

PENZLER PUBLISHERS

WINTER 2025



AMERICAN
MYSTERY
CLASSICS

JAN

A tenacious attorney grapples with a dangerous group of thieves in this new thriller from the author of *The Old Man*.

Pro Bono

Thomas Perry

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

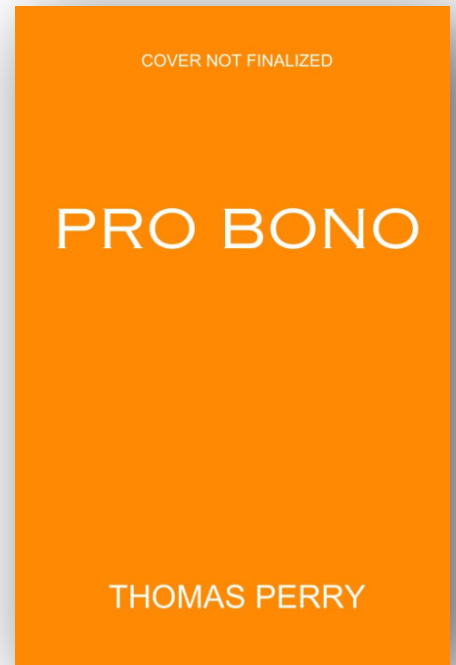
Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including *Shelf Awareness*, *CrimeReads*, and more

Targeted promotions with thriller reader online outlets



Charles Warren, Los Angeles attorney, has dedicated his career to aiding people in financial straits. He is particularly skilled at the art of recovering assets that have been embezzled or hidden. In his newest case, helping a beautiful young widow find the money missing from her late husband's investment accounts, Charlie recognizes a familiar scheme—one that echoes the con job that targeted his own widowed mother many years before, and that led him, as a teenager, to commit a crime of retribution that still weighs on his conscience.

Charlie can't get the present case out of his mind, but within hours of starting his investigation, he is followed, shot at, and has his briefcase stolen. It's clear that someone doesn't want him following the trail of the missing money but, as Charlie continues to pursue answers, he quickly becomes too entangled in the web of fraud, betrayal, and career criminals surrounding the theft to escape its deadly snare.

A nail-biting tale of conspiracy and pursuit from Thomas Perry, "a dominating force in the world of contemporary suspense thrillers" (*Publishers Weekly*), *Pro Bono* will have readers looking over their shoulders as constantly as they keep turning pages.



THOMAS PERRY is the bestselling author of over twenty novels, including the critically acclaimed Jane Whitefield series, *The Old Man*, and *The Butcher's Boy*, which won the Edgar Award. He lives in Southern California.



SUBJECT: THRILLER
FORMAT: HARDCOVER
PRICE: \$27.95
SPECS: 6 X 9
ISBN: 978-1-61316-616-1
PUB DATE: JANUARY 14, 2025

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Hero
(new in paperback 1/14)
\$27.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-477-8
Murder Book
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-508-9
The Left-Handed Twin
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-366-5

JAN

A former postal inspection agent tracks a violent crew through the Midwest to rescue a kidnapped woman in this new thriller full of “heart-pounding action and twists from start to finish” (Reed Farrel Coleman).

The Mailman

Andrew Welsh-Huggins

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

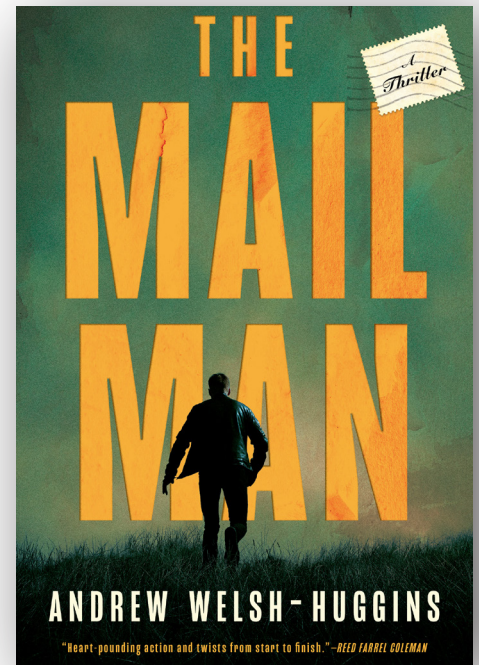
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Targeted promotions with thriller reader online outlets

Galleys at BoucherCon



Mercury Carter is a deliveryman who takes his job very seriously. When a parcel is under his care, he will stop at nothing to deliver it. Not even, in the current case, when he finds a crew of violent men at the indicated address who threaten his life and take the woman who lives there hostage. That’s because Carter’s skillset from his former life as a federal agent with the postal inspection service makes him useful for delivering items in dangerous circumstances like these.

After Carter dispatches the goons sent to kill him, he enters a home besieged by criminals—but the gang leader escapes with attorney Rachel Stanfield before the mailman can complete his assignment. With Rachel’s husband Glenn in tow, Carter hunts the kidnapper across Indiana, up to Chicago, and into small-town Illinois. He slowly picks off crew members and uncovers a far-reaching conspiracy and a powerful crime syndicate, all to reach his main objective: hand the package over to Rachel.

Introducing a new lone-wolf protagonist to rival Lee Child’s Jack Reacher, Steve Hamilton’s Nick Mason, and Gregg Hurwitz’s Evan Smoak, *The Mailman* is a pulse-pounding series opener with captivating action and enough thrills to leave readers anxiously awaiting the next installment.



ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS is the Shamus, Derringer, and ITW-award-nominated author of the Andy Hayes Private Eye series and editor of *Columbus Noir*. *Library Journal* called his latest crime novel, *The End of The Road*, one of the best thrillers of 2023. His short fiction has appeared in multiple magazines and anthologies.



SUBJECT: THRILLER
FORMAT: HARDCOVER
PRICE: \$26.95
SPECS: 6 X 9
ISBN: 978-1-61316-610-9
PUB DATE: JANUARY 28, 2025

ALSO AVAILABLE:
The End of the Road
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-511-9

MARCH

A secretive vigilante group called Edge cleanses Galway of its worst criminals. But when someone starts picking off Edge members, private detective Jack Taylor steps in to investigate.

Galway's Edge A Jack Taylor Mystery Ken Bruen

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

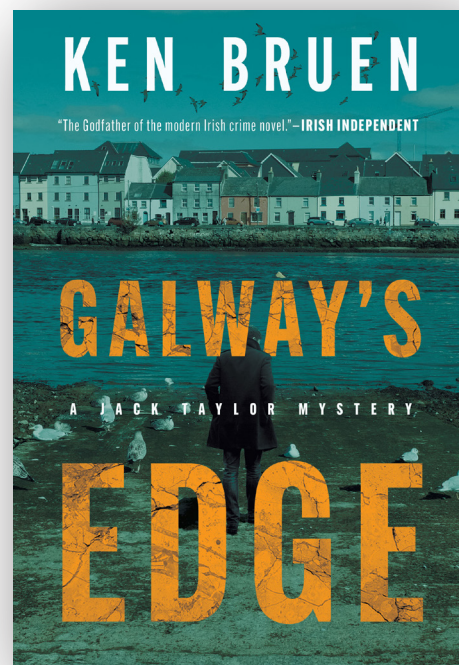
Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including *Shelf Awareness*, *CrimeReads*, and more

Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets



Edge, a shadow organization made up of the most powerful figures in Galway society, exists to rid the city of criminals and abusers who have evaded the law. Long wary of the organization, the Vatican is not pleased when rumors start swirling that one of the Catholic Church's own priests has joined its ranks. And who better to ask to intercede than the whiskey-swiggling ex-cop who always seems to have one foot in the pub and another among Ireland's clergy?

Lately, Jack has been spending his days sitting at the bedside of a man he put into a coma and taking care of a little dog named Trip, bequeathed to him by a dead nun. Then an envoy to the Archdiocese shows up at his door, asking Jack to speak to a priest named Kevin Whelan and dissuade him from any involvement with Edge. Jack accepts the mission, but the next day Father Whelan is found dead, hanging from a rope in his own backyard.

Would Edge really kill one of their own? And if not, who else would be bold enough to take on the most powerful organization in the city? As more Edge members are murdered, the Vatican grows alarmed that someone even worse will take their place. It's up to Jack Taylor to nail the culprit before Edge is dissolved completely and Galway is thrown into chaos.



KEN BRUEN received a doctorate in metaphysics, taught English in South Africa, and then became a crime novelist. The critically acclaimed author of the Jack Taylor novels and the White Trilogy, he is the recipient of two Barry Awards and two Shamus Awards, and he has twice been a finalist for the Edgar Award. He lives in Galway, Ireland.



SUBJECT: MYSTERY
FORMAT: HARDCOVER
PRICE: \$26.95
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25
ISBN: 978-1-61316-600-0
PUB DATE: MARCH 4, 2025

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Galway Confidential
(new in paperback 2/25)
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-638-3

MARCH

In this case from early in Stewart Hoag's career, who *Kirkus* calls "always good company," the newly successful writer revisits his hometown to investigate the murder of a beloved librarian.

The Man Who Swore He'd Never Go Home Again

A Stewart Hoag Mystery
David Handler

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including *Shelf Awareness*, *CrimeReads*, and more

Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets

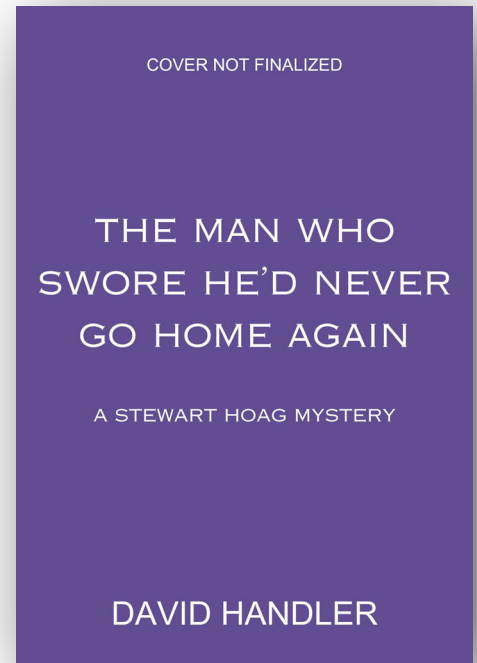
Stewart "Hoagy" Hoag swore that he would never return to Montdale, Connecticut, the small mill town where his family lived for generations. He has no desire to disrupt his high life as the newest great American novelist to revisit the town that hates his family. But when his childhood sweetheart phones to say that her mother, Mary McKenna, the librarian who inspired Hoagy's dream to be a writer, has died, he knows he has to return for her funeral. Especially since she didn't die of natural causes.

Hoagy hops in his Jaguar and heads to Montdale with his new girlfriend Merilee and even newer basset hound puppy Lulu in tow. The town where his family's brass mill once thrived is now a lead-poisoned ghost town filled with illegal drugs, violence, and bitterness. Hoagy is surprised to discover former classmate and bullying target, Pete Schlosski, has become the State Police Resident Trooper. But while Pete seems to have forgiven his past tormentors, he doesn't have any ideas as to which of them might be a killer. Hoagy, on the other hand, has learned plenty about the art of investigation from hours spent in the library, and his four-month-old puppy shows a surprising knack for tracking down clues...

Readers will be delighted to return to where it all began and experience Lulu's very first case in this charming installment of the Edgar Award-nominated Stewart Hoag series.



DAVID HANDLER is the Edgar Award-winning, critically acclaimed author of several bestselling mystery series. He began his career as a New York City reporter, and wrote his first two novels *Kiddo* (1987) and *Boss* (1988) about his Los Angeles childhood. In 1988 he published *The Man Who Died Laughing*, the first of his long-running series of mysteries starring ghostwriter Stewart Hoag and his faithful basset hound Lulu.



SUBJECT: MYSTERY
FORMAT: HARDCOVER
PRICE: \$26.95
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25
ISBN: 978-1-61316-613-0
PUB DATE: MARCH 18, 2025

ALSO AVAILABLE:
The Woman Who Lowered the Boom
(new in paperback 2/4)
\$17.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-637-6
The Girl Who Took What She Wanted
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-509-6
The Lady in the Silver Cloud
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-298-9

APRIL

The search for a kidnapped singer in Prohibition-era New York leads an intrepid reporter from Harlem speakeasies to the dazzling world of the theater, all while grappling with a forbidden passion.

Glitter in the Dark Olesya Lyuzna

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including *Shelf Awareness*, *CrimeReads*, and more

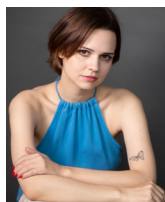
Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets



Ambitious advice columnist Ginny Dugan knows she's capable of more than solving other people's beauty problems, but her boss at *Photoplay* magazine thinks she's only fit for fluff pieces. When she witnesses the kidnapping of a famous singer at Harlem's hottest speakeasy, nobody takes her seriously, but Ginny knows what she saw—and what she saw haunts her.

Guilt-ridden over her failure to stop the kidnappers and hard-pressed for cash to finally move out of her uptight showgirl sister's apartment, Ginny resolves to chase down the truth that will clear her conscience and maybe win her a promotion in the process. She manipulates a brooding detective into a reluctant partnership and together they uncover a sinister plot that pulls them into the dazzling yet dangerous world of the Ziegfeld Follies. Meanwhile, Ginny grapples with a secret of her own—she's fallen for Gloria Gardner, the star of the show. In the Roaring Twenties, their love isn't just scandalous; it's illegal.

But when a brutal murder strikes someone close to her, Ginny realizes the stakes are higher than she ever imagined. This glamorous world has a deadly edge, and Ginny must shatter her every illusion to catch the shadowy killer before they strike again.



OLESYA LYUZNA is a historical fiction writer with a passion for queer noir. Her debut novel *Glitter in the Dark* was selected for a 2020 Pitch Wars mentorship by Layne Fargo and Halley Sutton. She lives in Toronto and spends her free time hosting murder mystery parties and scouring the archives for unsolved crimes.



SUBJECT: MYSTERY
FORMAT: PAPERBACK
PRICE: \$17.95
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25
ISBN: 978-1-61316-597-3
PUB DATE: APRIL 1, 2025

APRIL

In this compulsive debut thriller perfect for fans of Lucy Foley and Liane Moriarty, one detective's investigation into a family tragedy threatens to collapse a powerful dynasty...

See How They Fall

Rachel Paris

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including *Shelf Awareness*, *CrimeReads*, and more

Targeted promotions with thriller reader online outlets

When Skye married into the wealthy Campbell family, she thought she was entering paradise. But now, several years later, she remains uneasy amid the opulence of her husband's world, struggling with her own secrets and working to maintain a normal life for their young daughter, Tilly.

Skye's delicate balance is undone when the family patriarch, Sir Campbell Turner, dies suddenly and an illegitimate heir comes forward to stake his claim in the luxury goods empire the old man leaves behind. Reluctantly, the Turners receive the newcomer at an intimate weekend retreat at Yallambee, the family seaside estate, but tempers flare and egos clash within their first few hours together and the night ends in a tragedy that leaves one dead and another fighting for life.

Sergeant Mei O'Connor is assigned to investigate the incident and though her superiors are keen to close the case as swiftly as possible, the evidence just isn't lining up. Convinced that there's more to the suspicious death than a simple accident, Mei continues to search for answers. But pulling at these threads may just tear down the Turner empire.



RACHEL PARIS worked as a commercial lawyer in London and Auckland before writing her debut novel, *See How They Fall*. She holds a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School and a Master of Creative Writing from the University of Auckland. Rachel currently lives with her family in Auckland.



SUBJECT: THRILLER
FORMAT: PAPERBACK
PRICE: \$17.95
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25
ISBN: 978-1-61316-594-2
PUB DATE: APRIL 29, 2025

New York, Summer of 1965. Two children disappear . . . the mother must be guilty.

The Alice Crimmins Case

50 States of Crime

Anaïs Renevier

Translated by Laurie Bennett

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

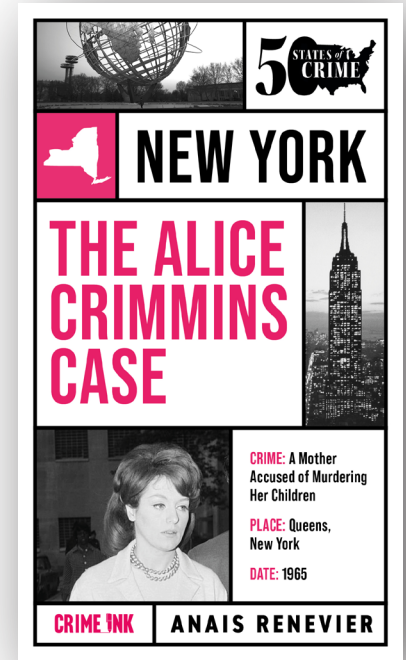
Pre-publication trade and library advertising

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Targeted promotions with true crime reader online outlets



One hot summer, two young children disappeared from their first-floor apartment in the Kew Gardens neighborhood of Queens, New York. Their mother, Alice Crimmins, reported them missing to the police. Later that day, the body of four-year-old Missy was found in a vacant lot, showing signs of having been strangled. The body of five-year-old Eddie, Jr., was found several days later.

Police were immediately suspicious of the mother. Recently divorced, with teased red hair and heavy makeup, Alice Crimmins did not fit the maternal ideal held by the predominantly Catholic police detectives on the case. Her every action was scrutinized: Was she behaving like an appropriately grief-stricken mother or like a cold-hearted killer? After three years of police surveillance, Alice was charged with the murder of her children in 1968 in a highly publicized trial. Ultimately found guilty of manslaughter, Alice spent a decade in prison before being released on parole in 1977.

But was she truly guilty, or just the victim of police bias and misogynistic judgment? Journalist Anaïs Renevier revisits the case, exploring one of the most famous and divisive trials in recent American history.

ANAI'S RENEVIER is a French journalist. She began her career in 2011 as a correspondent in Beirut, Lebanon, reporting about the Middle East for multiple international media outlets. As an independent reporter, she now regularly travels across the United States on investigative assignments. She likes to tell the country's story from the perspective of those living at the margins of society. Outside of her work as a journalist, she freelances as a florist and enjoys boxing. She lives in Marseille, France.

MARCH

California. 13 murders, 50 assaults, 42 years of investigation.

The Golden State Killer Case

50 States of Crime

William Thorp

Translated by Lynn E. Palermo

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

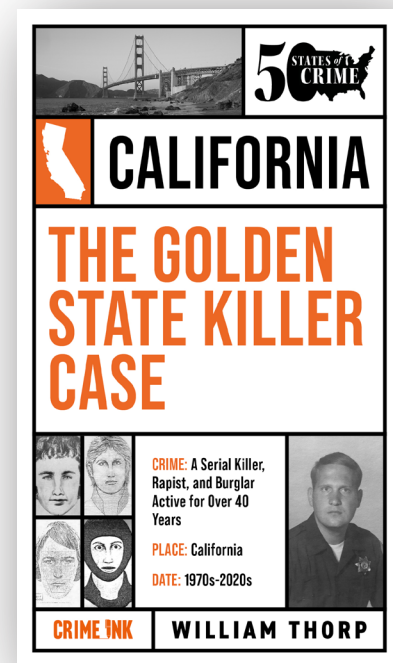
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Targeted promotions with true crime reader online outlets



In 2018, police announced that they had finally arrested the “Golden State Killer,” a man responsible for over 140 burglaries, 50 rapes and at least 13 murders committed in California throughout the 1970s and ’80s. That man turned out to be a former California police officer, Joseph James DeAngelo Jr.

Just two months earlier, the publication of *I’ll Be Gone in the Dark* by Michelle McNamara had rocked the world of true crime. Published two years after her death, the book charts McNamara’s obsessive search for the prolific criminal who had been known over the years as the East Area Rapist, the Original Night Stalker, and the Visalia Ransacker, among other epithets. McNamara is credited with coining the “Golden State Killer” moniker and heightening public awareness of the—at the time—still unsolved case.

William Thorp dives into the investigation, exploring the dark side of sunny California, the advances in forensic innovation that made solving this case possible, and the story inside the story—one of an amateur sleuth who dedicated the last years of her life to understanding how one of the country’s worst criminals could have spent so many decades undetected.

WILLIAM THORP is a reporter for *Vakita*, a French digital news media publication focusing on social issues and the environment. Previously, he was a journalist at *Society*, a news magazine, where, for five years, he covered stories in North America, Europe, and Africa. He started out investigating human interest stories in France before writing articles and long read while on international assignment.

**CRIME
INK**

SUBJECT: TRUE CRIME
FORMAT: PAPERBACK
PRICE: \$15.99
SPECS: 4.25 X 7
ISBN: 978-1-61316-631-4
PUB DATE: MARCH 11, 2025

APRIL

Ohio. A suicide, no fingerprints, no identity.

The Cleveland John Doe Case

50 States of Crime

Thibault Raisse

Translated by Laurie Bennett

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National print and online publicity

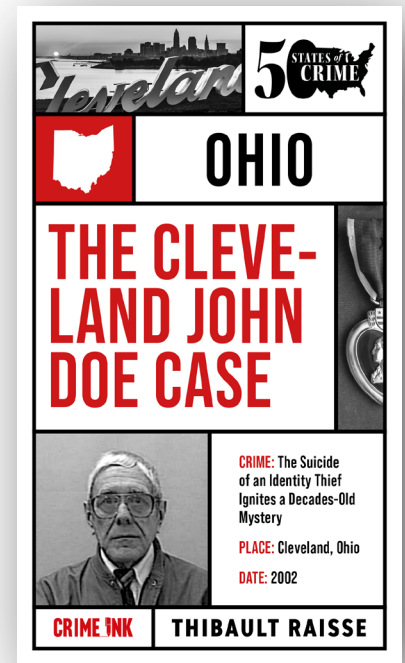
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Targeted promotions with true crime reader online outlets



In July 2002, the Eastlake police discovered a decomposed body in a modest studio apartment in Cleveland, Ohio. It appeared to be a suicide by firearm. The man was Joseph Newton Chandler III, a retiree whom neighbors and former colleagues described as quiet, secretive, and strange. But as the investigation progressed, less and less about Joseph's life and identity made sense.

In 2018, thanks to scientific advances in DNA, the man's true identity was finally discovered: Robert Ivan Nichols. A veteran with a wife and three sons, Nichols eventually left his family, telling his wife "One day you will know why." A few years later, in 1965, his family reported him missing. By 1978, he had stolen the identity of Joseph Newton Chandler III, who had been killed in a car accident at eight years old. But who was this man and why did he change his name? What secret was he trying to hide?

Thibault Raisse examines the case, exploring the many theories that have emerged, from the craziest to the most credible. Among these theories is a possible connection to the Zodiac Killer, whose murders date back to 1968 and 1969 in California.

Born in Paris, **THIBAUT RAISSÉ** was a staff reporter at *Le Parisien* daily newspaper for nine years. He now works as a freelance journalist for French magazines *Society* and *Elle*, with a special interest in unsolved crime stories. He co-authored the bestselling true crime book, *Xavier Dupont de Ligonnières: l'Enquête*, which was published in 2020.

**CRIME
INK**

SUBJECT: TRUE CRIME
FORMAT: PAPERBACK
PRICE: \$15.99
SPECS: 4.25 X 7
ISBN: 978-1-61316-633-8
PUB DATE: APRIL 15, 2025

JAN

NYPD's Lieutenant Valcour investigates how a philandering husband could have been murdered twice in one night in this Jazz Age whodunit.

Murder by the Clock

Rufus King

Introduction by Kelli Stanley

MORE AMATEUR SLEUTH TITLES

- The Greene Murder Case
- The Benson Murder Case
- The Mad Hatter Mystery
- The Eight of Swords
- The Problem of the Wire Cage



The body of Herbert Endicott is discovered by his wife at 8:37 pm, dead in his walk-in closet. The circumstances seem suspicious but there is no evidence of foul play, so Lieutenant Valcour, New York's most astute investigator, orders an autopsy on site. The doctor discovers a faint heartbeat and, with an injection of adrenaline, Endicott is alive again. But just a few hours later, he has been shot dead—this time for good.

From this puzzling set-up, an atmospheric and tense mystery ensues, with Valcour's research turning up more questions than answers. Before twenty-four hours are up, the solution will be uncovered.

Fans of S.S. Van Dine's Philo Vance will appreciate the introspective Lieutenant Valcour, who makes his series debut in *Murder by the Clock*.

RUFUS KING (1893–1966) was an American novelist, playwright, and screenwriter best known for his detective character Lieutenant Valcour, first introduced in *Murder by the Clock*.

AMERICAN
MYSTERY
CLASSICS

SUBJECT: AMATEUR SLEUTH / TRADITIONAL
FORMAT: HARDCOVER AND PAPERBACK

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-61316-623-9
\$15.95

PUB DATE: JANUARY 7, 2025
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25

HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-61316-622-2
\$25.95

A man is accused of a murder he cannot remember . . .
 “Tense in mood and exciting in event” (*New York Times*).

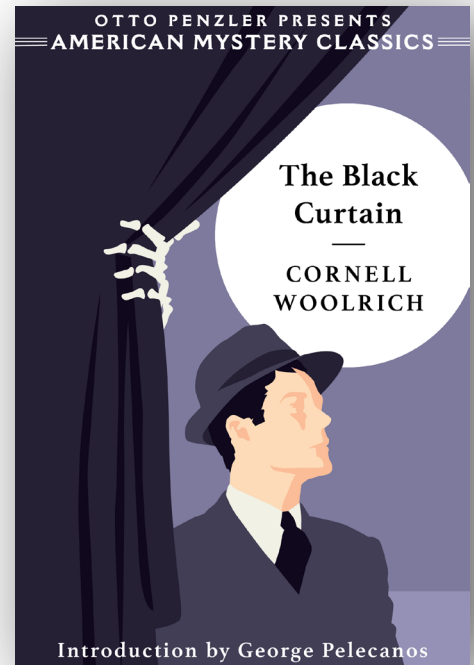
The Black Curtain

Cornell Woolrich

Introduction by George Pelecanos

MORE TITLES FROM CORNELL WOOLRICH

- [Deadline at Dawn](#)
- [The Bride Wore Black](#)
- [Waltz into Darkness](#)



In a nightmare scenario, Frank Townsend has an apparently minor accident on his way home but he arrives to find his wife gone and doesn't recognize his apartment. He had gone to work on a normal day but didn't return for more than three years. Suffering from amnesia, he has to rediscover who he is, where he has been, and what he has done. A curtain has fallen to cut off all memories of his life.

First among the memories he wants to recover is whether he has committed the murder of which he has been accused. A mysterious stranger with a gun has been following him while he attempts to simultaneously understand what has happened in his past while doing all he can to extricate himself from a seemingly hopeless situation and regain his reputation. He does not yet know that he is in great jeopardy and there is no one he can trust to rescue him from the abyss.

The Black Curtain is the second of Cornell Woolrich's celebrated "black" books, following *The Bride Wore Black*, which established his reputation as America's greatest noir writer. It was adapted into film as the classic *Street of Chance*, starring Burgess Meredith and Claire Trevor.

Born George Hopley-Woolrich, **CORNELL WOOLRICH** (1903–1968) is the pen name most often employed by one of America's best crime and noir writers, whose other pseudonyms included George Hopley and William Irish. His novels were among the first to employ the atmosphere, outlook, and impending sense of doom that came to be characterized as noir, and inspired some of the most famous films of the period.

MARCH

Elderly sleuth Rachel Murdock and her inquisitive pet cat head up into the mountains for another adventure in this beloved series and prime example of “top-notch mystery and detection” (*New York Times*).

Cat's Claw

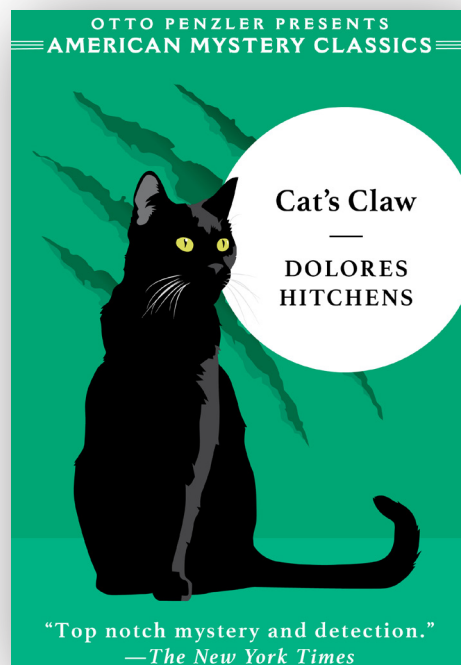
A Rachel Murdock Mystery

Dolores Hitchens

Introduction by Katherine Hall Page

MORE TITLES FROM DOLORES HITCHENS

- The Cat Wears a Noose
- The Alarm of the Black Cat
- The Cat Saw Murder



Unable to stop herself from investigating another murder, Rachel Murdock gets plenty of help from Samantha, the cat who follows her wherever she goes; her much less adventurous sister Jennifer; and Lieutenant Mayhew, who is grateful to have another sharp mind on the case.

Miss Rachel, her sister, and her cat are watching with undisguised interest a bandy-legged man who is spying on a house across the street until a speeding black sedan runs him down. The sisters are curious to know why the man was murdered—and just as baffled about what happened to the mysterious tenants of the house, who disappear the next day.

Their investigations take Miss Rachel and Samantha to the small mountain town of San Cayetano, where she gets entangled in a property conflict that could have deadly consequences.

DOLORES HITCHENS (1907–1973) was a highly prolific mystery author who wrote under multiple pseudonyms and in a range of styles. A large number of her books were published under the D. B. Olsen moniker (under which her “Cat” series was originally published), but she is perhaps best remembered today for her later novel, *Fool's Gold*, published under her own name, which was adapted as *Bande à part* by Jean-Luc Godard.

AMERICAN
MYSTERY
CLASSICS

SUBJECT: AMATEUR SLEUTH / TRADITIONAL
FORMAT: HARDCOVER AND PAPERBACK

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-61316-626-0
\$15.95

PUB DATE: MARCH 4, 2025
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25

HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-61316-625-3
\$25.95

APRIL

The discovery of a corpse turns a cross-country train journey into a closed-circle hunt for a killer in this “highly ingenious, entertaining and unusual tale” (*Daily Herald*).

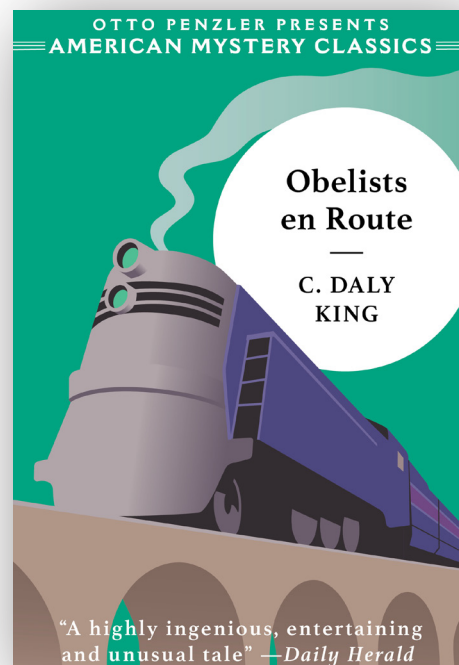
Obelists en Route

C. Daly King

Introduction by Otto Penzler

MORE TITLES FROM C. DALY KING

- [Obelists at Sea](#)



The magnificent Transcontinental Express, showcasing the cutting edge of mid-1930s luxury train travel, is making its first trip from New York to San Francisco. For its record-breaking maiden voyage—coast to coast in three days with no passenger stops—the express carries only invited guests, among them renowned businessmen, physicians, psychologists, and even a high-ranking member of the NYPD.

Among refined staterooms, an elegant dining car, and a “recreation room” for bridge, ping-pong, and dancing, the vehicle’s most lauded feature is the swimming pool car—which is precisely where the waterlogged corpse of a prominent banker is discovered just one day into the journey. Uncertain of the cause of death and fearing negative publicity, the conductor drives on for the West Coast, charging a select group of passengers, including the sharp-witted Dr. Pons, with the task of uncovering what has occurred—even as every new piece of evidence seems to suggest more perplexing possibilities.

Hopelessly rare in first edition and never before published in the United States, *Obelists en Route* is a brilliantly complex Golden Age mystery from one of the greatest American authors of the period. Besides its intriguing whodunit plot, the book’s period detail and locomotive setting make it a welcome rediscovery today.

C. DALY KING (1895–1963) was an American psychologist and detective story writer. He was born in New York City and educated at Yale University. After fighting in World War I, he worked in textiles and in advertising before returning to school to study psychology, with a particular focus on sleep and consciousness. In the 1930s, King published nine books that quickly established him as a master of the Golden Age mystery, but ceased writing fiction with the advent of World War II.

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