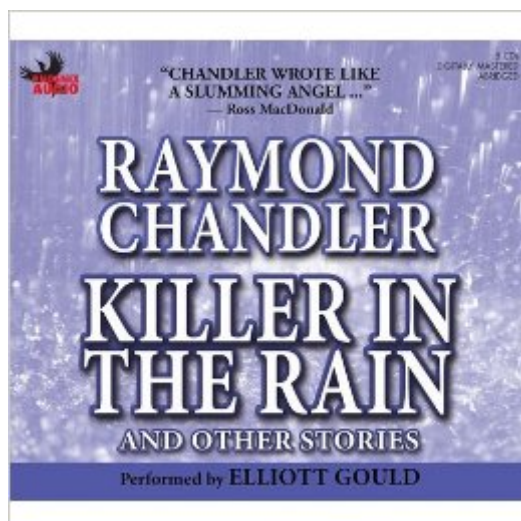


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Killer In The Rain



Synopsis

It was in the pulp detective magazines of the 1930s that Raymond Chandler's definitive take on the hard-boiled detective story first appeared. Here then, from the well-thumbed pages of "Black Mask" and "Dime Detective Magazine", are eight of his finest stories including "The Man Who Liked Dogs", "The Lady in the Lake" and "Bay City Blues". Sharper than a hoodlum's switchblade, more exciting than an unexpected red-head and stronger than a double shot of whisky, they are packed full of the punchy poetry and laconic wit that makes Chandler the undisputed master of his genre. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What the description fails to mention is that Raymond Chandler did not allow this particular group of stories to be republished after their initial appearances in pulp magazines of the thirties. The reason? These were the eight stories that Chandler cannibalized to form the substance and sub-plots of: *The Black Sleep* [taken from "The Curtain" and "Killer In The Rain"], *Farewell My Lovely* [using "The Man Who Liked Dogs", "Try The Girl" and "Mandarin's Jade"], and *The Lady In The Lake* [assembled with "Bay City Blues", "Lady In The Lake", and "No Crime In The Mountains"], the first, second and fourth, respectively, of his seven novels featuring the archetypal noir detective Philip Marlowe. (The *High Window*, *The Little Sister* and its follow-up *The Long Goodbye* were all wholly originated as novels, while *Playback* was rewritten from an unused treatment that did not originally have Marlowe as a character) Several years after Chandler's death in 1959, Ballantine Books, which in the '60s and '70s had the licensing rights to Chandler's work, went ahead and published these as a group in the book

we have here, *Killer In The Rain*.

The 'Introduction' by Philip Durham explains why these 8 short stories were suppressed during Raymond Chandler's lifetime: they were "cannibalized" to become part of his novels. Changes were also made to the characters, and passages were expanded with more details. Chandler worked for years as a Hollywood scriptwriter to polish dialogue for films. He had the talent to this. Before becoming a writer Chandler was an oil executive and learned about the wealthy whose lives figure in his stories. The many drinking scenes in these stories raise the question of product placement. "Killer in the Rain" tells about the spoiled daughter of a newly rich oil millionaire. Carmen has been paying off a "rare book" dealer who has her nude photos. The interpersonal conflict results in dead bodies. Chandler studied the classics. This story could be compared to some opera or a Shakespearean tragedy. ["The Big Sleep" is an expanded version of this story.] "The Man Who Liked Dogs" has investigator Carmady searching for a missing dog. The young woman who owned him left home and is also missing. There is plenty of action and dead bodies to thrill the readers. ["Farewell, My Lovely" used parts of this story.] "The Curtain" begins when an old friend tells Carmady what he knows about the missing Dud O'Mara. Soon after this old friend leaves there is a flurry of shots. Now Carmady has the news that killed his pal. He is threatened by the two who killed his pal, but turns the tables. Does the apple fall far from the tree? [This story was part of "The Big Sleep".] The shooting of Larry Batzel seems implausible except for drama. "Try the Girl" tells of a huge man who was just released from prison and is looking for his old girlfriend. Carmady tries to find Beulah the singer.

When you're a struggling writer just starting out, it can be hell getting anything published, even if your stories are better than anything else on the market. When you become a "famous writer," editors are not only eager to publish your new stories but are willing to take a look at past efforts, even to publish novels based on what you previously wrote, but you still have control over what is and is not published. However, when you're a "great writer" who is now sleeping the big sleep, you lose all control over your own fiction and anyone can publish anything, whether you like it or not. And that is how "Killer in the Rain" came into being, a collection of eight short stories that Chandler had previously published in pulp magazines but which he did not include in collections of his short stories or, knowingly, in anthologies because he had "cannibalized" them to create three of the novels for which is most well known -- "The Big Sleep," "Farewell, My Lovely," and "The Lady in the Lake." As you read through these stories you will be assaulted by a heavy sense of *deja vu*, even

though many of the name and situations are different. And though the detective at the hearts of these stories is either unnamed or called Carmady or something, you could easily change it to Marlowe without changing anything about the story or the established character of Philip Marlowe. Of course, the reason, officially, for bringing out these stories against Chandler's long-standing opposition is to give fans and critics a look at the source stories that create three classic detective novels; the real reason -- it's just business. Reading these stories will not change your opinion about Raymond Chandler, to the good or the bad.

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