

Solution to Private Investigation

(Puzzle by Calvin Luo)

Answer: WATSON

First realize that the given list is a bunch of sleuths, and the years appended to their names are the years of one of their books (it's unique to the year). Listing out all the titles yields that the first letters spell out "ENDEAVOUR," the first name of a famous British detective (Endeavour Morse). The parentheses letters, when added to their corresponding sleuths in order all add up to 1983. So you search up ENDEAVOUR1983 and get *The Riddle of the Third Mile*, a book that features Detective Endeavour Morse. Next you look at Amazon book previews, since there's copyright and we didn't want to force puzzlers to get an illegal copy, to page 7, from the -132 word to the -118 word. I have outlined the first letter of selected words as shown in the puzzle to validate that the word string is indeed correct. Then you fill it in, and remember the name of the detective is Morse, and that the flavor text had even and odd in it, with – and . appearing (also in the 7.-132 – 7.-118). Therefore you try to convert the even length words to dot, and odd length to dash, and vice versa to see what is spelled out in Morse code.

In this case the answer is WATSON.