

## MYSTERY TEMPLATE PARTS

**** PART ONE ****	
THE HOOK	Start the book with something that will hook the reader. Sometimes the idea for this comes well into your writing. Something happens or some intriguing information comes out
THE SETUP	Show PI/DET in his element, what normal looks like. Make mention of what he wants, or what in life is eluding him. (This starts the character arc)
INCITING INCIDENT	PI/DET is assigned a case or a Victim's Advocate (VA) comes to him for help in solving the crime. He is not interested but is pulled in by some moral obligation or thinks he can help with a quick call, but he wants to return to his life as he knows it.
CRIME TAKES PLACE	Somewhere in Part 1, the actual crime takes place. The crime raises too many suspects (For example: In Florida, "the guy had brown hair and he was Hispanic". In Florida, this could be 40% of the population)
**** PART TWO ****	
PI/DET is pulled in for various reasons	SLEUTH'S JOURNEY BEGINS: PI/DET makes the quick call or takes a ride by, or does his 'quick fix' and something intrigues him, he is pulled in by the VA or the cruelty of what happened to the Victim, etc. Now, he is making a place for this in his ongoing life. But he still thinks it will be an easy case to solve.
	INVESTIGATION BEGINS – Interviews the family members and uncovers a clue that points to the spouse but it's not provable evidence. Clue comes out pointing to another suspect.
	SUSPECTS INTRODUCED – At least 2 of the 4 suspects are introduced. The clues pointing to them are discovered and their secrets are revealed.
**** PART THREE ****	
PLOT THICKENS	The next two suspects are introduced in this section. They arise from clues that are dropped throughout the initial part of the story and part two. The Forensics results begin to show up and eliminate one or two suspects
AN EXPERT WEIGHS IN – TWIST IN PLOT	The Expert Weighs In: This can be a forensic expert, or someone who knows the history of the town that reveals something, or just an older male or female that has some wisdom that triggers the PI/DET to connect the dots in a different way. (Twist in plot)
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE	RACE AGAINST TIME BEGINS   STAKES OF SOLVING THIS INCREASE (Someone is about to leave the country   insurance monies are about to be paid   PI/DET has an event or important thing he needs to attend, etc. The suspects shift in this part of the story as new clues are emerging and the secrets are being revealed.
DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL	Even though the PI/DET feels like he/she knows who the criminal is, the case suddenly feels unsolvable because of lack of convincing evidence or some other setback.
**** PART FOUR ****	
THE CRIME IS SOLVED	The Crime is solved in stages. First part is that the PI/DET shifts his perspective and suddenly (From his time with the expert or other change in view) he sees things in a different light and this suddenly raises a Suspect who was crossed off the list as the real culprit. Suspect is confronted in some way that he either has to confess or the cops agree that there is now enough compelling evidence to convict the guilty party and they arrest him.
SHOWDOWN	The moment the guilty party is arrested and the crime is solved. (CRISIS/BATTLE/DRAMA) There is a passage of some time and then "a new normal" is shown where the PI/DET has overcome his character growth and he is now a better person, a stronger person or more understanding person, etc. Reference can be made to what happened to the culprit, the victim's family and/or the VA. For a series, he can be showing his new normal and get a call about another case.