography, fingerprints, other evidence collection
- Firearms Specialists
- Handwriting Specialist

Paper requirement:

- All papers **MUST** be submitted to www.turnitin.com
 - Class Name: SUPA Forensics
 - Class ID: 5146272
 - ENROLLMENT PASSWORD: summer

You will submit a short paper (**3 pages maximum**) which addresses the following areas:

- You **must** email me the **name** of your novel : doddj@northernhighlands.org
- 12 point Times New Roman Double Spaced
- Short summary of the plot must include the "**cause**" and "**manner**" of death for all deaths occurring in your selection. [You'll need to determine the differences between the two terms!]
- Discussion of all of the forensics experts and their contributions to the solving of the crime.
- If you use any sources other than the chosen novel to write the paper (websites, additional resources) these **MUST BE SITED** and included in a works cited page!!
- If you have any questions you can email me at: doddj@northernhighlands.org

Crime Scene Investigation:

Patricia Cornwell Novels: go to this site

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/c/patricia-cornwell/>



Fascinating Forensic Novels

FAULT LINE BY SARAH ANDREWS

When Salt Lake City is hit with a major earthquake on the eve of the Winter Olympics, Em Hansen is sent in by the FBI to investigate the murder of a state employed geologist just hours after the disaster.

DEATH MATCH BY LINCOLN CHILD

When a believed perfect couple is found dead of an apparent double suicide, former FBI forensic psychologist Christopher Lash is hired by the matchmaking company that introduced the pair to each other.

RUMOR OF BONES BY BEVERLY CONNOR

Signing on with an archaeological dig, forensic anthropologist Lindsay Chamberlain finds herself investigating when several bodies are found that are much more recent than the Indian village they are excavating.

BODY OF EVIDENCE BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

Virginia's Chief Medical Examiner and sleuth Dr. Kay Scarpetta must employ all the investigative technology at her disposal in a hunt for the brutal murderer of a writer who had been involved in a bizarre relationship.

THE BONE COLLECTOR BY JEFFREY DEAVER

Once the nation's foremost criminologist and the ex-head of NYPD forensics, quadriplegic Lincoln Rhyme abandons his forced retirement and joins forces with rookie cop Amelia Sachs to track down a serial killer.

THE FACE OF DECEPTION BY IRIS JOHANSEN

Offered a seemingly routine job of recreating the face of an unknown murder victim from a skull, forensic sculptor Eve Duncan suddenly finds herself the target of ruthless and powerful enemies.

THE MERMAIDS SINGING BY VAL McDERMID

When the fourth victim of a serial killer is found, Detective Inspector Carol Jordan teams up with criminologist Tony Hill to develop a complicated criminal profile, the accuracy of which become pivotal to the case.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BY THOMAS T. NOGUCHI AND ARTHUR LYONS

Forensic investigator Dr. Eric Parker probes the death of elderly June Wechsler, whose remains are stored in a cryogenic lab, while searching for an overlooked piece of forensic evidence needed to convict a serial killer.

CHAIN OF EVIDENCE BY RIDLEY PEARSON

Sergeant Joe "Dart" Dartelli, a forensic doctor, confronts a string of deaths caused by a rare chemical.

DEJA DEAD BY KATHY REICHS OR GO TO THIS SITE: [HTTP://WWW.FANTASTICFICTION.CO.UK/R/KATHY-REICHS/](http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/r/kathy-reichs/)

As forensic scientist Temperance Brennan works on the remains of a murder victim, she begins to suspect that there is a link between this homicide and the killing of a teenager several years earlier.

THE BUDAPEST CONNECTION BY HENRY C. LEE (AUTHOR), JERRY LABRIOLA (AUTHOR)

Liu investigates the murder of three young women whose naked corpses are found arranged in a triangle at the Brooklyn Marine Terminal in New York City. The promising setup, however, leads to an ordinary plot involving international white slavery. Admirers of the real Dr. Lee may be dismayed to see the pioneering scientific criminologist transformed into an action hero and babe-magnet, though *CSI* fans will find plenty to savor.

FICTION

Alane Ferguson introduced seventeen-year-old Cameron Mahoney in *The Christopher Killer* (Viking, 2006, Gr. 9+), the first book in her **Forensic Mystery** series. Cameron's father is a coroner, and she's on the payroll as his assistant. As a result, she has enough knowledge of forensics to catch the killer of a friend. Sequels: *The Angel of Death* (2006), *Circle of Blood* (2007).

Before there was Alane Ferguson's series, there was the **Body of Evidence** series by Christopher Golden. The first book, *Body Bags* (Pocket Books, 1999, Gr. 8+), introduces Jenna Blake, a teen version of Patricia Cornwell's Kaye Scarpetta, with a dash of Sue Grafton's female private eye, Kinsey Milhone. Jenna is attending

Somerset University near Boston and working as a lab assistant to the medical examiner. An international conspiracy, the FBI, and the Centers for Disease Control all make appearances, as does a killer who is after Jenna.

ADULT TITLES

Andrews, Sarah. *[An Eye for Gold](#)*. 2000

Forensic geologist [Em Hansen](#) is visiting her boyfriend Ray in Salt Lake City when FBI Agent Tom Latimer asks her to come with him to a new gold mine to investigate conflicting reports of an endangered species on the land where the mine will be operating. The biologist who wrote the report has been killed in what appears to be an auto accident, and a key geologist for the mine is missing. Because Em is trained to look for oil, Tom also believes she will recognize any problems or fraud at the mining operation. Em reluctantly agrees to help Tom and soon finds herself drawn into the case. As she talks to the people involved, she soon sees that everyone is hiding something. When another person from the mine is found dead, the dirt on the dead man's shoes causes Em to realize that he has been murdered. She has to put her life on the line if she is to stop this killer and discover his real motive.

Ayres, Noreen. *[The Juan Doe Murders](#)*. 2000

[Smokey Brandon](#) works for an Orange County California crime lab. She is the one of the first people at the scene of crime, where she collects and analyzes evidence. After going to several crime scenes where young Hispanic males have been killed, Smokey begins to see a pattern and wonders if the same person has killed these Juan Does. She uses all of her evidence to try to identify who the men are and who might have killed them. Then the twenty-year-old son of her lover confides in her about his college roommate who is stealing computer chips. Smokey wants David to talk to his policeman father, but he refuses. Then Smokey gets a break on her cases and identifies one of the Juan Does, and finds it is a man linked to David's roommate. As she goes over her evidence, she sees a vicious trail leading to the roommate and putting David's life in jeopardy.

Dunlap, Susan. *[No Immunity](#)*. 1998

Private eye and former pathologist [Kiernan O'Shaughnessy](#) is asked by an old medical school friend to help him with a strange autopsy. A woman's body has been left at his rural clinic, and she seems to have died of some strange, deadly, and highly contagious fever. Jeff Tremaine wants his findings verified by Kiernan before he alerts the medical authorities. She is reluctant to go, but feels she owes it to Jeff, who saved her life when they were in Africa years ago. Then Kiernan is asked by her boss Reston Adcock to investigate the disappearance of an oil geologist. Kiernan turns Adcock down, but her houseman, cook, and dog feeder Brad Tchernak decides he will take the case for himself. As Kiernan sets out for Nevada, she soon finds herself arrested for dumping the dead woman's body. Then Jeff mysteriously disappears. As she investigates, she finds a conspiracy between the sheriff and the townspeople to keep her from uncovering what is really going on. Brad, meanwhile, is looking for the missing geologist and two deaf Costa Rican boys who are ill with a strange disease. The two investigations become intertwined and both Kiernan and Brad find that they must fight to stay alive and expose a horrible secret before others die of this dreadful disease.

Elkins, Aaron J. *[Skeleton Dance](#)*. 2000

Forensic anthropologist [Gideon Oliver](#) is on a sabbatical to write a popular book on mistakes in anthropology when Lucien Joly, a policeman in the French town of Perigueux and an old friend of Gideon's, asks him to come to France to look at some bones. Everyone thinks the bones are from a Paleolithic skeleton, but Joly is not sure. He believes that the skeleton is modern and wants Gideon to verify his idea. Gideon and his wife Julie go to France where he looks at the bones and looks into the archaeological hoax of the Old Man of Tayac. He discovers that the bones are modern, and the murder took place only five years ago. The murder of the unknown victim took place at the same time that the prehistoric hoax was exposed and brought scandal to the Institut de Prehistoire. Joly believes the bones belong to Jean Bousquet, a laborer who worked at the Institute and

disappeared about that time. Institute director Ely Carpenter also disappeared then. As Gideon studies the bones further, he makes a startling discovery and begins to investigate all the anthropologists at the Institute to see what they knew about the hoax and the two missing men. When the director of the Institute is found murdered, Gideon must race to expose the real murderer and the identity of the victim.

Goldberg, Leonard S. [*Lethal Measures*](#). 2000

When an explosion destroys a residential neighborhood, over twenty people are killed. As the police search the rubble, forensic pathologist [Joanna Blalock](#) is asked by the FBI to lead the team of pathologists who will identify the victims. She has very little evidence to work from, but she and her assistants sift through body parts to reconstruct identities. Soon she discovers that several of the victims were Hispanic and that all of them had different types of lethal cancers. As she slowly pieces together more evidence, it looks like these victims may have had explosives strapped to their bodies, but why? When the only witness to the bomb blast is killed, Joanna uncovers a link to another unsolved homicide. Then she realizes that this bombing may have been only a test run for a killer with a much bigger agenda. When Joanna's own lab is bombed, she realizes that her knowledge has made her the target of a ruthless killer who will stop at nothing to get at his true victim.

Johansen, Iris. [*Body of Lies*](#). 2002

Forensic sculptor [Eve Duncan](#) is asked by an important senator to help identify a body that may be the remains of the senator's opponent in the election. When Eve refuses, she finds herself manipulated by a sadistic killer into taking the job. Boyfriend Joe Quinn tries to protect her, but the two find themselves getting into a plot that is much bigger than they expected. Eve and Joe find that not only are they being attacked, but so is their adopted daughter. The two fight for their lives while they try to discover the identity of the victim and what this scheme is really about.

Knight, Bernard. [*The Sanctuary Seeker*](#). 1998

In the cold of November 1194, [Sir John de Wolfe](#) is the first appointed Coroner in Devonshire, England. Having fought with King Richard the Lionheart in the Crusades, John is given the post by the king, but this infuriates John's brother-in-law Sheriff Richard de Revelle, who does not want anyone impinging on his authority. When an unidentified body is found in a lonely village in the West Country, John goes there with his retainers Gyn and Thomas de Payne. After carefully studying the body, they discover that the man was a crusader just back from the wars and was brutally stabbed. As they investigate who the man was, they are called to another murder scene. This man was murdered in the same way as the first, but why and by whom? At every step in the investigation, John is thwarted by his brother-in-law's interference until he discovers the murdered men's identities. Then John must fight not only his brother-in-law, but also the Church and the murderer, before the truth can come out.

Lovett, Sarah. [*Dark Alchemy*](#). 2003

Forensic psychologist [Sylvia Strange](#) is asked by the FBI to help profile a serial poisoner. Dr. Christine Palmer, a world-renowned toxicologist, is suspected of killing fellow scientists at the various labs she has worked at around the world. At each lab there has been a mysterious death, but have the deaths been murder or just accidents from working with lethal poisons? Presently Dr. Palmer is working at a top-secret research facility outside Santa Fe. As Sylvia starts to prepare her profile, she works with counter terrorism expert Edmond Sweetheart. Both are drawn to the brilliant and charismatic Palmer, who seems to be playing with them. The more they dig, the more convinced Sylvia becomes that Palmer is the killer, but she can't figure out how Palmer is poisoning her victims. As Sylvia zeros in on Palmer, she discovers that she has become the next victim of this ruthless killer.

Preston, Douglas J. and Child, Lincoln. [*The Cabinet of Curiosities*](#). 2002

Archaeologist Nora Kelly is working at the prestigious American Museum of Natural History when she is asked by FBI Special Agent Pendergast to look into a mass grave that the excavation for a new skyscraper in Manhattan has uncovered. The excavators discovered the mass grave of thirty-six people who were brutally murdered and dismembered. The house that once stood on the site held a "Cabinet of Curiosities" or a paid

freak museum, but who killed all of these people one hundred and thirty years ago? As Nora and Pendergast research the old crimes, they are led to a mysterious doctor who did medical experiments on living people. Then New York City is suddenly hit with a series of murders that mimic the killings from a century ago. The copycat leads Nora and Pendergast to a Riverside mansion that is a house of horrors, where they are almost killed before they uncover the horrible truth.

Reichs, Kathy. *Deja Dead*. 1997

Forensic anthropologist [Temperance Brennan](#) is working in Montreal's Laboratoire de Medecine Legale to help police solve murder cases. When she works on the remains of several women who were savagely killed and mutilated, she believes she sees the pattern of a serial killer. The police, however, don't believe her and drag their feet in the investigation. Tempe takes matters into her own hands and looks into the murders. Her work leads her to her close friend Gabby Macaulay, who is studying prostitutes, for these prostitutes seem to be targeted by the killer. After a grinning skull is put in Tempe's garden, she soon finds herself being stalked by the killer and must expose him before he kills her.

Shaber, Sarah R. *Snipe Hunt*. 2000

Kenan College history professor [Simon Shaw](#) is invited with his friend David Morgan to Pearlie Beach on North Carolina's Outer Banks for Thanksgiving. Simon is looking forward to relaxing with his friends the Cleggs and seeing Julie McGloughan with whom he is in love. After enjoying the warm weather on the beach, Simon and David are sorting through the debris from a dredging operation when they discover a body in a World War II diving suit. It soon turns out that the body is that of a local man who disappeared from the Navy in 1943. When the body is examined, a bag of Confederate gold coins is discovered in his hand. Simon and David don't believe there is a hoard of Confederate gold in nearby waters, but as they begin investigating what was happening at Pearlie Beach during World War II, all of the old timers at the beach seem very secretive. The questions Simon asks lead to secrets from the war that someone will do anything to keep hidden.

Slaughter, Karin. *A Faint Cold Fear*. 2003

Part-time medical examiner [Sara Linton](#) is called to the scene of an apparent suicide and takes her pregnant sister Tessa with her. As she examines the Grant Tech student's body, Tessa wanders away from the scene and is brutally attacked. As Tessa fights for her life, Sara is distraught and works with her ex-husband Detective Jeffrey Tolliver to find Tessa's attacker. Sara examines the dead boy's body and finds that what looked like suicide is really murder. The college authorities want the death hushed up, but Tolliver pursues the killer and finds that ex-cop Lena Adams, now a security guard on campus, knows much more than she is admitting. Lena's therapist is the dead boy's mother, and Lena's struggles with violence and abuse keep her from telling Tolliver all she knows. Campus gossip and researcher Richard Carter further confuse the investigation. Then two more suicides are uncovered. Sara discovers that these are also murders and must try to find the killer before anyone else is killed.

Merle Jacob

Director of Library Collection Development Chicago Public Library

April 2004

Patricia Cornwell Read-alikes:

Several authors have now created series featuring forensic investigators, but the one that consistently appeals to Cornwell fans is [Kathy Reichs](#). Forensic scientist [Temperance Brennan](#) is based in Montreal, though recently more and more of her stories have unfolded elsewhere. These stories provide similar levels of detail; suspense; a strong cast of supporting characters, including the male-dominated police Tempe must battle to solve crimes; and a strong sense of place in Montreal and the other locations. The plots often focus on serial murderers. *Deja Dead* is the first.

Readers who appreciate hard-boiled investigative, although not necessarily medical, detail, and no-nonsense women making their way in a man's world, should also try [Edna Buchanan](#) and [Suzanne Chazin](#). Miami is home to Buchanan's Cuban-American investigative journalist [Britt Montero and her gritty adventures](#). [Garden of Evil](#) offers strong characterizations, Miami's mean streets, and a serial murderer. Chazin provides realistic details in the [investigations of Fire Marshall Georgia Skeehan](#) of the New York City fire department, where her suspenseful cases lead beyond the scope of a single fire. The New York City backgrounds, as well as graft, greed, corruption, and politics, play important roles. [The Fourth Angel](#) starts the series.

[Linda Fairstein](#)'s [Alexandra Cooper thrillers](#) are set in New York, where she heads up the sex-crimes unit of the District Attorney's office. A strong sense of place, violent crimes set in suspenseful tales, a tough attorney/investigator and a cast of interesting characters make these strong possibilities for Cornwell's fans. (In fact, Cornwell dedicated [Last Precinct](#) to Fairstein, and attorney Jaime Berger appears to have been based on Cooper.) [Final Jeopardy](#) is the first in the series.

[Sarah Lovett](#)'s [forensic psychologist Sylvia Strange](#) shares similarities with Cornwell's Kay Scarpetta, including the provision of extensive details of the criminal psyche. Strange, like Scarpetta, finds herself drawn into the cases she consults on and placed in personal danger before the end. High tech crime-fighting; fascinating forensic details; escalating suspense; and twisted plots and criminals should all please Cornwell's fans. [Dantes' Inferno](#) is a recent example of her cases.

Joyce Saricks is the Literature and Audio Services Coordinator for the Downers Grove Public Library in Downers Grove, Illinois, and the author of *Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction* (ALA, 2001).