



## STARK HOUSE PRESS



December

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2016

Happy Holidays to one and all! And a Merry Christmas to those of you who still remember when this was the slogan of the season.

What we have here is one last, brief newsletter to finish off the year, and introduce our December books. Well, technically, one of them appeared in November, but we saved it for December anyway. And that's our second Edgar Wallace two-fer: *The Angel of Terror / Kate Plus 10*. These are two classic thrillers from 1917 and 1922 written by the author of *The Four Just Men* and the co-creator of *King Kong*.

Edgar Wallace wrote over 170 novels and nearly 1000 short stories, and more than 160 movies have been made from his works. Hard to believe, after all these years, that he isn't better known. But we say that a lot here at Stark House.

These two novels both have the distinction of featuring strong female villains—one refreshingly unrepentant, the other a good girl under the influence of bad company. But whether we're talking about the heartless Jean Briggerland, or the criminally clever Kate Westhanger, there is a chap in both books who loves her in spite of her wicked ways. If only they weren't on opposite sides of the law ...

Writer and editor of *Blood 'n' Thunder* magazine, Ed Hulse, has once again provided an informative introduction, this time discussing the movies that were made from *Kate Plus 10*. Filmed as *Wanted at Headquarters* in 1920 (now a lost silent film), *Queen of Crime* in 1938, and finally, *The Trygon Factor* in 1966—all to varying degrees of success—these are just three of the many films that have sprung from the novels of Edgar Wallace. As Hulse points out, new ones are still being produced today.



**Edgar Wallace**  
**The Angel of Terror / Kate Plus 10**  
**978-1-944520-15-1 \$19.95**

And finally, to finish up 2016, we have another great two-fer from A. S. Fleischman: *Shanghai Flame / Counterspy Express*. Even if you don't like spy fiction, you'll find much to charm you here. Fleischman writes the kind of books that makes you say to yourself, "why don't they write 'em like this anymore?"

The first book is set after the end of WWII, in the Communist-controlled part of Southeast Asia. Alex Cloud is trying to find a fellow newspaper-reporter who just happens to be the love of his life. Flame is trapped in Shanghai with a pack of cards with some incriminating microfilm glued inside them. Unfortunately, the last time they parted he was somewhat less than gallant, and she wants nothing to do with him. How do you rescue someone who hates the very air you breathe? The bantering tone brings to mind a rough-and-ready Robert Mitchum/Ava Gardner film from the early 1950s, and was in fact originally published by Gold Medal Books in 1951.

*Counterspy Express* takes us to the other side of the world to a European setting, as agent Jim Cabot tries to locate a defecting Russian scientist amid a world of shifting loyalties. This one is filled with the same great dialog and constant plot twists. Ace Books published it back in 1954 as one half of an Ace Double—it hasn't been in print since.

We were lucky enough to entice George Kelley—a marketing professor by day who writes a great blog on pulp fiction called "Forgotten Books" at <http://georgekelley.org/forgotten-books/>—to write an introduction for the book. He provides a well-researched biography of Sid Fleischman, and tells you everything you need to know about this fascinating man.



**A. S. Fleischman**  
**Shanghai Flame / Counterspy Express**  
**978-1-944520-14-4 \$19.95**

Copies of *Shanghai Flame/Counterspy Express* will ship right after Christmas if we can get them from the printer in time. We're taking a short bit of time off ourselves in the final week of the month, and will get the books out as soon as we can. It all depends on whether FedEx delivers them on time. Keep your fingers crossed....

Anyway, that's the last book of 2016. January starts with John Flagg. How can you resist a title like *Death and the Naked Lady*? More on this next month. In the meantime, here are a few recent critical quotes from reviews of our current releases:

## **Trouble Rides Tall/Cross the Red Creek/Desert Stake-Out by Harry Whittington**

“The three novels here highlight Whittington’s ability to pen varied and original western plots and to create engaging characters – and to surprise you with both suspenseful, even shocking, stories, and with the people populating them.”—Kristofer Upjohn, *Noir Journal*

“These three tales are as much crime stories as they are westerns: written in a tough, terse style, with plenty of shadows and featuring the type of hard-boiled character who is equally at home on the range and on the mean street... a joy to read.” — David Pitt, *Booklist Starred Review*

“Highly recommended... if these three Whittington novels are the only westerns crime fiction fans ever read, they will have experienced some of the best the genre has to offer.” —Alan Cranis, *Bookgasm*

## **The Woman on the Roof by Helen Nielsen**

“*The Woman on the Roof* is a rare example of a writer using a mentally ill character as a protagonist and not really caring if that lead role comes off as sympathetic. This is one of the better crime novels I've ever read in how it deals with mental illness and the fear that tends to ruin the lives of those afflicted with alternate perceptions and misaligned realities.”—John Norris, *Pretty Sinister Books*

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More sale books coming up in 2017, plus more great noir classics and a few new surprises. Happy New Year, folks!



Cheers,  
Greg Shepard, publisher  
Stark House Press

**Bring back the mystery!**

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HOUSE**