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WINTER 2022



AMERICAN
MYSTERY
CLASSICS





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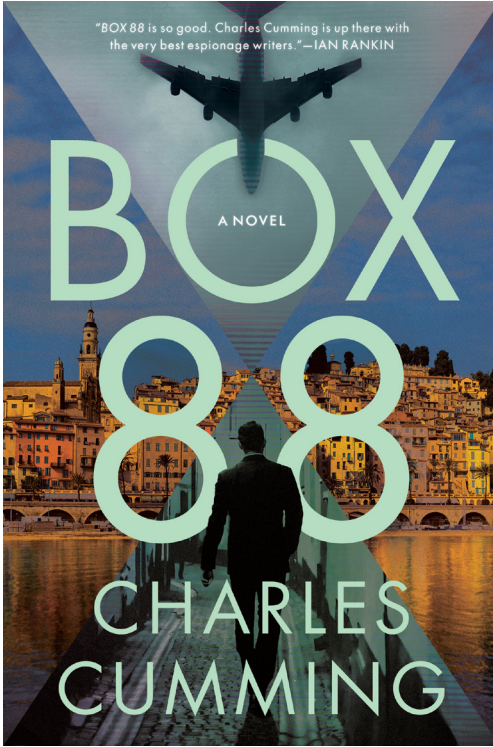
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***A secret agent comes of age—and
reckons with the dark legacy of
his first mission***



**Charles
Cumming**
BOX 88

*The first in a new series
from CWA Steel Dagger
Award-winner
Charles Cumming*

#1 London Times Bestseller

*Already Published to Wide
Acclaim in the UK*

“Book of the Year” at...
DAILY MAIL
SPECTATOR
FINANCIAL TIMES

“A spy for the 21st century”
—Daily Mail

**“An ambitious fusion of
coming-of-age novel and
gripping espionage thriller”**
—Financial Times

**“This clever thriller about
loss of innocence and the
consequences of spying to-
tally rings true”**—*Sun*

**A Waterstones
“Thriller of the Month”
Selection**

Lachlan Kite is a member of BOX 88, an elite transatlantic black ops outfit so covert that not even MI6 and the CIA are certain of its existence—but even the best spy can't anticipate every potential threat in a world where dangerous actors lurk around every corner. At the funeral of his childhood best friend, Lachlan falls into a trap that drops him into the hands of a potentially deadly interrogation, with his pregnant wife, also abducted, being held as collateral for the information he's sworn on his own life to protect.

Thirty years earlier Lachlan, then just out of the upper class boarding school where he was reared, was BOX 88's newest recruit. In the haze of a gap year summer, in which the study of spycraft was intertwined with a journey of self-discovery, he cut his teeth on a special assignment on the coast of France, where a friendship allowed him special access to one of Iran's most dangerous men. Today, Lachlan's nostalgia for the trip is corrupted by recollection of the deceit that accompanied it—but in order to save his family he'll be forced to revisit those painful memories one last time.

A pulse-pounding narrative that straddles two eras—1989 and 2020—*BOX 88* is a “wonderfully taut, exciting and up-to-date spy thriller” that introduces a compelling new character and a captivating international storyline (*Spectator*, Books of the Year).

“BOX 88 is so good. Charles Cumming is up there with the very best espionage writers.”—Ian Rankin

“BOX 88 is a masterpiece of plotting and character, Cumming's best novel to date. If you haven't yet had the pleasure of reading him, then do so immediately.”

—Dan Fesperman

“Nobody writes more enjoyable spy thrillers than Charles Cumming.”—Anthony Horowitz



Charles Cumming is a *New York Times*-bestselling British writer of spy fiction, whose novels include *Trinity Six*, *A Spy by Nature*, and *A Foreign Country*. *The Observer* has described him as “the best of the new generation of British spy writers.” *BOX 88* is his tenth novel.

HC 978-1-61316-273-6 • \$27.95

EBOOK 978-1-61316-274-3

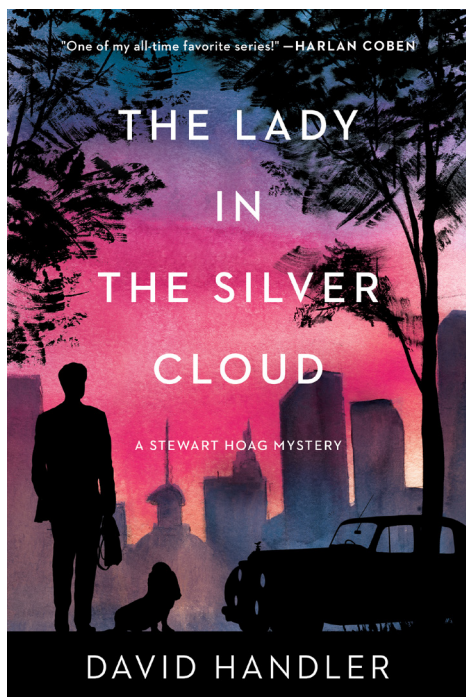
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Marketing

Prepublication reading copies • Major review coverage
• Targeted outreach to mystery/thriller press •
Library marketing including ALA • Prepublication buzz
campaign • Mystery and thriller advertising



Ghostwriting sleuth Stewart Hoag investigates the murder of his wealthy neighbor—and discovers her dark, mobbed-up past



David Handler

The Lady in the Silver Cloud:

A Stewart Hoag Mystery

EXCERPT:

By a simple twist of fate, the single most beautiful automobile in all of New York City was driven by a man who, without doubt, ranked as the honorary captain of the Big Apple's All Ugly team.

But, please, let me start out by telling you about the car. It was parked at the foot of the awning outside my ex-wife Merilee's luxury pre-war apartment house on Central Park West when Lulu and I rode the elevator down to the lobby that day for our regular noon walk in Central Park. This was a regal, gleaming 1955 maroon-and-silver Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud that I'm talking about. Since it was presently 1993 that meant the damned machine was 38 years old, yet it was so spotless it looked as if it had just rolled off the showroom floor. In case you're wondering, 1955 was the very first year that Rolls-Royce decided to phase out the Silver Wraith in favor of the Silver Cloud. Only about 2,200 of them were built, and of those only a fraction were made with left-hand drive for American export. I couldn't imagine that any of them were as gorgeous as this one, which was owned by Muriel Cantrell, an exquisitely delicate silver-haired lady in her early 70s who happened to be one of Merilee's three 16th floor neighbors.

A 1955 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud is a fantastically expensive car, especially in the pristine condition of the one owned by Muriel Cantrell. Living in a luxury apartment building on Central Park West, the delicate, sweet 75-year-old woman is a neighbor of Merilee Nash, the beautiful movie star, and Stewart Hoag, whose first book was a sensation but whose career crashed when he became involved with drugs and alcohol. Divorced ten years earlier, Hoagy has been welcomed back into Merilee's life and apartment.

Apparently universally beloved in her building, residents are shocked when Muriel is murdered after a Halloween party. No one takes it harder than her long-time chauffeur, Bullets Durmond, whose previous job was as an enforcer for the mob. Who in the world would want to harm the silver-haired lady whose major vices were buying shoes and Chanel suits (always in cash), and watching day-time soap operas?

Lieutenant Frank Very of the NYPD is called to investigate and again seeks help from his friend Hoagy who, along with his beagle Lulu, has been an invaluable aide in the past. The investigation leads to the unexpected source of Muriel's wealth, the history of her early years as a hatcheck girl at the Copacabana, how her chauffeur came to be called Bullets, her desperate meth-head nephew, and her wealthy neighbors, who have secrets of their own.

“One of my all-time favorite series! . . . David Handler is so good at writing one smart, funny page-turner after another that he makes it look easy.”—Harlan Coben

“Love stylish, deftly plotted whodunits? Read David Handler. Love warm, witty, snort-out-loud comedy? Read David Handler.”—A. J. Finn

“Hoagy and Lulu tickle your funny bone and touch your heart.”—Carolyn Hart



David Handler is the Edgar Award-winning, critically acclaimed author of several bestselling mystery series, including the Stewart Hoag novels, which feature a ghostwriter-turned-sleuth and his faithful basset hound Lulu.

HC 978-1-61316-291-0 • \$25.95

EBOOK 978-1-61316-276-7

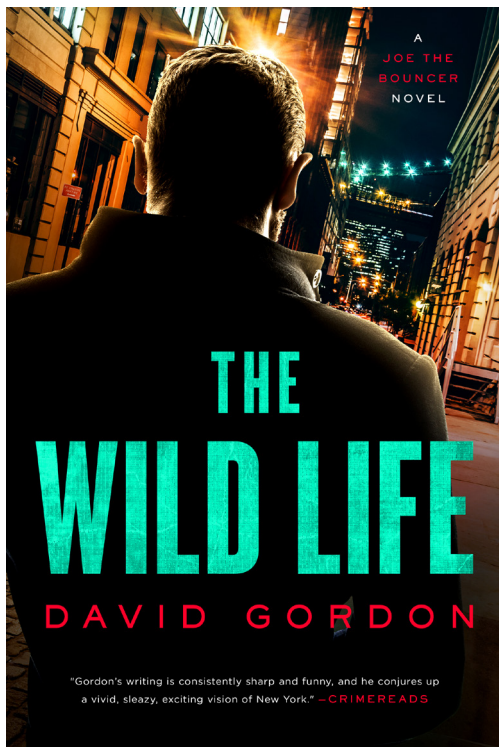
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Marketing

Prepublication reading copies • Major review coverage
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campaign • Mystery and thriller advertising



Joe the Bouncer seeks the killer of NYC's most desirable escorts in the newest caper in "a unique and worthwhile series" (CrimeReads)



David Gordon

**The
Wild Life:**

**A Joe the Bouncer
Novel**

EXCERPT:

Joe was afraid to move. He stood, holding his breath, listening intently for the creak of a floorboard, a telltale rustle or sigh. Every muscle tensed as he eyed the small bathroom window, doing the math or, he supposed, physics in his head: even if he managed to edge out sideways, onto the narrow ledge, could he make the reach to the fire escape without falling the eight floors to the sidewalk? Unlikely. But he would almost rather risk it than face what awaited him on the other side of the bathroom door. Why hadn't he thought to lock it? He eyed the flimsy handle now, waiting to see it turn from the outside, wondering if he could simply reach out and twist the locking mechanism, if he dared. Then he heard a voice. It was the law: Special Agent Donna Zamora of the FBI.

"What's the matter honey? Why are you up? Do you have to make pee?"

Ears straining, Joe awaited the answer that could seal his fate. Why did the shower curtain have to be translucent? He heard the tiny voice of Donna's six-year-old daughter warbling in the living room.

"Don't worry, it was just a dream," Donna said. "Let's get you some water and tuck you in Mommy's bed."

As their steps faded, Joe breathed a sigh of relief, then smiled sardonically in the mirror. He'd hidden in sewers from cops and bomb-craters from jihadists without getting quite this tense. Then again, he'd rather face a trained killer in mortal combat than have a small child discover him naked at two in the morning.

Expulsed Harvard student and ex-Special Forces operative suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome so severe that it turned him to drug and alcohol abuse, Joe Roth is getting his life back together, living with his grandmother in Queens and taking what should be a simple job as a bouncer at a strip club where he can spend most of his night reading the classics. The only catch is that his childhood friend Gio Caprisi, now head of New York's Italian Mafia, relies on Joe's extralegal expertise when things get particularly nasty on the streets—where, in an agreement between Gio and the rest of the city's biggest crime syndicates, it's understood that Joe is the sheriff for an industry that doesn't call the cops.

Most recently, New York's criminal underworld has been shaken by the disappearance of its most successful and desirable call girls, vanishing one by one from the brothels where they're employed. As a pattern emerges, what might otherwise appear to be a choice to pursue a new life comes to resemble something more troublesome—the work of a serial kidnapper—and when a woman turns up dead, the hunt for the predator behind it all becomes even more urgent.

To find the killer, Joe will have to plunge into the seediest fringes of Manhattan and its surrounding boroughs, populated with memorable characters that add humor and heart to this fast-paced caper. There is still sleaze behind the pristine veneer of 21st century New York, and Gordon, whose writing is often compared to Donald E. Westlake and Elmore Leonard, knows all the best places to find it.

“David Gordon brings an outstanding new voice to the contemporary crime novel.”—Robert Crais

“Gordon has a knack for twisty story lines, nonstop action, and over-the-top sequences.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A brilliantly goofy caper novel in the grand tradition of Donald E. Westlake.”—*New York Times* on *The Bouncer*



David Gordon was born in New York City. His first novel, *The Serialist*, won the VCU/Cabell First Novel Award and was a finalist for an Edgar Award. His work has also appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Purple*, and *Fence*, among other publications.

HC 978-1-61316-277-4 • \$25.95

EBOOK 978-1-61316-275-0

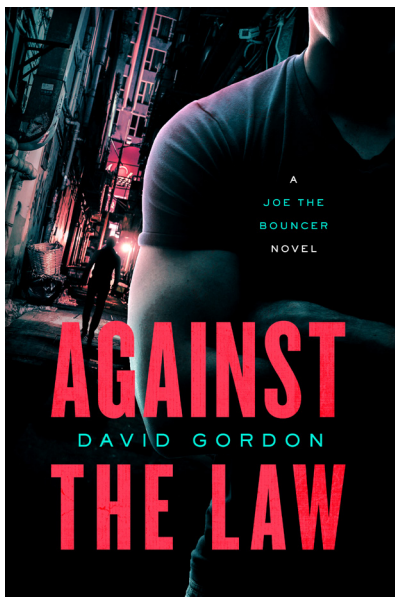
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Prepublication reading copies • Major review coverage
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Library marketing including ALA • Prepublication buzz
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*New in
Paperback*



David Gordon *Against the Law*

professional killers. Joe's only chance to calm the violence is to intercept the newest shipment of Zahir's product—if his skills as a master thief prove up to the task.

A comic caper with heists, car chases, and shoot-outs aplenty, *Against the Law* is Joe the Bouncer's most exciting outing to date, as humorous as it is thrilling. Gordon's memorable characters, tight plotting, and breathless action sequences make this a standout in the pantheon of the New York crime novel, certain to appeal to fans of authors such as Donald E. Westlake and Elmore Leonard.

"This one has everything, from a car chase that makes what Steve McQueen does with that Mustang in *Bullitt* seem like a Sunday drive, to a showdown in a Russian bathhouse that is part Marx Brothers and part *Kill Bill*. For anyone with a taste for blood-spattered comic capers featuring characters who vault off the page, *Against the Law* is an exquisite fever dream in Technicolor."—*Booklist* (Starred Review)

David Gordon was born in New York City. His first novel, *The Serialist*, won the VCU/Cabell First Novel Award and was a finalist for an Edgar Award. It was also made into a major motion picture in Japan. His work has also appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Purple*, and *Fence*, among other publications.

Joe is an ex-Special Forces operative with a bad case of PTSD and some substance abuse issues, trying to rebuild a simple life as a strip club bouncer living with his grandmother in Queens. But this simple life is constantly complicated by the fact that, at the invitation of a childhood friend, now a Mafia boss, Joe also moonlights as a fixer for the most powerful crime families in town.

In his newest assignment, Joe is sent to take out a shadowy figure named Zahir, the faceless name behind White Angel, a powerful new brand of heroin invading the mob's territories and threatening their sales. Then Joe discovers a link between Zahir and a shady group of private military contractors, and the stakes of his mission become increasingly deadly.

Soon the Five Boroughs are on the verge of an all-out drug war, pitting Joe and the crime world's most infamous talents against a ruthless clan of



SCARLET:
new voices in
psychological
suspense

The disappearance of a young internet celebrity ignites a firestorm on social media, and to find her a detective must extinguish the blaze.



Mandy McHugh

Chloe Cates Is Missing

EXCERPT:

Mom showed me every time someone liked her posts or subscribed. “It’s so good!” she said. “We want that number to keep getting higher. Sponsors will come in droves, Abby-girl!”

Abby-girl. Who I used to be before the blog went viral.

“It sounds better, right?” Mom said. “Someone might call you Abby Scabby or Abby Dabby Doo. We don’t want that. Chloe Cates is magical. Like a princess name. Think of it as part of your costumes. When we do our skits, you’ll pretend you’re Chloe Cates and all your hee-bee-jeebie jitters will float away.” She swooshed her hand like rainbow. “To the sky, Abby-girl. When you’re CC, send those nervous bubbles to their castles in the clouds.”

I never got nervous. I never had a choice. What if I don’t want to have a brand? What if I don’t care that other kids could make fun of me? Some days, I’d rather be Abby Scabby than the fake me she wants me to be.

My life isn’t mine. It’s not real. I just act out a bunch of stories to make our subscribers happy.

I’m tired of being make-believe.

Chloe Cates is missing. The 13-year-old star of the hit YouTube series, “CC and Me,” has disappeared, and nobody knows where she’s gone — least of all ruthless momager Jennifer Scarborough, who has spent much of her daughter’s young life crafting a child celebrity persona that is finally beginning to pay off. And in Chloe’s absence, the faux-fairytale world that supported that persona begins to fracture, revealing secrets capable of reducing the highly-dysfunctional Scarborough family to rubble.

Anxious to find her daughter and preserve the life she’s worked so hard to build, Jennifer turns to social media for help, but the hearsay, false claims, and salacious suspicions only multiply. As the search becomes as sensational as Chloe’s series, Missing Persons detective Emilina Stone steps in, only to realize she has a connection to this case herself. Will she be able to stay objective and cut through the rumors to find the truth before it’s too late?

Told from multiple points of view including Jennifer, Emilina, and pages from Chloe’s lost diary, *Chloe Cates Is Missing* is a suspenseful novel of a child pushed to the brink, and of the troubled family that desperately needs her back.

“Propulsive storytelling, razor-sharp prose, disturbing behavior, explosive secrets, and a uniquely dysfunctional family. Settle in for this stunner; once you start reading, you won’t be able to stop.”—Megan Collins, author of *The Family Plot*

“An of-the-moment thriller that will leave you guessing what the truth is until the final page. A terrific debut!”—Catherine McKenzie, author of *I’ll Never Tell* and *Six Weeks to Live*



Mandy McHugh is a first-time novelist from Troy, NY. She holds an MA in English from the College of Saint Rose and a BA in English Education from Le Moyne College. Her works have appeared in various literary magazines and podcasts, and she lives in upstate NY (where the novel is set) with her husband, two kids, and dog.

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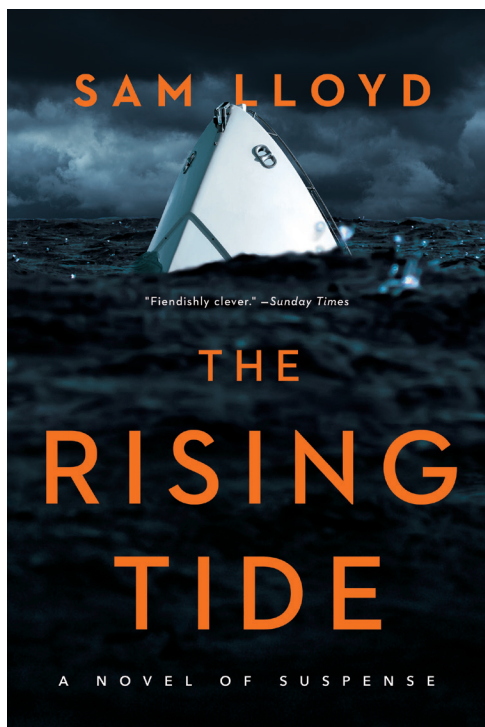
Marketing

Prepublication reading copies • Major review coverage
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A woman's husband vanishes in a historic storm — and new troubles wash up in its wake

SCARLET:
*new voices in
psychological
suspense*



Sam Lloyd
The Rising Tide

EXCERPT:

Lucy's in the study, hunched over Daniel's laptop. Breath whistles past her teeth as she frantically casts about. Onscreen is her husband's company balance sheet. Spread across the desk is a mess of bank statements, invoices and scribbled notes. Around her feet, cardboard folders spill over with receipts.

She's tempted to cram every scrap of paperwork into the fireplace and toss in a match, but that won't help them. If there's something here she's overlooked, it's vital she finds it.

Lucy's wet hair leaks cold water down her spine. The study is unheated and the bath towel around her torso offers little comfort. In the hall, the barometer mercury is plunging. No storm has yet broken. But gunmetal clouds, rolling in from the Atlantic, are pregnant with threat.

This doesn't feel like the end of the world. Not quite, not yet. In their nine years together, it isn't the first crisis they've weathered. She's saved him before. She knows she can save him again.

In a small fishing village on the Devon coast, Lucy Locke has built a life that anyone would envy. She and her husband, Daniel, own successful businesses and live with their two children in a picturesque home overlooking the harbor. But everything changes one morning when, following a monumental storm, the family yacht is found empty — and Lucy’s husband is nowhere in sight.

As the search for Daniel mounts, so does Lucy’s sense of dread, raised to a fever pitch when another, more terrifying revelation pushes her storybook life to the brink of total destruction. Lucy is reluctantly forced to face a harsh truth: the sea gives life, and just as quickly takes it away. And when the detective on the case uncovers suspicious details that Lucy had hoped would stay buried, she’ll have to confront the nightmarish possibility that she created her own undoing.

Beautifully rendered with evocative, atmospheric prose, *The Rising Tide* is at once a pulse-pounding, inescapably suspenseful thriller and a poignant tale of the power of the natural world. Its characters and settings are sure to stay with readers long after the final page—and after their heart rates finally return to normal.

“Beautifully written, incredibly evocative with a real sense of place and of the sea. Heart-stoppingly tense.”
—Catherine Cooper, bestselling author of *The Chalet*

“Absorbing and deftly written . . . Lloyd is a born storyteller.”—*The Herald*

“Fiendishly clever.”—*The Sunday Times*



Sam Lloyd grew up in Hampshire, where he learned his love of storytelling. These days he lives in Surrey with his wife, three young sons and a dog that likes to howl. His debut thriller, *The Memory Wood*, was published to huge critical acclaim in 2020. *The Rising Tide* is his second novel.

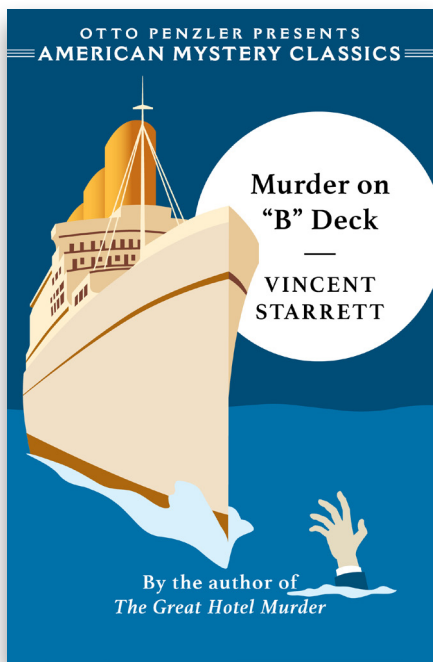
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Marketing

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Library marketing including ALA • Prepublication buzz
campaign • Mystery and thriller advertising



Vincent Starrett

Murder on "B" Deck

Introduction by
Raymond Betzner

A detective and a mystery novelist join forces to solve a murder on a transatlantic ocean liner

For the passengers aboard the *Latakia*, the transatlantic journey from New York to Cherbourg promises weeks of rest and relaxation, no matter what class of ticket they have. But after an Italian baroness is found strangled in her cabin, the situation on board becomes more tense. The main suspect soon goes overboard, creating more questions than answers: Did a guilty conscience spur a suicidal act, or was he a witness silenced by the true killer, still at large on the luxury liner.

Enter former intelligence officer Walter Ghost, tapped by the ship's captain to play detective and solve the murder. He's joined by his friend Dunsten Mollock, a novelist whose experience with mystery stories gives him helpful insights into the case. With clues including an amateur film, a doll, and a card from Memphis, Tennessee, it seems the duo have plenty to work with. But will they be able to solve the crime before word of the murder makes it into the steamship's rumor mill, surely sending any guilty persons even deeper into hiding?

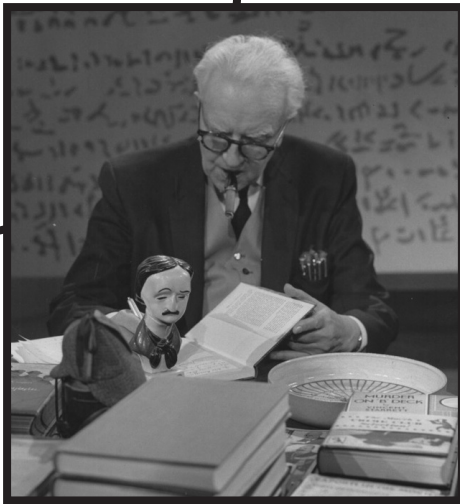
Originally published in 1929 and out of print for nearly a century, *Murder on "B" Deck* is a puzzling-yet-humorous whodunnit set in the Golden Age of transatlantic travel.

AMERICAN MYSTERY CLASSICS

PRaise FOR *THE GREAT HOTEL MURDER*

“An ingenious plot with enough complications to keep the reader guessing”—*New York Times*

“The American Mystery Classics series has rescued another memorable work from obscurity.”—*Publishers Weekly*



VINCENT STARRETT (1886–1974) was a Mystery Writers of America Grand Master, as well as a renowned critic and collector who became one of the world’s foremost experts on Sherlock Holmes.

Perhaps known best today for *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, an imaginative biography of the great detective, much of Starrett’s professional life found him working as the books columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*.

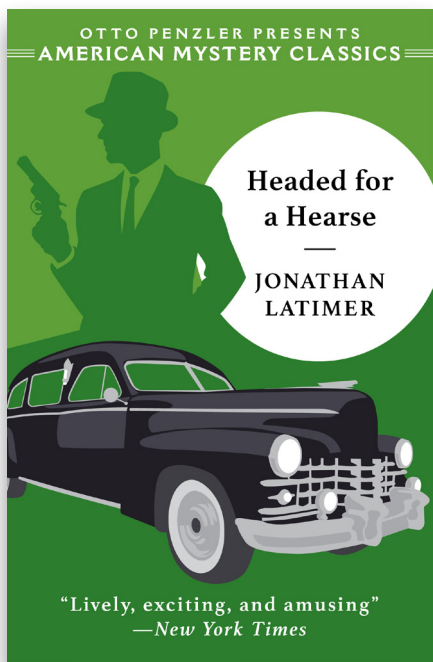
He also wrote biographies of authors such as Robert Louis Stevenson and Ambrose Bierce, various books on books and book collecting, Sherlockian pastiches and numerous short stories and novels, of which *The Great Hotel Murder* was the most successful.

He was a founding member of the Baker Street Irregulars.

RAYMOND BETZNER is the world’s leading expert on Vincent Starrett, and the administrator of the vincentstarrett.com website.

PB ISBN 978-1-61316-279-8, \$15.95 • HC ISBN 978-1-61316-278-1, \$25.95

JAN • 5.25X8 • 288pp.



Jonathan Latimer

Headed for a Hearse

Introduction by
William L. DeAndrea

A convicted murderer hires Chicago's most hard-boiled PI to save his neck—before the executioner can claim it.

Robert Westland's date with the executioner is just around the corner when he finally decides to fight the murder rap sending him to the electric chair. Framed for his wife's grisly demise, Westland is in a bind, and his last hope is Bill Crane, a booze-soaked detective who's as ruthless with a quip as he is when trawling the streets for Chicago's most brutal criminal element.

Crane's got just six days to suss out the real killer—he sets his sights on a cast of oddball characters, aided by a lime squeezer, a quart of whiskey, a monkey wrench, a taxicab, a stopwatch, and a deep sea diver... but in 1930s Chicago, everyone's got a secret, and the pressure is on for Crane to separate the dangerous from the truly homicidal before it's too late.

Chicago crime beat journalist-turned-novelist Jonathan Latimer blends hard-boiled detective fiction with a shot of screwball comedy in the fast-moving, realistic 1935 baffle *Headed for a Hearse*, an exciting combination of the macabre and the humorous.

AMERICAN MYSTERY CLASSICS

“Lively, exciting, and amusing.”—*New York Times*

“Jonathan Latimer is the best kept secret in noir fiction.”—Max Allan Collins



JONATHAN LATIMER (1906–1983) was a bestselling author and screenwriter. Born in Chicago, he began his career as a crime reporter for the *Herald Examiner*, working there until 1935, when he set out on a twisting road to Hollywood, which included stints as a dude rancher, a stunt man, and a publicist. In the late 1930s he began writing screenplays for MGM, producing the scripts for several classic noir films, including *The Big Clock* (1948) and the adaptation of Dashiell Hammett’s *The Glass Key*

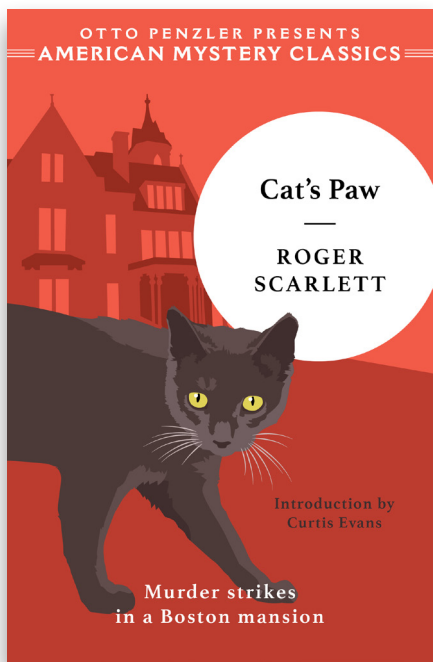
(1942). All the while, Latimer was writing fast-paced mystery novels such as *The Lady in the Morgue* (1936) and *The Dead Don’t Care* (1938).

After fighting in World War II, he returned to Hollywood, where he continued writing novels and became a staff writer for the *Perry Mason* show.

WILLIAM L. DEANDREA (1952–1996) was born in Port Chester, New York. His first book, *Killed in the Ratings* (1978), won the Edgar Award for best first novel. He went on to write many novels in several series, as well as significant works of non-fiction related to the mystery genre.

PB ISBN 978-1-61316-281-1, \$15.95 • HC ISBN 978-1-61316-280-4, \$25.95

FEB • 5.25X8 • 288pp.



Roger Scarlett

Cat's Paw

Introduction by
Curtis Evans

When a wealthy bachelor is murdered in his baroque Boston mansion, a bizarre clue holds the key to whodunnit

Martin Greenough's walled-off mansion is the last remaining holdout in the Boston parkland known as the Fenway. Childless and nearing the end of his life, he surrounds himself with only his cat, his servants, and a friend, Mrs. Warden—to say nothing of the circle of extended family members whose lives he both subsidizes and rules from afar, the nieces and nephews who all seem to be more fond of Uncle Mart's money than they are of his character.

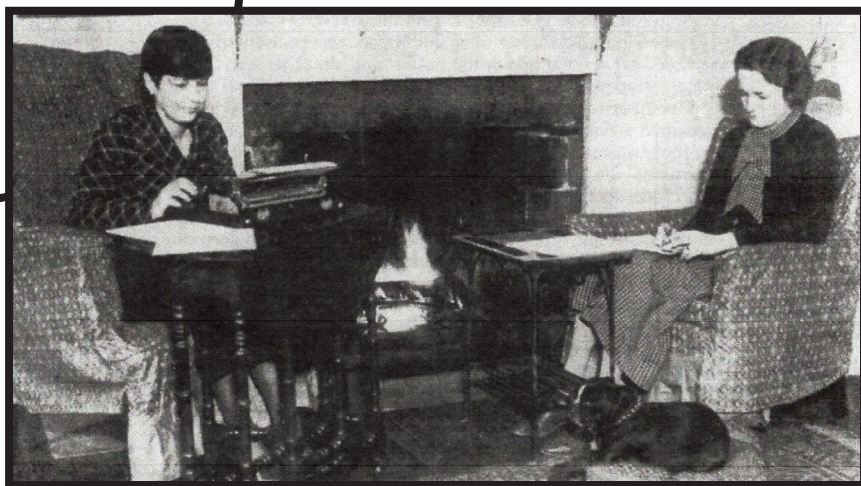
On the eve of his birthday, Greenough requests the presence of his heirs at his home, insisting that he has something important to discuss. Before that discussion can take place, though, the man is murdered in his study. In one way or another nearly everyone there would benefit by his death, and none gathered seem terribly upset by it, so finding the culprit is no easy task for Inspector Kane of the Boston PD. But as he untangles the threads and unburies dark family secrets, the discovery of a bizarre clue might hold the key to solving the crime.

A classical “closed circle” mystery featuring a colorful cast of characters, *Cat's Paw* exemplifies the puzzling, house-bound tales for which Roger Scarlett is remembered today.

AMERICAN MYSTERY CLASSICS

“A smart, far-from-abstruse plot with a keenly-realised cast.”—*The Invisible Event*

“A pleasing, labyrinthine plot with a policeman sleuth.”—*Beneath the Stains of Time*

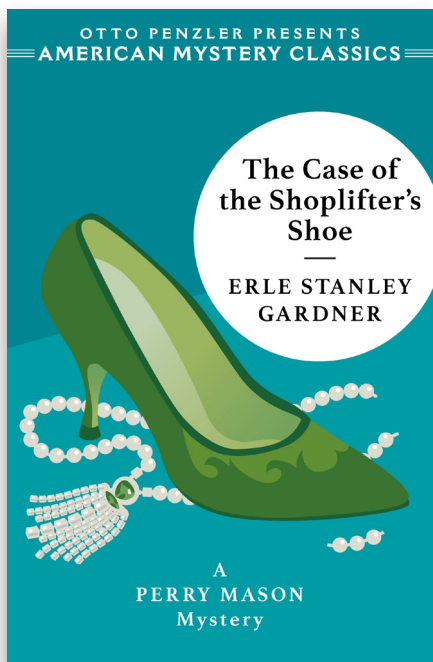


ROGER SCARLETT was the pen name of Dorothy Blair and Evelyn Page, whose five novels are remembered today for their emphasis on detailed maps and puzzling plots. The two women were one of the first same sex couples to co-write mystery fiction.

CURTIS EVANS is one of the leading experts on the Golden Age mystery. His works include *Murder in the Closet: : Essays on Queer Clues in Crime Fiction Before Stonewall* and *Clues and Corpses*, a biography of author Todd Downing. His blog, “The Passing Tramp,” features articles on authors and books from the era, and he is a frequent contributor to CrimeReads and other mystery outlets. He lives in Tennessee.

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