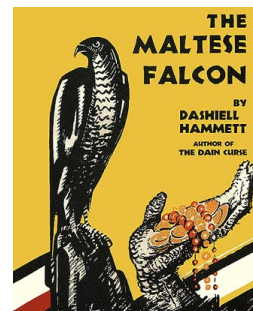


# WHO DONE IT?

Volume 20, Issue 6

June-July 2017



## What's Next

July 24  
Raymond Chandler  
Dashiell Hammett

August 28  
Small Town Cops

September 25  
At home in Italy

October 23  
R.I.P.  
Read another DEAD  
author or one from July's  
list

November 27  
Take a look at this year's  
award winners  
(2016 pubs)

December 18  
We wish it were cold  
outside—but we can  
read about it

## Vital Details

Meeting Time & Day  
4th Mon. at 2 p.m. except  
on holidays

Meeting Place -  
Community Room of  
Public Library

Location -  
18181 Imperial Highway  
Yorba Linda, CA

News Editor  
ktlbevers@roadrunner.com

## RAYMOND CHANDLER AND DASHIELL HAMMETT

A few minutes before midnight, Sam Spade knocked on the door of Dashiell Hammett's New York City apartment. The tall, thin man who greeted him had a cigarette dangling from his lips that didn't mask an amused smile, and dark circles under his eyes.

"You Hammett?" Spade asked.

Hammett nodded and took the fag out of his mouth. "You must be Spade."

"One question, Hammett. You're good. You're very good. But in 50, 75 years, will anyone care about what you wrote? Only five novels. That's not a lot of books."

Hammett's gaze bored into Spade like hot embers from a roaring fire. "Is moral reality going to change that much in 75 years?" he asked brusquely.

Spade laughed harshly. "Probably not."

"Then don't worry about my reputation or legacy," Hammett said. "Others will carry on."

"Give me some names," Spade demanded.

Hammett coughed into his cupped hand. "You're the detective, Sam. I'll leave it to you to figure that one out."

"Let me talk to Lillian," Spade asked. Surely the woman who loved Hammett, knew him best, could give him a lead.

"Miss Hellman is indisposed," Hammett replied.

"Indisposed?" Spade shot back, cocking his head to peer into the emptiness of the dark apartment.

"Get lost, Sam," Hammett said as he shut the door in Spade's face.

Out on the street, Spade looked with brooding eyes at the windows of Hammett's apartment. Something told him Hammett would never speak to him again.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Inside you will find...

Reader's Lists

Hammett and Chandler

New in July

Reading List

Page 2

Page 3-5

Page 6-7

Page 8

# READERS LISTS

## Nancy

Kellerman, Faye - BONE BOX - 5.0  
 Beason, Pam - UNDERCURRENTS - 4.5  
 Carbo, Christine - MORTAL FALL 4.0  
 Mizushima, Margaret - KILLING TRAIL - 3.75  
 Leon, Donna - Doctored Evidence 4.5  
 Cleeves, Ann - DEAD WATER - 5.0  
 Scottoline, Lisa - A PERFECT LIE -5.0  
 Allsopp, B. M. - DEATH ON PARADISE ISLAND- 4.0 - #1 Fiji Islands Mystery

## Laura

Bilingham, Mark - THE DYING HOURS (Tom Thorne #11)  
 Chaon, Dan - ILL WILL - 4.5  
 Connelly, Michael - THE CROSSING (Bosch #20) - 3.75  
 Indridason, Arnaldur - SILENCE OF THE GRAVE (Innnspecter Erlendur #2) - 3.75  
 Fossum, Karin - THE DROWNED BOY (Inspector Sejer #11) - 3.75

## Chitra -(my attempt to reconstruct)

She's been busy reading about Iceland and I don't have that list. I know she read several Indridason's novels.  
 Look for long attachment about her preparation for the Mediterranean Cruise that I had asked her to send to me.  
 Witze, Alexandra - ISLAND ON FIRE (volcano in Iceland)  
 Howe, K.J. THE FREEDOM BROKER (I think she liked it- I read it in April)

## Pam

Beason, Pam - UNDERCURRENTS 0.0  
 Mizushima, Margaret - STALKING GOUND 4.5  
 Mizushima, Margaret - KILLING TRAIL - 4.5  
 Carbo, Christine - MORTAL FALL - 5.0+

## Susan

Rollins, James and Grant Blackwood - WAR HAWK - 4.25  
 Borg, Todd - TAHOE DARK - 3.75  
 Berry, Steve - THE LOST ORDER - 4.0  
 Hillerman, Ann - SONG OF THE LION - 4.75

## Karen

Blood, Jen - THE DARKEST THREAD - Kindle - 3.5  
 Bowen, Rhys - IN FARLEIGH FIELD - UK- - (2017) - 1941 U.K. Kindle - 4.0  
 Butcher, Jim - COLD DAYS Kindle and CD (2012) - 3.75+  
 Crombie, Deborah - GARDEN OF LAMENTATIONS (2017) - 2.5  
 Francis, Felis - TRIPLE CROWN (2016) - 4.8  
 Freeman, Brian - MARATHON (2017) - 4.5  
 Hamilton, Steve EXIT STRATEGY (2017) 3.75  
 Johnson, Julia Claiborne BE FRANK WITH ME (2016) 5.0  
 Myers, William L. Jr. A CRIMINAL DEFENSE (2017) 3.75  
 Parks, Brad SAY NOTHING (2017) 3.75  
 Salvalaggio, Karen SILENT RAIN (2017) 2.5  
 Troy, Mark THE SPLINTERED PADDLE (2014) Kindle 4.0  
 Wickard, Douglas NOTHING SACRED – (2014) Kindle 3.0

Spade turned his coat collar up against the cold November rain and whistled for a hack, thinking it probably didn't matter who Hammett might have tapped as his successor in the dim, unknown future.

Whoever it might be would have a tough act to follow.

**By Michael McGarrity, author of the police chief Kevin Kerney series (*Slow Kill, Everyone Dies*):**

Raymond Chandler described Hammett's writing style in his classic essay, "The Simple Art of Murder":

*"Hammett wrote... for people with a sharp, aggressive attitude to life. They were not afraid of the seamy side of things; they lived there. Violence did not dismay them; it was right down their street. Hammett gave murder back to the kind of people that commit it for reasons, not just to provide a corpse ... He put these people down on paper as they were, and he made them talk and think in the language they customarily used for these purposes. "*

*"If not the greatest, Dashiell Hammett is certainly the most important American mystery writer of the twentieth century, and second in history only to Edgar Allen Poe, who essentially invented the genre."*

Tony Hillerman

*"As a novelist of realistic intrigue, Hammett was unsurpassed in his own or any time... We all came out from under Hammett's black mask."*

Ross Macdonald

*"Take your Chandler friend by the hand, put a piece of tape over his mouth, and tell him to just shut up and hear how it ought to be done. Hammett's style does not date, as does Chandler's, and The Glass Key puts to shame every other hard-boiled writer."*

Dilys Winn in Murder Ink

Or, a perhaps the last word should go to Hammett himself who once confessed to his daughter Josephine:

*"I've been as bad an influence on American literature as anyone I can think of."*

## SOME NOTES FROM HAMMETT'S BIOGRAPHY

He grew up on the streets of Philadelphia and Baltimore. He became a detective at the ripe old age of nineteen when he joined the Baltimore branch of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, housed in the Continental Building.

Hammett not only talked the talk, but he also walked the walk -- he actually was a private detective. He learned the detective racket from James Wright, a short, squat, tough-talking operative, whom Hammett came to idolize (and who would later supposedly serve as the inspiration for The Continental Op). Years later, Lillian Hellman, Hammett's off-and-on friend and lover, wrote of "the bad cuts on his legs and the indentations in his head from being scrappy with criminals."

Hammett left the Pinkertons in 1918, and enlisted in the Army, but tuberculosis contracted while in service prompted his medical discharge less than a year later. In fact, Hammett suffered from poor health, including bouts of tuberculosis and alcoholism, for the rest of his life. By 1934, Hammett's career as a published writer was essentially over. He had met Lillian Hellman, a script reader with ambitions to be a playwright the previous autumn, and they would soon embark on a long, tumultuous and often tawdry relationship, full of high drama and cocktails, politics and art. Alas, very little of the art was Hammett's.

In 1942, swept with patriotic fever, Hammett, then forty-eight, enlisted in the American Army and was stationed in the Aleutians. Lillian and he had always been active in leftist politics, lending their names to various progressive causes, but with the end of WWII, the political pendulum had definitely swung the other way. In 1951, Hammett was called to testify in the trial of four communists accused of conspiring against the U.S. government. He declined to "name names," and went to prison for five months, despite his failing health. He was fifty-seven at the time. Hellman herself was eventually hauled before HUAC, and ordered to testify and to name names. Likewise defiant, she let loose with a powerful speech condemning the entire process, and the senators backed down.

Dashiell Hammett died on January 10, 1961.

# RAYMOND CHANDLER

Although his work enjoys general acclaim today, Chandler has been criticized for certain aspects of his writing. The *Washington Post* reviewer Patrick Anderson described his plots as "rambling at best and incoherent at worst" and criticized Chandler's treatment of black, female, and homosexual characters, calling him a "rather nasty man at times".<sup>[10]</sup> Anderson nevertheless praised Chandler as "probably the most lyrical of the major crime writers".

Chandler's short stories and novels are evocatively written, conveying the time, place and ambiance of Los Angeles and environs in the 1930s and 1940s.<sup>[10]</sup> The places are real, if pseudonymous: Bay City is [Santa Monica](#), Gray Lake is [Silver Lake](#), and Idle Valley a synthesis of wealthy San Fernando Valley communities.

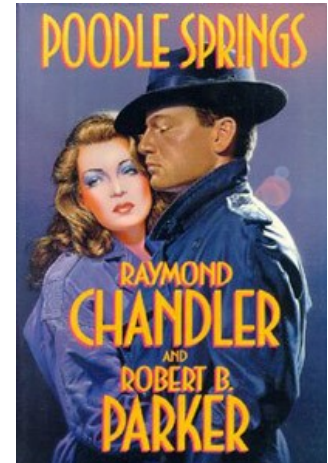
Without him, what we know today as the hard-boiled crime tale might be quite different—probably less literary in aim, if not always in execution. Chandler took the raw, realistic intrigue style that **Dashiell Hammett**, had begun cooking up in post-World War I America, and gave it an artistic bent, filling his fiction with evocative metaphors and sentences that refuse to shed their cleverness with age ("It was a blonde. A blonde to make a bishop kick a hole in a stained glass window"; "She sat in front of her princess dresser trying to paint the suitcases out from under her eyes.").

Chandler relished mystery writing because it seemed to lack pretension, and the pulps' restrictions on word length and subject matter compelled him to master the art of storytelling. Never a past master of plotting, Chandler found his own strengths instead in creating emotion through description and dialogue, and in presenting a prose idiom that melded the precision of his prep-school English with the vigor of American vernacular speech.

His first novel, ***The Big Sleep*** (which he wrote in three months), hit bookstores in 1939 and introduced the character who would come to be synonymous with, and long outlive, his creator: wisecracking, chess-playing, late-30s L.A. private eye **Philip Marlowe**. Marlowe embodied the author's conception (spelled out in his classic 1944 essay, "The Simple Art of Murder") of the gumshoe .

When Raymond Chandler died, he left behind an unfinished manuscript titled ***The Poodle Springs Story***, which Robert B. Parker (a novelist who shows distinctive

Chandlerian influences in his own novels, featuring a Boston P.I. named Spenser) would complete and see published, as simply ***Poodle Springs***, in 1989.



The author left in his wake, too, a stylistic legacy that has inspired successive generations of detective novelists; without Chandler (along with Hammett and Macdonald) having shown them the way, people such as Parker, Michael Connelly, Timothy Harris, Arthur Lyons, Max Allan Collins, Robert Crais, Walter Mosley, Sara Paretsky, and Loren D. Estleman might never have found their way into writing crime fiction.

The impact of his legacy has far exceeded the limits of his artistic fabrication. He gave the world an indelible image of mid-20th-century Los Angeles as a city where lawlessness and luxury were old drinking buddies, and trust was a rare commodity—a rather different place from what Chandler himself had encountered during his first, pre-World War I foray to Southern California. (In *The Little Sister*, he has Marlowe say, "I used to like this town. A long time ago. ... [It] was just a big dry sunny place with ugly homes and no style, but goodhearted and peaceful.") This author also bequeathed us an archetype of the fictional private eye as a tired latter-day knight who, though he has traded his helmet for a fedora, still knows how to rescue a damsel in distress. That archetype has been altered in the decades since Chandler's demise, but its shadow can still be seen behind many of the crime-novel protagonists working today.



# FROM THE SIMPLE ART OF MURDER

*In everything that can be called art there is a quality of redemption. It may be pure tragedy, if it is high tragedy, and it may be pity and irony, and it may be the raucous laughter of the strong man. But down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid. The detective in this kind of story must be such a man. He is the hero, he is everything. He must be a complete man and a common man and yet an unusual man. He must be, to use a rather weathered phrase, a man of honor -- by instinct, by inevitability, without thought of it, and certainly without saying it. He must be the best man in his world and a good enough man for any world. I do not care much about his private life; he is neither a eunuch nor a satyr; I think he might seduce a duchess and I am quite sure he would not spoil a virgin; if he is a man of honor in one thing, he is that in all things.*

*He is a relatively poor man, or he would not be a detective at all. He is a common man or he could not go among common people. He has a sense of character, or he would not know his job. He will take no man's money dishonestly and no man's insolence without a due and dispassionate revenge. He is a lonely man and his pride is that you will treat him as a proud man or be very sorry you ever saw him. He talks as the man of his age talks -- that is, with a rude wit, a lively sense of the grotesque, a disgust for sham, and a contempt for pettiness.*

*The story is this man's adventure in search of a hidden truth, and it would be no adventure if it did not happen to a man fit for adventure. He has a range of awareness that startles you, but it belongs to him by right, because it belongs to the world he lives in. If there were enough like him, the world would be a very safe place to live in, without becoming too dull to be worth living in."*

*"But down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid. He is the hero; he is everything. He must be a complete man and a common man and yet an unusual man. He must be, to use a rather weathered phrase, a man of honor—by instinct, by inevitability, without thought of it, and certainly without saying it. He must be the best man in his world and a good enough man for any world.*

*"He will take no man's money dishonestly and no man's insolence without a due and dispassionate revenge. He is a lonely man and his pride is that you will treat him as a proud man or be very sorry you ever saw him.*

*"The story is this man's adventure in search of a hidden truth, and it would be no adventure if it did not happen to a man fit for adventure. If there were enough like him, the world would be a very safe place to live in, without becoming too dull to be worth living in."*

— Raymond Chandler

## A FEW MORE CHANDLER QUOTES

*"From 30 feet away she looked like a lot of class. From 10 feet away she looked like something made up to be seen from 30 feet away."*

— , *The High Window*

*"It was a blonde. A blonde to make a bishop kick a hole in a stained-glass window."*

— *Farewell, My Lovely*

*"You talk too damn much and too damn much of it is about you."*

— , *The Long Goodbye*

*"The streets were dark with something more than night."*

*"The French have a phrase for it. The bastards have a phrase for everything and they are always right. To say goodbye is to die a little."*

— *The Long Goodbye*

*Dead men are heavier than broken hearts."*

— *The Big Sleep*

*The flood of print has turned reading into a process of gulping rather than savoring.*

Much of the information in this newsletter about Chandler or Hammett is found on the website Thrilling Detective or from Wikipedia

## NEW BOOKS DUE IN JULY

**Abbott, Jeff. *Blame*.** In a standalone thriller, after a car crash a 17-year-old girl loses her memory and her best friend's boyfriend loses his life, and two years later when someone begins sending her threatening online messages, she begins to recover her memories only to realize that everyone in her life is hiding the truth.

**Agee, Jonis. *The Bones of Paradise*.** Ten years after the massacre at Wounded Knee, a rancher in the Sandhills of Nebraska is found murdered beside a young native woman in a western mystery that is part family saga and part history of a harsh and beautiful country. I loved this.

**Atkins, Ace. *The Fallen*.** Mississippi sheriff Quinn Colsen is on the trail of a gang of bank robbers who rob with the speed and organization that he himself learned as a highly trained Army Ranger in another crime story of corrupt politicians, dysfunctional families, and good old-fashioned greed.

**Bilal, Parker. *Dark Water*.** Cairo policeman Makana is approached by the British Intelligence Service to help them capture a terrorist specializing in biochemical weapons, but the mission means he must go to Istanbul, a city he doesn't know, with dangers he doesn't realize.

**Blake, James Carlos. *The Friends of Pancho Villa*.** A novel about the famous revolutionary hero of Mexico, who used to come to Tucson to buy cattle and horses.

**Box, C.J. *Paradise Valley*.** A disgraced North Dakota sheriff's officer is on the hunt for a serial killer known as the Lizard King, but when a troubled kid she has mentored goes missing, she realizes that her search has brought danger to her doorstep.

**Brookmyre, Christopher. *The Last Hack*.** Jack Parlabane agrees to help a teenager who is being blackmailed online after someone discovers that she is supporting herself and her younger sister by hacking.

**Castillo, Linda. *Down a Dark Road*.** Police Chief Kate Burkholder must find an escaped murderer, a man she knew as a child, and who claims to have fled to prove his innocence.

**Connelly, Michael - *The Late Show*** - 1st in a new series. Renee Ballard is a nightshift LAPD detective who investigates crimes until dawn – when she hands them over to the day shift detectives. She was given the assignment as punishment for filing a sexual harassment complaint against her superior..

**Connolly, John. *A Game of Ghosts*** PI Charlie Parker is hired by an FBI agent to track down another missing PI who has been investigating a series of homicides that occur after hauntings in a fusion of noir and the supernatural.

**Corby, Gary. *Death on Delos*.** Athenian investigator Nico is asked by Pericles to solve a murder during a visit to the sacred island of Delos to move the treasury to safety in Athens.

**Davis, Lindsey.. *The Third Nero*.** Flavia Alba is hired by one of the Emperor Domitian's men to investigate when a man appears claiming to be Nero, but then a second appears in Parthia rousing support for his claim to the throne.

**Delaney, Kathleen. *Blood Red, White, and Blue*** In the third in this cozy series for dog-lovers, retired teacher Mary McGill and her cocker spaniel find the body of a tourist while cleaning up after the Independence Day celebration, and with the help of her dog-loving friends, she investigates the shooting.

**Fairstein, Linda. *Deadfall*.** When an iconic public figure close to her is murdered, ADA Alexander Cooper vows to find the killer in a case that takes her through the urban jungle to big-game hunting to the illegal animal trade to the zoos of NYC.

**Farnsworth, Christopher - *Flashmob*** Gifted troubleshooter John Smith, introduced in the acclaimed thriller *Killfile*, must take down a shadowy figure who has weaponized the internet, using social media to put a price on the heads of his targets

**Fluke, Joanna - *The Stepchild*** Kathi Ellison is an English literature major at the University of California in Berkeley, living with her boyfriend off-campus. She is also the daughter of a candidate for the U.S. Senate

**Hamilton, Glen Erik. *Every Day Above Ground*.** When a dying ex-con asks for his help in retrieving a fortune in lost gold to leave a legacy for his pre-teen daughter's future, Van Shaw agrees to help, but the whole thing is a set-up, and the two men, along with the girl, are in serious danger.

**Hammer, Lotte. *The Lake*.** When the body of an unidentified woman is found in a lake north of Copenhagen, the local police turn the case over to Konrad Simonsen, who finds that the woman is key to unravelling a ring of trafficking and prostitution.

**Hart, Elsa. *The White Mirror*.** When a caravan stops at the manor house of an aristocrat during a snowstorm, exiled librarian Li Du investigates the murder of a monk, which his family dismisses as a bizarre suicide in the second in this series set in eighteenth-century China.

**Hilton, L.S. *Domina*.** In the second in this fascinating trilogy, art gallery owner and femme fatale (literally) Judith Rashleigh has settled in Rome, but the discovery of a body in Ibiza causes her to realize that she's become involved in a cache of stolen paintings, and she's soon on the run in the most glamorous spots in Europe..

**Hoag, Tami - *The Boy*** - The police in this small Louisiana town are baffled by the murder of a young boy. The mother's story makes no sense. She's seen as both victim and the accused. Things change when a babysitter goes missing.

**Howells, Debbie. *Part of the Silence*.** When a woman is found left for dead in a cornfield, she awakens in the hospital asking for her three-year-old daughter, but the authorities can find no evidence that the girl exists in a twisty novel of psychological suspense.

**Johansen, Iris, and Roy Johansen - *Look Behind You*** A serial killer is on the loose in San Diego with a most unusual M.O. With each kill, the perpetrator leaves behind mystifying random objects. Kendra Michaels, hired gun for both the CIA and FBI, uses her acute powers of observation to assist in cases all over the United States.

**Kamal**, Sheena. *The Lost Ones*. A PI who gave up her daughter for adoption fifteen years before is contacted by the adoptive father when the girl disappears after the police label her a chronic runaway and refuse to help in the first of a new series.

**Kelly**, Diane. *Enforcing the Paw*. Fort Worth police officer Megan Luz and her K9 partner Brigit investigate when a woman claims that she is being stalked by her ex, but they begin to suspect that the woman may be out for revenge at having been jilted as the case becomes more dangerous.

**Khan**, Vaseem. *The Strange Disappearance of a Bollywood Star*. Inspector Chopra and Ganesha, his baby elephant (who's great at surveillance) are hired by the mother of a missing film star to find her son, amid the jealousies, feuds, death threats, and failed investments of the movie industry in Mumbai.

**Lange**, Richard. *The Smack*. A petty conman working a phone scam in Reno meets a hooker with a desire for a better life—and the knowledge of a fortune smuggled out of Afghanistan—so together they go to Los Angeles for the score of a lifetime. t.

**Loehfelm**, Bill. *The Devil's Muse*. When a shooting occurs during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, cop Maureen Coughlin and her colleagues have their hands full trying to help the victims and find the perp.

**McCafferty**, Keith. *Cold Hearted River*. The death of a woman stranded in a spring snowstorm leads Montana sheriff Martha Ettinger and detective Sean Stranahan on the trail of a mysterious steamer trunk that may contain a missing manuscript by Ernest Hemingway in the latest in this excellent western series.

**Meade**, Glenn. *Unquiet Ghosts*. A woman who believes that her husband and children died in a plane crash discovers that he disappeared on purpose after uncovering evidence of the \$8 billion that completely disappeared during the Iraq War (and yes, that \$8 billion *did* disappear and has never been investigated to this day).

**Peters**, Elizabeth and Joan Hess. *The Painted Queen*. The final installment in the Amelia Peabody series finds the archaeologist and her husband in Cairo in 1912, hunting for a priceless stolen bust of Queen Nefertiti, when Amelia becomes the target of assassins.

**Phillips**, Gin. *Fierce Kingdom*. A mother visiting a suburban zoo with her child sees something as they are leaving that send the two of them fleeing danger in a suspenseful thriller that takes place during the course of three hours.

**Pretorius**, Michelle. *The Monster's Daughter*. When a police constable in a small South African town investigates the murder of a woman she discovers connections to secret medical experiments performed by a British doctor on children in a concentration camp during the Boer War.

**Rees**, Matt. *China Strike*. When thousands of cars speed out of control in the U.S. and Europe creating a horrendous death toll, ICE special agent Verrazzano is called in to talk to a prisoner who claims to have knowledge of the plot and a more horrific plot in the works.

**Reichs**, Kathy. *Two Nights*. A standalone novel of suspense featuring a woman with a dark past who agrees to help a family find their missing daughter who disappeared in the confusion of a bomb blast.

**Rose**, M.J. *Library of Light and Shadow*. A woman flees to the south of France from NYC after WWI after one of her scandalous drawings causes a tragedy in a mix of history, mystery, and magical arts.

**Rosenfelt**, David. *Collared*. When a dog left at the Tara Foundation turns out to be a dog that was kidnapped along with a baby 2 1/2 years before, Andy Carpenter investigates to see if the baby might still be found.

**Schwegel**, Theresa. *The Lies We Tell*. A Chicago police officer is keeping secret her diagnosis of MS, but when she runs into a suspect wanted for assault in the hospital, she knows that she must find him before her colleagues do in order to protect her secret.

**Silva**, Daniel. *House of Spies*. Gabriel Allon follows the clues after a deadly terrorist attack in the U.S. and London to a wealthy drug seller in Saint-Tropez and his fashion-model wife, whom he uses to bring down the cunning and deadly terrorist known as Saladin.

**Spann**, Susan. *Betrayal at Iga*. In autumn of 1565, ninja Hiro Hattori and a Portuguese priest take refuge with Hattori's ninja clan, but a murder creates the threat of a war between rival clans, so they must find the killer immediately.

**Thomsen**, Lesley. *The Dog Walker*. Part-time detective Stella Darnell is hired to investigate the cold-case disappearance of a woman who went running with her dog in 1987, leading to murder, suicide, betrayal, and obsession among the neighbors, in a case that hinges on the dogs that people walk.

**Toyne**, Simon. *The Boy Who Saw*. A man who has no memory of who he is, only clothes with the name Solomon Creed, goes to the south of France where he discovers a corpse with a Star of David carved on the chest, sending him on a hunt to discover why survivors of a Nazi death camp are being killed—and what this has to do with his identity.

**Tremayne**, Peter. *Penance of the Damned*. Sister Fidelma is sent to investigate when the King's trusted advisor is killed in a locked room, with the commander of the King's bodyguard standing over the body.

**Van Lente**, Fred. *Ten Dead Comedians*. In a contemporary take-off on an Agatha Christie mystery, nine Hollywood comedians are invited to an island retreat by a legendary comic, but when they arrive, there is no cell-phone service, no wifi—and someone is murdering them one by one.

**Wilson**, Andrew. *A Talent for Murder*. In 1926, Agatha Christie disappeared for 10 days, finally found at a seaside hotel: from this Wilson crafts a mystery of blackmail and murder with Christie using all her talent to avoid being coerced into committing a murder herself, told in the voice of the grande dame of mystery herself.

**Wortham**, Reavis Z. *Hawke's Prey*. In the first of a new action series, a Texas Ranger must fight against terrorists who take over a west Texas courthouse, holding the survivors of the attack hostage.

## THE READING LISTS



Raymond Chandler



Dashiell Hammett

### Series

#### Philip Marlowe

1. The Big Sleep (1939)
2. Farewell, My Lovely (1940)
3. The High Window (1942)
4. The Lady in the Lake (1943)
5. The Little Sister (1949)
6. The Long Goodbye (1953)
7. Playback (1958)
8. Poodle Springs (1989) (with Robert B Parker)

### Collections

Trouble Is My Business (1939)  
Five Murders (1944)  
Five Sinister Characters (1945)  
The Finger Man (1946)  
Spanish Blood (1946)  
The Simple Art of Murder (1950)  
Pearls Are a Nuisance (1953)  
Smart-Aleck Kill (1953)  
Killer in the Rain (1964)  
The Smell of Fear (1965)  
The Notebooks of Raymond Chandler (1976)

### Novels

Red Harvest (1929; The Continental Op)...  
The Dain Curse (1929; The Continental Op)...  
The Maltese Falcon (1930; Sam Spade)...  
The Glass Key (1931; Ned Beaumont)..  
The Thin Man (1934; Nick and Nora Charles)...  
Woman in the Dark (1988)...Originally serialized  
in 1933 in Liberty Magazine

### Collections

A Man Called Spade (1944, Sam Spade)  
The Continental Op (1945; The Continental Op)  
The Return of the Continental Op (1945; )  
Hammett Homicides (1946; The Continental Op  
Dead Yellow Women (1947; The Continental Op  
Nightmare Town (1948; The Continental Op )  
The Creeping Siamese (1950; The Continental  
Op )  
Woman in the Dark (1952; collects original  
novella and other stories)  
A Man Called Thin (1962).  
The Big Knockover (1966; The Continental Op  
The Continental Op (1974;  
Nightmare Town (1999)...  
Lost Stories (2005)....