

5th Edition

Fiction Set in Berkeley

An annotated (mostly) bibliography
of fiction, mysteries, science fiction, and short stories,
for all ages,
set all or partially in Berkeley, California

Note: In a change from earlier editions of this list, each book's *genre* (fiction, mystery, etc.) and date of publication are shown. Books not available in the Berkeley Public Library collection are in most cases available from Link+. Additional information, especially for self-published, small press, or published-on-demand works, is available on Amazon.com and other online selling sites.

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Fiction Set in Berkeley

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| Abrahams, Peter | Red Message | Fiction/1986 |
| Suspense/espionage thriller set partially in Berkeley and San Francisco: “Slowly she walked up Durant, passed through Sather Gate, and entered the campus.” | | |
| Adams, Alice | To See You Again | Short Stories/1982 |
| Short stories; at least one story takes place in Berkeley in the 1970s. From “Berkeley House”: “Thus it was by way of a crowded card from Blanche that Charlotte first heard that the Berkeley house in which she had grown up was being sold.” | | |
| Allen, Emma S. | The High Road | Fiction/1917 |
| Berkeley, in part; wine industry vs. prohibitionists in the 1910s. | | |
| Allende, Isabel | Infinite Plan | Fiction/1993 |
| Novel set in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Berkeley in the 1970s. “Berkeley had become a center for drugs and rebellion; every day new nomads poured in, searching for paradise.” | | |
| Allende, Isabel | Maya’s Notebook | Fiction/2011 |
| Published in Spanish in 2011 [and expected to be published in English within the year], this is set in Berkeley and Chile; it “follows a young woman whose life is falling apart and her subsequent move to an isolated island off the coast of South America.” | | |
| Anderson, Charlene | Berkeley’s Best Buddhist Bookstore | Fiction/2001 |
| Bank vice president John Allen travels to Berkeley to find his runaway teenage daughter, Alice. “Cheap left-wing town.... Can’t they afford a few lousy streetlights so a man could see where he was going?” | | |
| Anderson, Poul | Murder in Black Letter | Mystery/1960 |
| Trygve Yamamura and a young history professor at UCB cope with the modern repercussions of a book on witchcraft dating from the Renaissance. | | |
| Anderson, Poul | Perish by the Sword | Mystery/1958 |
| Mystery novel; murder weapon is a Samurai sword, the suspect a physicist at UCB. | | |
| Arobateau, Red Jordan | Hobo Sex | Fiction/1991 |
| Homeless women, rag pickers, and lesbians in a book billed as “lesbian erotic fiction.” Telegraph Avenue and People’s Park are featured. Other lesbian fiction works by this author, set all or in part in Berkeley, include Ashcan Betty (Fiction/1980), The Blood of Christ Against the Lies of Babylon (Fiction/1978), The Clubfoot Ballerina (Fiction/1977), and The Primadona (Fiction/1977). | | |
| Baker, Dorothy | Cassandra at the Wedding | Fiction/1962 |
| Twin sisters struggle to break from the mold of maladjustment shaped by the eccentric lifestyle of their parents. Each girl approaches her problem differently, and both are successful, although Cassandra comes close to death in a suicide attempt. Set in Bakersfield and the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1950s. | | |

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- Boucher, Anthony **The Compleat Werewolf, and other Stories
of Fantasy and Science Fiction** Science Fiction/1969
Ten inventive and clever stories, “chosen for the sheer virtuosity of their themes, moods, backgrounds; for their technical brilliance; for their insights; for their laughter.” Written in the early 1940s, the stories are a trifle dated but charming nevertheless. The title story features a UC professor who discovers the trick to becoming a “voluntary” werewolf, as opposed to the cursed kind. Many Berkeley scenes, including the Bowditch and Hillegass area, plus... “Berkeley goes to bed early. The streets were deserted. Here and there a light burned in a rooming house where some solid grind was plodding on his almost-due term paper.”
- Boyd, Candy Dawson **Charlie Pippin** Children’s Fiction/1987
“...[she] scanned the early-morning sky. Perfect Berkeley, California, weather—clear and blue.” An energetic and independent eleven-year-old African American girl dares to delve into the past of her father, a Vietnam vet.
- Boyd, John Edward **Berkeley Heroine & Other Stories** Short Stories/1899
Collection of short stories of which the “Berkeley Heroine” is the principal one. The same story also appears in *Under the Berkeley Oaks*.
- Boyd, Lynn **Dead Language** Mystery/2000
“The beautiful Berkeley campus of the University of California is the setting for this intriguing story of powerful institutions. The Order, a shadowy group of international power brokers, embarks on a plan to ruthlessly suppress newly discovered revelations that threaten the delicate balance of international religious power. Recognizing that religious conflict could jeopardize world economic stability, The Order is intent on burying these new disclosures and on silencing all those who get too close to the truth. Jim O’Donnell, Chief of the University’s campus police, finds himself and his beautiful wife caught in the vortex of this brutal maelstrom as he grapples with forces that may be beyond his control [from Amazon.com].
- Bradley, Marion Zimmer **The Brass Dragon** Science Fiction/1980
A young man wakes up in a hospital bed in Texas with amnesia. After a hundred pages of being stalked by unknown entities, he gets another bump on the head and remembers that he is Barry Cowan of Berkeley and that he spent the last year stuck in a shelter on Mars.
- Bradley, Marion Zimmer **Heartlight** Fiction/1998
“The highs and lows of the second half of the twentieth century in America”.... And especially Berkeley in the 1960s.
- Bradley, Marion Zimmer **House Between the Worlds** Science Fiction/1980
This science fiction novel takes place on the UCB campus.
- Brautigan, Richard **The Abortion: An Historical Romance 1966** Fiction/1966
“It’s now the last of May and we’re all living together in a little house in Berkeley...I’ve spent the afternoon at a table across from Sproul Hall where they took all those hundreds of Free Speech kids off to jail in 1964.... I like to set my table up around lunch time near the fountain, so I can see the students when they come pouring through Sather Gate like the petals of a thousand-colored flower. I love the joy

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Stone's, a restaurant and bar at the bottom of University Avenue. My sign revolves on the roof, shining in the shadow of the overpass."

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| Corpi, Lucha | Delia's Song | Fiction/1989 |
| Set in Berkeley circa 1960s and '70s, and featuring anti-war and civil rights protests: "In a world of oppression and class strife, are love and honesty between the sexes possible?" Many UCB locations: Ludwig's Fountain, the Student Union, Telegraph Avenue, etc. | | |
| Corrigan, Barbara | Voyage of Discovery | Fiction/1945 |
| Novel set in Berkeley in the 1930s. | | |
| Corrington, John William | The Southern Reporter & Other Stories | Short Stories/1981 |
| "Nothing Succeeds," one of Corrington's stories, takes place in Berkeley. | | |
| Crane, Clarkson | Mother and Son | Fiction/1946 |
| A young widow's sense of obligation to her son turns into a neurotic relationship, depriving her of a chance to re-marry, and making the boy a dependent neurotic. Set in Berkeley and San Francisco in the 1910s and 1930s. | | |
| Crane, Clarkson | The Western Shore | Fiction/1925 |
| A group of students at UCB (1919) are pictured as neither studious nor dedicated. From the excellent and lengthy introduction in the reprinted edition (1985, by Oscar Lewis): "To anyone ancient enough to recall the lore and temper of life in the San Francisco Bay Area, circa 1920, this book is full of nostalgia." "...The bobtailed Euclid trolleys at twenty-minute intervals rounded the Northgate corner and meandered up and up into the hills." | | |
| Cravens, Gwyneth | Speed of Light | Fiction/1979 |
| A runaway underground bestseller here in California, "sort of like Nancy Drew in the realms of higher consciousness." This occult mystery thriller combines high adventure with an inquiry into the profound questions of love, power, and liberation. Set in Berkeley in the 1970s. | | |
| Creasy, John (Gordon Ashe) | A Rabble of Rebels | Fiction/1971 |
| Takes place at "Mid-Cal University"—probably UCB—in the 1960s. | | |
| Crichton, Michael | The Andromeda Strain | Fiction/1969 |
| An unmanned space vehicle returns to earth contaminated. Naturally a biological crisis immediately follows and a team of top scientists is recruited to identify, isolate, and destroy the alien virus. Set in Berkeley, in part, in the 1960s. | | |
| Crutcher, Chris | The Crazy Horse Electric Game | Teen Fiction/1987 |
| Runaway high school basketball star winds up in Berkeley and Oakland. | | |
| Cuthbert, Margaret [Margaret Owen] | The Silent Cradle | Mystery/1998 |
| Set in the Berkeley Hills and in a hospital that is probably Alta Bates, this murder mystery is driven by hospital politics, and features a black obstetrician who discovers a competing hospital is sending women to her hospital with deliberately damaged fetuses. | | |

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- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee **Queen of Dreams** Fiction/1995
This “pleasantly atypical tale of self-discovery” features Rakhi, a single mother and struggling artist living in Berkeley.
- Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee **The Vine of Desire** Fiction/2002
“...Sudha would see the town of Berkeley unscrolled below her, its quirkily angled rooftops slanting down the hillside...its narrow dorms and sprawling co-ops...the Berkeley Bowl...People’s Park...” It’s all here!
- Dixon, Thomas **Comrades** Fiction/1909
Subtitled “A Story of Social Adventure in California.”
- Doty, Carolyn **Fly Away Home** Fiction/1982
Story of Sally Bryan who “has dreamed of leaving behind her life in Berkeley—the house, the car, the two children, the dusting, the jam-making, the car-pooling, the faltering marriage....”
- Douglas, Michael **Dealing; or, The Berkeley-to-Boston
Forty-Brick Lost-Bag Blues** Fiction/1970
Fictional story (by Michael Crichton and his brother Douglas) of coast-to-coast drug hustling, with “the language, the life style, the mystique, the humor, the attitudes, the morality,” plus a lot of hilarious stoned paranoia.
- Dove, Michael **CRIM 279** Fiction/2004
A UCB graduate school student in 1971 “finds a class project from a 1959 Criminology seminar detailing an assignment to commit the perfect murder. He investigates and finds more than he wants about this strange class assignment. Although classified as fiction, the author claims this is a true account that he promised would not be published until 45 years after the crime” [Amazon.com].
- Dranow, Ralph **The Woman Who Knocked
Out Sugar Ray** Short Stories/1982
Short stories, including “Berkeley Rendezvous” and “Nirvana on a Summer Afternoon,” which begins, “His back to a wall covered with art nouveau, Ted Bitterman sat in a Berkeley coffee house, polishing off the remains of a cheese omelet.”
- Due, Linnea **Give Me Time** Fiction/1985
A novel about what happens to six women, all of them alumnae of an exclusive Eastern women’s college, between the years 1968 and 1980. The novel’s action crisscrosses the country, but its principal settings are Berkeley (including People’s Park) and the San Francisco Bay Area. “In May Berkeley was at its best.”
- Due, Linnea **High and Outside** Teen Fiction/1980
A story of teenage alcoholism, set in Berkeley in the 1970s.
- Due, Linnea **Life Savings** Fiction/1992
“Marcia Lacier has joined with a group of other forty-something lesbians to renovate an old house in a poor Berkeley neighborhood... Marcia soon finds that the life savings she’s invested involves more than

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- Gally, Marea **Flight into Love** Fiction/1947
 Novel set in Berkeley, in part, in 1946.
- Gebhard, Pat **Motives for Murder** Mystery/2000
 Clever mystery, right from the opening Prologue by the first-person storyteller: “When I was released, my lawyer reluctantly agreed to take me to my home in Berkeley, a three-story early twentieth century shingle house that exists almost as a character in my story.”
- Gibson, Harry Clark **The Blue-and-Gold Man** Fiction/1961
 A freshman’s first year at the University of California. Gibson is the pseudonym of Richard G. Hubler.
- Gilchrist, Ellen **Courts of Love** Short Stories/1996
 This short story collection includes at least one set in Berkeley: “Lunch at the Best Restaurant in the World” [Chez Panisse].
- Gilchrist, Ellen **Drunk with Love** Short Stories/1986
 Collection of short stories; at least one (the title story) is set in Berkeley: “Freddy Harwood sat in his office at his bookstore in Berkeley, California, with his feet up on the desk and chewed the edge of his coffee mug.”
- Gilchrist, Ellen **Nora Jane: A Life in Stories** Short Stories/2005
 Gilchrist’s Nora Jane stories, gathered together for the first time, follow Nora Jane from scrappy adolescence in New Orleans through a delightfully eccentric life as wife, mother, and independent spirit in Berkeley.
- Giraud, Danielle **Ruthless Game** Mystery/2001
 This suspense novel is likely to keep you up all night.
- Godbout, Jacques **An American Story: A Novel** Fiction/1988
 Originally written in French (translated by Yves Saint-Pierre), this “unsubtle novel” is set, in part, in Berkeley.
- Gold, Herbert **The Great American Jackpot** Fiction/1969
 Novel set in Berkeley and San Francisco in the 1960s. Episodes in the lives of two graduate students at UCB. Comic episodes attempt to show how they express their psychological conflicts...such as robbing a bank.
- Goldschmidt, Judy **Will the Real Raisin Rodriguez Please Stand Up?** Teen Fiction/2007
 Although reluctant to leave her new boyfriend behind, Raisin anticipates a happy Christmas reunion in Berkeley with her father and best friends, but realizes soon after her arrival that nothing is the way she imagined it would be. Plenty of teen jargon and humor, but not much Berkeley: “...the kumbaya capital of the world...where getting dressed to the nines means putting on a bra.”
- Goldstein, Lisa **A Mask for the General** Science Fiction/1988
 A science fiction novel is set in the Berkeley underground after the collapse of civilization.

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- Goldstein, Lisa **The Uncertain Places** Science Fiction/2011
This fantasy book incorporates fairy tales set in Berkeley in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Good, Phillip **In Search of Aimai Cristen** Fiction/2007
Diana decides to return home, get a teaching credential, and work with kids as mixed up as herself. Going through the boxes in the garage...she finds her father's old *Berkeley Barb* articles along with some short-story attempts, and the responses to a puzzling, intriguing ad in the *Barb*'s personal column.... An odyssey through the late 1960s from L.A.'s Shrine Auditorium to Berkeley and Altamont, this novel describes a daughter's search for her father and herself.
- Goodman, Allega **The Cookbook Collector** Fiction/2010
"...Weaves together the worlds of Silicon Valley and rare book collecting..." [from the back cover]. There are so many Berkeley situations and references that you may find yourself a bit overwhelmed.
- Gores, Joe **Menaced Assassin** Mystery/1994
One of the few mystery novels you'll find with a bibliography, this "examines man's origins, his nature, his relationship with the world around him, and the wellsprings of his almost unremitting violence against his own kind." Set in the Bay Area, and Berkeley in part: "He and Moll had gotten a couple of beers and two poor boys and some potato chips and gone from the campus up to Tilden Park behind Kensington for a picnic."
- Graham, Rosemary **Thou Shalt Not Dump the Skater Dude
and Other Commandments** Teen Fiction/2005
Having endured the vicious rumors spread by her professional-skateboarder ex-boyfriend, high school sophomore Kelsey Wilcox tries to salvage her reputation while attempting to earn a place on her high school newspaper.
- Grant, Linda **Lethal Genes** Mystery/1996
The dust jacket tells it all: "Kendra Crawford, head of the maize lab specializing in plant genetics at the University of California at Berkeley, and her handsome top assistant, Paul Raskin, call on private investigator Catherine Saylor to probe a case of continuing vandalism at their biotech lab."
- Grant, Linda **Vampire Bytes** Mystery/1998
Private investigator Catherine Saylor takes on high-tech theft and murder. Many scenes along Telegraph Avenue particularly.
- Gray, Francine du Plessix **World Without End** Fiction/1981
Novel set in Berkeley, in part, circa 1955-1975.
- Gray, Spaulding **Sex and Death to the Age 14** Fiction/1986
"Berkeley is a wonderful city. It's the only place I've been where you can see 'Kitty Found' signs hung up around the neighborhoods.... In Berkeley I felt like a good guy...."
- Grayson, C. **Angel Town** Fiction/1946
Berkeley setting is very minor, circa 1940-1942.

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- Green, Kate **Night Angel** Mystery/1989
Spellbinding tale of magic, mystery, and murder, set in the San Francisco Bay Area of the present with many flashbacks to Berkeley's turbulent Sixties.
- Green, Paul **The Life of Jack Gray:
An Education in Living and in Love** Fiction/2003
"Jack Gray, born into a working-class, fundamentalist, and Republican family, becomes an unbeliever as a college freshman, gets radicalized while a teaching assistant some years later, and bolts out of a librarian job and gets psychotic in San Francisco" [from the dust jacket]. Features UCB's School of Library & Information Studies.
- Greene, Sheldon **Burnt Umber** Fiction/2001
This novel deals with creativity, the creative process, narcissism, the changing role of women, and changing attitudes to war over the twentieth century.
- Greenleaf, Stephen **Beyond Blame** Mystery/1985
Many local scenes, including People's Park, Telegraph Avenue, and the Berkeley Hills, are prominent in this mystery set in the Berkeley of the mid-1980s: "...a gourmet ghetto where food has replaced politics and sex as the passion of the people."
- Greenwald, Nancy **Ladycat** Fiction/1980
Berkeley, in part, in the 1970s; story of Antonia, a struggling graduate student at UCB who turns to a life of crime.
- Hale, Janet Campbell **The Jailing of Cecilia Capture** Fiction/1985
"Cecilia Capture Welles, an Indian law student and mother of two, is jailed on her thirtieth birthday for drunk driving. Held on an old welfare fraud charge, she reflects back on her life...."
- Hall, Oakley **Corpus of Joe Bailey** Fiction/1953, 1984
Set in Berkeley, in part, in the period 1928-1948, this novel covers the life of Joe Bailey from 10 to 30 years of age in San Diego during the 1930s and 1940s, and includes scenes at UCB.
- Hall, Oakley **Lullaby** Fiction/1982
Novel set in Berkeley, in part, in the 1980s.
- Hamilton, Marika **Thine Alabaster Cities** Mystery/1986
Mystery set in Berkeley.
- Heriat, Philippe **The Spoiled Children** Fiction/1956
The Berkeley setting is minor; circa 1950s.
- Hill, Owen **The Chandler Apartments** Mystery/2002
From the book jacket: "Clay Blackburn has two jobs. Most of the time he's a book scout in Berkeley. Some of the time he's...not quite a private detective...and all the time he's a poet."

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- Jackson, Joshilyn **Backseat Saints** Fiction/2010
 A novel about love, survival, and shedding the past. Said shedding happens in the last third of the book, set in Berkeley, circa 1997, starting with a not very flattering visit to one of Berkeley's branch libraries. Not a lot of specific Berkeley locations, otherwise, though some pleasant generic descriptions: "[The street] is lined with skinny stucco houses, set close, growing like bright, rectangular mushrooms out of the hills."
- Jaramillo, Stephan **Going Postal** Fiction/1997
 Narrator Steve Reeves lives in a crummy apartment in Berkeley, and he's just lost both his job in a bagel shop and his girlfriend. What's next?
- Jessey, Cornelia **The Treasures of Darkness** Fiction/1953
 The story of the era between two wars: "That was the night preceding the day that Helena Slowacki Honey left Deniza to go to the great university in Berkeley." A novel of guilt and dark motivations cast in the form of recollections. Set in San Francisco, in part; also Berkeley.
- Johnson, Susan **French Kiss** Fiction/2006
 Chatty romance set mostly in Paris, but leading off with architect Nicole Lesdaux designing a tree house for a hunky record producer living high in the Berkeley hills: "...the long drive up the Berkeley hills, with gardeners manicuring the landscape on every side...."
- Jones, Louis B. **Radiance** Fiction/2011
 From Amazon.com: "Mark Perdue has so many problems that when he starts feeling chest pains on the tarmac at LAX, it dawns on him that a heart attack might be an efficient way out. Once an eminent physicist, he hasn't published or had a new idea in a decade. The younger professors at UC Berkeley pity him, and he's taken to using the back staircases to avoid their looks, which all seem to be labeling him dead weight. At home, his wife has been inconsolable since the recent late-term abortion of their afflicted fetus. And he can't deny it any longer—he is decidedly losing his mental faculties to chronic Lyme disease." Yikes!
- Kallmaker, Karin **Car Pool** Fiction/1993
 A "captivating, erotic tale of the 1990s" [from the cover], set in Berkeley and Palo Alto. Berkeley scenes, including the Volvo Conspiracy: "Do you think that all used Volvos are shipped straight to Berkeley?"
- Kaufman, Lynne **Slow Hands** Fiction/2003
 The dust jacket outlines the story: "Under the guise of opening a bed-and-breakfast, they buy a beautiful Victorian home in Berkeley, California, and set in motion a revolutionary new business that no one—not even Sara's husband and daughter—know about." And *Kirkus Reviews* adds some helpful additional information: "[It was] a sex club for women—staffed by monks. Okay, they're Zen monks, though not Asian, and they haven't taken vows of chastity. Thus, they're at one with the eternal whatever, and they're never, ever rude or rushed, unlike most men."
- Kellerman, Jonathan and Faye **Capital Crimes** Mystery/2006
 This is two unconnected stories. The first—*My Sisters Keeper*—is set in Berkeley (the other, *Music City Breakdown*, is set in Nashville). Lots of Berkeley settings, right from page 1: "The club was from another

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age. So was Mother. The Women's Association of Northern California...was housed in a sumptuous turn-of-the-century, Beaux-Arts-touched-by-Gothic castle topped by crenellations and turrets, and constructed of massive blocks of mauve-gray Deer Isle granite...."

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| Kerouac, Jack | Dharma Bums | Fiction/1958 |
| Novel set in Berkeley, in part, circa 1955-1956. "In Berkeley I was living with Alvah Goldbrook [Allen Ginsberg] in his little rose-covered cottage in the backyard of a bigger house on Milvia Street." | | |
| King, Laurie | To Play the Fool | Mystery/1995 |
| San Francisco woman police detective crosses the Bay Bridge to question Brother Erasmus at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Seminary. | | |
| Kingston, Maxine Hong | Tripmaster Monkey | Fiction/1989 |
| "He was always walking alone in the opposite direction but ending up at Strawberry Canyon—the smell of eucalyptus in the cold air breaks your heart—among the group looking down into the stadium for free." | | |
| Klein, Norma | Breaking Up | Children's Fiction/1980 |
| During an eventful summer visiting her father and stepmother in Berkeley, fifteen-year-old Alison falls in love and learns her mother is a lesbian. | | |
| Kolb, Ken | Getting Straight | Fiction/1967 |
| A graduate student at a California university (which could well be UCB) makes a comic effort to find the "straight" road amid the sea of chaos made up of the students and faculty—"addicts, pacifists, artists, fanatics, compromisers, idealists, etc." | | |
| Krech, Hilda Sidney | The Other Side of the Bay | Fiction/1958 |
| "Here is today's woman fighting the nagging sense of inferiority, the need for self-fulfillment." Set in Berkeley in the 1950s. | | |
| Krich, John | One Big Bed | Fiction/1987 |
| Set, in part, in Berkeley of the 1960s, this novel "charts the course of three couples who once slept together on the giant mattress of a California commune." | | |
| Lake, Paul | Among the Immortals | Fiction/1994 |
| "Percy Bysshe Shelley didn't really die by drowning, he lived on, as a vampire, and is walking the streets of Berkeley this very day" [from <i>LOCUS Magazine</i>]. Contemporary novel, set in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Berkeley, Stanford, and San Francisco. | | |
| Lambert, Betty | Bring Down the Sun | Fiction/1979 |
| Novel set in Berkeley in the 1970s. | | |
| Lee, Quentin | Campus Ghost Story | Graphic Novel/2009 |
| A chilling graphic novel set on a college campus, this supernatural thriller tells the story of three students whose lives are intertwined after a mysterious young woman jumps off the Campanile. | | |

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Lee, Quentin	Dress Like a Boy	Fiction/2000
Contemporary story of gay and bisexual UCB students.		
Leffland, Ella	Love Out of Season	Fiction/1974
Novel set in Berkeley, in part, and San Francisco in the 1960s.		
Lethem, Jonathan	As She Climbed Across the Table	Fiction/1997
“[Then] living just off Telegraph, Lethem absorbed the culture of Cal ‘which I was affectionately satirizing in <i>As She Climbed Across the Table</i> ,’ an early novel.”		
Lethem, Jonathan	The Fortress of Solitude	Fiction/2003
In this novel of “utopias found and lost,” Dylan moves west and snags a gig at KALX-FM. “The best thing for miles around was the campus radio station, KALX. The gang of DJs there had been freed by the station’s open format to obsess in any direction they liked, and the results were splendidly motley. Many DJs had been allowed to keep their slots for years past graduation—it was this exception to the usual rule which gave KALX its special depth.... Their charismatic, caustic, and homely voices punctuated the seasonless Berkeley days and nights. In my dorm room, on the twelfth floor of an ugly high-rise, above the sightline of the palm trees which dotted a path to the bay, their voices were my only regular company.”		
Lethem, Jonathan	Gun with Occasional Music	Science Fiction/1994
Quirky science fiction set mostly in Oakland, with occasional forays into Berkeley.		
Lewis, Oscar	The Uncertain Journey	Fiction/1945
An imaginative and sensitive UCB architectural student quits school, takes many different jobs, and finally ends up a successful commercial artist. Humor, candor, and a bright narrative style characterize this story of Berkeley in the late 1930s.		
Lichenstein, Joy	For the Blue and Gold	Fiction/1901
This un-fictionlike novel, subtitled “A Tale of Life at the University of California,” includes photographs, and traces the origins of the customs and events that were traditions at Cal at the turn of the century.		
Lichtman, Wendy	Do the Math: Secrets Lies, and Algebra	Teen Fiction/2007
Tess has always loved math, and she uses math concepts to help her understand things in life, so she is dismayed to find out how much math—and life—can change in eighth grade. A clever and readable look at life as a young teen, set at mythical “Westlake” school in Berkeley, where Tess frequently rides around on the 51 bus, “passing the flower stand on College Avenue.”		
Lichtman, Wendy	Do the Math: The Writing on the Wall	Teen Fiction/2008
Math-loving eighth-grader Tess learns that sometimes life, like algebra, has no solutions and that she must take risks and find her own answers. References to the 51 bus, math competition at Cal, Children’s Hospital, etc.		
Littlejohn, David	The Man Who Killed Mick Jagger	Fiction/1977
Set in Berkeley, in part, this is the story of an “uprooted Middle American lost in the hip, radical fervor of 1960s California.”		

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covered or implied hazing, partying, and ‘petting,’ the book sold well enough to be the second best-selling novel of 1924” [from Wikipedia].

Marks, Percy Novel set in Berkeley, in part, in the 1920s and 1930s.	A Tree Grown Straight	Fiction/1936
Marks, Percy Novel set in Berkeley in the 1930s.	What’s a Heaven For?	Fiction/1938
Martin, Leland Stanford A group of students at UCB discuss current problems of the day and warn against a “grave future” unless certain social attitudes are changed. Set in the early 1910s.	Stern Realities	Fiction/1916
Martin, Tom Paul Taylor came from an Idaho ranch to study at UCB in the late summer of 1966, and Berkeley was at the epicenter of a political, cultural, sexual, and musical revolution that meant to change the world.	Berkeley Blues: A Novel	Fiction/2010
Marton, Sandra Harlequin romance, with a couple of very brief stops in Berkeley, most likely because the author needed a law school to advance the story. No specific location references, other than “Berkeley” and a few generic mentions like “a neighborhood he remembered from his own graduate days.” Plus the weather is described as excessively humid. Hmmm.	Claiming His Love-Child	Romance/2004
Meherin, Elenore Novel set in Berkeley, 1906-1915.	The Road to Love	Fiction/1926
Meherin, Elenore Novel set in Berkeley, 1911-1920s.	Shackled Souls	Fiction/1929
Meidav, Edie A novel that “goes far beyond a story of two girls.... Lana and Rose grew up in Berkeley, California, in the 1980s, and the book is as much about that town and the millennial Northern California zeitgeist as any character. Meidav is harrowingly precise in her descriptions of the place...” [from a review].	Lola, California: A Novel	Fiction/2011
Mersereau, John Mystery set in Berkeley.	Murder Loves Company	Mystery/1940
Michaels, Leonard Seven men, friends and strangers, gather in a house in Berkeley to start a men’s club.	The Men’s Club	Fiction/1981
Michaels, Melisa C. A private investigator deals with trouble on the hot muggy streets of Berkeley, circa 1980s.	Through the Eyes of the Dead	Mystery/1988
Miklowitz, Gloria When Janna comes to Berkeley in search of her missing brother, she finds that he has joined a cult called Help Our World Projects.	The Love Bombers	Fiction/1980

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Millman, Dan **Way of the Peaceful Warrior** [see below]/1980
 “Set in Berkeley in the late 1960s, this novel tells the story of a young athlete who is led along the path toward enlightenment by an old master who he meets at a gas station. It is the first of a series of cult favorites that include pearls of ancient wisdom among a lively, modern plot that appeals particularly, to a young-adult audience.” Well, yes, but some would classify this as a nonfiction look at the spiritual path. Whatever, it is definitely set in Berkeley.

Miner, Valerie **Movement: A Novel in Stories** Fiction/1982
 Captures, in chapters that read like short stories, ten years of changes in the character Susan’s life. The opening story includes many references to Larry Blake’s. Other local scenes include BART stations, Ludwig’s Fountain, etc.

Miner, Valerie **Murder in the English Department** Fiction/1983
 Feminist UCB professor Nan Weaver deals with murder, sexual harassment, and her family in this Berkeley novel/mystery.

Minichino, Camille **The Beryllium Murder** Mystery/2000
 “We had a rare traffic-free trip across the Bay Bridge and into Berkeley. Although it wasn’t on the way to her house, Elaine drove to the Elmwood district, south of campus, an area busy with shops, ethnic restaurants, and an old-style drugstore with a soda fountain.” Retired physicist Gloria Lamerino leaves Revere, Massachusetts, where several other of Minichino’s books are set, and flies to Berkeley to help in the death (by beryllium poisoning!) of a Berkeley physicist.

Minichino, Camille **The Nitrogen Murder** Mystery/2005
 Each of this author’s mysteries revolves around an element in the periodic table. This time it’s highly combustible number seven: nitrogen. But another key element of the series is quite human: its amiable protagonist, Gloria Lamerino. The retired physicist “of a certain age” loves teaching, drinking espresso, and spending time solving mysteries with her fiancé, homicide detective Matt Gennaro. Here, Gloria and Matt have left their Boston-area home to attend the wedding of Gloria’s friend Elaine in Berkeley.

Mohanraj, Mary Anne **Bodies in Motion** Fiction/2005
 Intertwined stories focused on the lives of two generations of two families, in both America and Sri Lanka. Berkeley is featured only toward the very end, in “Wood and Flesh, Berkeley, 1999.” “....They walked the deserted streets of Berkeley...they wandered the campus, silent beneath the moonlit shadow of the campanile.”

Morse, Clinton R. **Jo Dunn, All-American** Fiction/1941
 Novel set in Berkeley in the early 1920s.

Mosley, Walter **Blue Light** Fiction/1998
 “In the days that followed I lost my job at the Berkeley library because I didn’t come to work for two weeks.... I spent the next few months wandering the streets of San Francisco and Berkeley.”

Moss, Lisa Braver **The Measure of His Grief** Fiction/2010
 “In Berkeley, at his father’s *shiva*, a Jewish doctor experiences a sharp groin pain for which he can find

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no explanation. So begins a series of events that will find Dr. Sandy Waldman railing against the one Jewish tradition that's still observed even in the most iconoclastic of towns and among the most assimilated of Jews: circumcision" [from the book cover].

Mukherjee, Bharati	Leave It to Me	Fiction/1997
“...Berkeley, the scuzzy city north of Oakland in the East Bay, menaced by fault lines every which way—a West Coast Troy or Rensselaer, if you like, though with many more sari shops and satay houses; and with many, many more panhandlers, street vendors, pistolwhippers, performance artists and prophets in drag; with fancier mansions in fire-prone hills and, in the lower flats, tackier adobe holding pens....”		
Muller, Marcia	Trophies and Dead Things	Teen Fiction/1991
Starring in her tenth mystery is Sharon McCone, a reflective young detective. While trying to locate four heirs of the estate of an ex-hippie from the turbulent Berkeley days, Sharon becomes embroiled in murder that seems to emanate from the Vietnam era.		
Najarian, Peter	Wash Me on Home, Mama	Fiction/1978
Novel set in Berkeley.		
Narayan, Kirin	Love, Stars, and All That	Fiction/1994
“Gita (a young Indian woman) in Berkeley has to be the most appealing cultural exchange since Dorothy returned from Oz.”		
Nasaw, Jonathan	Shakedown Street	Teen Fiction/1993
A homeless girl moves across the Bay from San Francisco and attends Berkeley High. “There’s a constant locker shortage at Berkeley—the one they assigned me is over in G Building, only about a hundred and fifty miles from where most of my classes are.”		
Nash, Anne	Unhappy Rendezvous	Fiction/1946
Novel set in Berkeley in the mid-1940s.		
Nelson, Ray	The Prometheus Man	Science Fiction/1982
Science fiction set in Berkeley.		
Nelson, Ray	Then Beggars Could Ride	Science Fiction/1976
Science fiction set in Berkeley.		
Nightingale, Steven	The Thirteenth Daughter of the Moon	Fiction/1997
“This second novel continues the mythical pilgrimage of an eclectic group of travelers [including a painter, a mathematician, a lawyer] brought together in Nightingale’s <i>The Lost Coast</i> by their collective desire for freedom, adventure, and love.”. Naturally they pass through Berkeley, heading north for the Lost Coast. “In the Berkeley Hills, atop Grizzly Peak, in the late afternoon [they] watched the fog with stealthy acrobatics come in through the Golden Gate.”		
Nixon, Cornelia	Angels Go Naked: A Novel in Stories	Fiction/2000
Novel set in Berkeley, in part.		

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Norris, Charles Berkeley setting is minor, circa 1890s, 1910s, and 1930s.	Seed: A Novel of Birth Control	Fiction/1930
Norris, Kathleen Novel set in Berkeley, circa 1942.	Corner of Heaven	Fiction/1943
Norris, Kathleen Novel set in Berkeley, in part, 1930s-1950.	Shadow Marriage	Fiction/1952
Offord, Lenore Glen This comedy involves a sophisticated playwright in 1940 Berkeley, and his adventures as a weekend guest in the home of a local professor.	Angels Unaware	Fiction/1940
Offord, Lenore Glen Novel set in Berkeley, 1942.	Skeleton Key	Fiction/1943
Offord, Lenore Glen Tales of a strange cult in a canyon east of Berkeley, known as “The Beyond-Truth” cult.	The Smiling Tiger	Fiction/1949
Offord, Lenore Glen Novel set in Berkeley.	Walking Shadow	Mystery/1959
O’Hehir, Diana A World War II novel, set in Berkeley, in part; nineteen-year-old Helen embarks on a rite of passage when she leaves Berkeley.	I Wish This War Were Over	Fiction/1984
Oliver, Mary E. Novel set in Berkeley in the mid-1920s.	Hail California!	Fiction/1928
Olszewski, Alice Well, the title says it all.	Berserkeley	Fiction/1973
Ore, Rebecca First in a science fiction trilogy; other volumes are Being Alien (Science Fiction/1989) and Human to Human (Science Fiction/1990). “Kidnapped by aliens from backwoods Virginia, raised to maturity as a diplomatic cadet for the Interstellar Federation of Sapient, Tom Red-Clay knows almost more than he can bear about the ways of humans and aliens alike” [from the cover]. Features Berkeley, San Francisco, and the Bay Area. “We have an observation house in Berkeley.”	Becoming Alien	Science Fiction/1988
Otsuka, Julie “A Berkeley family’s experience of evacuation, internment, and the difficult return home” to Berkeley.	When the Emperor Was Divine	Fiction/2002
Packer, Ann Thoughtful, talky novel looks at a longtime friendship between two women and “the sometimes confining roles we take on in our closest relationships, about the familial myths that shape us both as children and as parent, and about the limits—and the power—of the friendships we create when we are	Songs Without Words	Fiction/2007

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- Powell, JB **The Republic** Fiction/2002
 “An important first novel about the alienation of young people” [from the dust jacket], with plenty of Berkeley sites (remember Pepito’s on San Pablo Avenue?). [Note: Yes, the author’s first name is JB.]
- Prinz, Yvonne **The Vinyl Princess** Teen Fiction/2010
 Allie, a sixteen-year-old who is obsessed with LPs, works at a used record store on Telegraph Avenue and deals with crushes—her own and her mother’s—her increasingly popular blog and zine, and generally grows up over the course of one summer in her hometown, Berkeley, where she works in “the ultra cool Bob & Bob Records.” “We decide to meet at the Hideaway Café, a ways down from Bob & Bob’s on Telegraph; a sort of weird, sort of cool greasy spoon.”
- Pynchon, Thomas **The Crying of Lot 49** Fiction/1964
 “She purred along up the east side of the bay, presently climbed into the Berkeley hills and arrived close to midnight at a sprawling, many-leveled, German-baroque hotel, carpeted in deep green, going in for curved corridors and ornamental chandeliers.” And later, “She came downslope from Wheeler Hall, through Sather Gate into a plaza teeming with corduroy, denim, bare legs, blond hair, hornrims, bicycle spokes in the sun, bookbags, swaying card tables, long paper petitions dangling to earth, posters for undecipherable FSM’s, YAF’s, VDC’s, suds in the fountain, students in nose-to-nose dialogue.”
- Queen, Ellery **The Four Johns** Mystery/1964
 Murder investigation set in Berkeley.
- Randolph, Em **Bath Thoughts from Berkeley** Fiction/2010
 This three-part novel spans the years from World War II to the Millennium through the eyes of two sisters who come of age in Berkeley in the 1960s.
- Ratch, Jerry **Wild Dreams of Reality** Fiction/2001
 A novel of “low jinks in Berkeley,” this is the story of Philip Janov, a middle-aged realtor and poet, and his older brother Darrell. Lots of Berkeley/North Oakland ambience, with a bit of Half Moon Bay mixed in.
- Rath, Virginia **Posted for Murder** Mystery/1942
 Mystery set in Berkeley.
- Rauh, Karl **Bitch** Fiction/2002
 Fascinating novel, complete with maps, footnotes, extensive bibliography, lexicon, glossary of uncommon words used in the text, and an index, plus reproductions of newspaper articles, flyers, and scrawled notes. It’s the Sixties, and “for five years Berkeley was a bubble, different from the times before or after. The students, the University and the city itself separated from mainstream America while the remnants of dying music, bitter love. and fallen flowers foreshadowed the ordeal of the hard Nixon years ahead.”
- Rayter, Joe **The Victim Was Important** Fiction/1954
 Novel set in Berkeley, in part, in 1953.
- Redd, Trumbell **Bright Midnight** Fiction/1956

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Area and features young Jubilee Starling's experiences at UCB.

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| Smith, Clark Ashton | Tales of Science and Sorcery | Science Fiction/1964 |
| Fourteen tales of the supernatural, at least one of which is set in Berkeley. | | |
| Smith, Julie | Huckleberry Fiend | Mystery/1987 |
| Sleuth Paul McDonald delves into the Mark Twain papers at UCB's Bancroft Library to solve a murder. | | |
| Snyder, Zilpha | The Egypt Game | Children's Fiction/1967 |
| A group of children play a game based on ancient Egyptian lore, help to solve a murder, and change their lives for the better. "Not long ago in a large university town in California, on a street called Orchard Avenue, a strange old man ran a dusty shabby store." The sequel, The Gypsy Game , is also set in Berkeley, although the place is not specifically named. | | |
| Souto-Martinez, Jose | Between the Campus and Indian Rock | Fiction/1992 |
| The subtitle tells it all: "A farewell to the nightmare of the fifties and sixties." | | |
| Spadoni, Adriana | Not All Rivers | Fiction/1937 |
| Berkeley, in part, circa 1910-1930s. | | |
| Spadoni, Adriana | The Swing of the Pendulum | Fiction/1919 |
| A woman's life from youth to middle age: her graduation from the University of California, an unfortunate early marriage, an affair with a married man, her career as a librarian and settlement worker, and her efforts at social reform. San Francisco and environs figure prominently in the novel. | | |
| Spinrad, Norman | Russian Spring | Fiction/1991 |
| Novel set in Berkeley, in part. | | |
| Starn, Frances | Soup of the Day | Fiction/1990 |
| Novel set in the fictional Western college town of Clelland City (aka Berkeley), where "everybody on the block is either giving or receiving therapy." | | |
| Steel, Danielle | Message from Nam | Fiction/1990 |
| "They were all talking about the demonstration that was taking place at Berkeley that afternoon, led by Mario Savio and other members of the Free Speech Movement.... the university said that traffic was blocked and leaflets were littering the campus." Telegraph Avenue, UCB, dorms, etc. | | |
| Steen, Peter | The Python | Mystery/2009 |
| A mystery/thriller, featuring a young man who wants to follow his life's passion to become a sous-chef at a small upscale restaurant in Berkeley, and eventually tries to track down his ex-lover's new boyfriend Charley... who has disappeared with his python. [Currently only available on Kindle.] | | |
| Stein, Julia | The Magic Circle | Fiction/19?? |
| Novel set in Berkeley in the 1960s. Hard to find. | | |
| Steinhardt, Anne | How to Get Balled in Berkeley | Fiction/1976 |

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Subtitled “A Historical Romance of the Sixties,” this showcases “the zany West Coast world of the 1960s, and more specifically, the hot-bed of that new style, Berkeley, California.”

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| Stephens, Judith | Borrowed Rites | Mystery/1986 |
| A potent mix of mummies and murder, set primarily on the UCB campus. | | |
| Stewart, George | Doctor’s Oral | Fiction/1939 |
| Novel with thinly disguised Berkeley and UCB as the setting. | | |
| Stewart, George | Earth Abides | Fiction/1949 |
| A young graduate student in ecology, Ish Williams, is one of the few survivors of a sudden plague that decimates civilization. A few survivors form a small community in the Berkeley Hills. A classic! | | |
| Stone, Irving | Pageant of Youth | Fiction/1933 |
| College life of six students at UCB (thinly disguised with fictional place names). | | |
| Stone, Jennifer | Telegraph Avenue Then | Fiction/1992 |
| Personal memories and journal writing, 1966 to the late 1970s. “I bought this honest-to-God topless bra at the most esoteric lingerie shop in Berkeley. The European woman who owns the shop looks down her nose at the locals, taking no solace from the girls who go braless.” | | |
| Stone, Robert | Dog Soldiers | Fiction/1974 |
| A novel set in Berkeley, in part, in the 1970s. | | |
| Storm, Hans Otto | Count Ten | Fiction/1940 |
| The story of Eric Marsden, a sensitive man “who delved deeply into the personalities and movements around him....” This probably autobiographical novel takes place in California from about 1915 to the early 1920s. | | |
| Street, James | The Sinking of the Basil Hall | Fiction/2004 |
| “...A funny, tragic, sad, happy story about Women’s Liberation, Black Power, the Vietnam War Protest Movement, love, cab driving, sex, sports, and chaos in Oakland and Berkeley in the late 1960s, told by an unreliable and often bewildered and sometimes heroic soul.” | | |
| Streshinsky, Shirley | Gift of the Golden Mountain | Fiction/1988 |
| Story of a family’s passions, played out against the explosive Vietnam era in San Francisco and Berkeley, Hawaii, China, and Saigon. | | |
| Stutler, Tim | Dead Hand Control | Mystery/2002 |
| Attorney Russell White is consumed with safeguarding his family. After he loses the power to personally protect them, the full measure of his obsession emerges. But when White’s plans imperil his only son, only a miracle can save the boy. The story begins in free-spirited Berkeley, California, where White is a law student. | | |
| Swatt, Steve | Fair, Balanced...and Dead | Fiction/2009 |
| “The powerful chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democrat Bernie Edelstein of | | |

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California, dies suddenly of a heart attack, leaving the Democrats with a razor-slim one-vote Senate margin. Unwittingly, Sacramento television reporter Jack Summerland stumbles onto the story and soon finds himself in the middle of deadly game of political intrigue that takes him from the halls of power at the State Capitol to the back streets of Sacramento and academia in Berkeley.” Local scenes don’t really start until halfway through the book, and center on the University and its environs—lots of coffee drinking on Northside.

Swick, Marly **The Summer Before the Summer of Love** Short Stories/1995
 Short stories feature “a world whose coordinates are Madison and Berkeley, where people eat at restaurants called Beau Thai...” [from *New York Times Book Review*].

Tauber, Peter **The Last Best Hope** Fiction/1977
 A love story, and a war story, and a political story, set in the Arizona desert, in Vietnam, in Berkeley, at a chemical warfare laboratory in rural Maryland, in the East Room of the White House. It ends on a hill in a small college town in Ohio.

Thayer, Lee **Blood on the Knight** Mystery/1952
 Mystery set in Berkeley and environs in 1951.

Thayer, Lee **Dead on Arrival** Mystery/1960
 Mystery set in Berkeley.

Thayer, Lee **A Hair’s Breadth** Mystery/1946
 Mystery set in Berkeley in the mid-1940s.

Thayer, Lee **Out, Brief Candle!** Mystery/1948
 Mystery set in Berkeley in the 1940s.

Thomas, Joyce Carol **Journey** Teen Mystery/1988
 Meggie spearheads an investigation into the mysterious disappearances and murders of young people in her town, discovering a plot to rob others of their youth in a horrifying way. “The sunlight glittered on teenagers of all variety and colors and shapes that decorated the stucco-dotted campus at Berkeley High....”

Thorne, Sabina **Reruns** Fiction/1981
 Novel set in Berkeley, in part, in the mid-1960s: “Berkeley, not Tinseltown, was my home.”

Thorpe, Stephen J. **Walking Wounded** Fiction/1980
 Novel (subtitled “A Novel of Recovery”) set in Berkeley, in part, in 1974-1975.

Tompkins, Juliet Wilbor **The Starling** Fiction/1919
 Domestic complications in a Berkeley household. The author was one of “Les Jeunes,” the group associated with Gelett Burgess and *The Lark*.

Uchida, Yoshiko **A Jar of Dreams** Children’s Fiction/1981
 A young girl experiences racial intolerance and exclusion as she grows up in a closely-knit Japanese

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- Walkup, Georgia **Within Sound of the Campanile** Fiction/2002
Novella set in Berkeley.
- Walser, Martin **Breakers** Fiction/1987
What happens when a middle-aged German intellectual is transplanted to laid-back California? This delicious comedy of academic manners plunges professor Helmut Halm into the perils and pleasures of American campus life. His wife and daughter in tow, Halm arrives to teach for a term at a university remarkably like UCB, and soon finds himself enmeshed in a hornet's nest of departmental politics and neurotic colleagues.
- Warner, James **All Her Father's Guns** Fiction/2011
Hilarious satire of the right wing, but set in Berkeley, so there are plenty of lefty laughs too: "We were seated on a patio in Berkeley, California... we were currently in the sort of restaurant where fish and chips were called 'Pacific halibut breaded with olive-oil-infused batter, complemented by wedge-shaped Yukon potatoes and sea salt.'"
- Warner, Ralph & Toni Ihara **Murder on the Air** Mystery/1984
An engaging local mystery, written by the founders of Berkeley's Nolo Press, this will be a particular treat for graduates of UCB's Library School—the denouement takes place in South Hall.
- Washburn, Stan **Intent to Harm** Mystery/1994
Local author's police procedural involving a notorious local rape case; set in Berkeley of the 1990s.
- Washburn, Stan **Into Thin Air** Mystery/1996
Set in Bancroft (aka Berkeley), "home to a great university." This time, Detective Toby Parkman is on the trail of a cunning child-snatcher.
- Webster, Brenda **Sins of the Mothers** Fiction/1993
Novel set in the mid-1970s in Berkeley, post-SLA and Patty Hearst.
- Welch, Pat **Murder by the Book** Mystery/1990
Christmas in Berkeley, and private investigator Helen Black encounters her first homicide case, when the Berkeley branch of the Greater East Bay Bank is robbed. Other Helen Black mysteries include **Fallen from Grace** (Mystery/1998), **A Proper Burial** (Mystery/1993), **Still Waters** (Mystery/1991), and **Smoke and Mirrors** (Mystery/1996) where "Just a bus ride away...Berkeley sprawled out in all its grungy glory and diversity."
- Welch, Pat **A Time to Cast Away** Mystery/2005
After serving time in prison, former cop Helen Black returns home to Berkeley, California, hoping to start over... but her new life doesn't look very promising. Struggling through her days with dull temp jobs, she meets Alice one night at a local bar. A few days after their brief encounter, Helen stops by Alice's apartment—only to find the woman dead.
- Whalen, Philip **Two Novels** Fiction/1985
The minds, the glittering personalities and eccentrics of Berkeley and San Francisco society come to life in these two novels (**You Didn't Even Try** and **Imaginary Speeches for a Brazen Head**) by Beat poet

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