

STARK HOUSE PRESS

January

Newsletter, volume 5, issue 1

2016

It's always good to start the beginning of each new year by reminding all the newsletter readers of the benefits of joining the Stark House Crime Club. Three years ago, we were releasing about 6-8 books a year. Last year, we published 22 books. So right off the bat, we need to mention that, although you have access to all these new books as a Crime Club member, you won't automatically receive all these new books unless you want them. We realize that 20+ books is a lot to commit to after all.

The Crime Club was started to make it easy to keep up and collect all the new Stark House crime books, most of them reprints of classic hardboiled and noir authors. Gradually, we began to add a few new authors, starting with Charlie Stella's *Johnny Porno*. After that, we added Catherine Butzen, Dana King, Rick Ollerman and Darren R. Leo, with more to come.

Also, Stark House is known for its two-fers, but last year we began to add single title books like *Ghosttown* by Mercedes Lambert, *Underlay* by Barry N. Malzberg and *The Babysitter* by Andrew Coburn. We also added to our shortlist of supernatural and mystery classics featuring the works of Algernon Blackwood and E. Phillips Oppenheim with two-fers by Robert W. Chambers, Sax Rohmer and Edgar Wallace. We've got more of these to come as well.

We mention all this to acknowledge that Stark House Press has grown beyond its humble origins of being just a crime reprint publisher. Crime fiction is still our specialty, but it's not all we do. And if you join the Crime Club, you can have access to all of it—shipped immediately, freight free. But we won't ship all of it unless you tell us to. Every time we produce a book that doesn't fit into the crime fiction category, we will email each and every member and ask them if they want the book or not. That way, no one gets a book they don't want. And if we accidentally ship you something you didn't ask for, you don't have to pay for it. Simple as that.

Otherwise, we operate as we always have: new titles are announced in the newsletter, and Crime Club members are shipped via media mail and billed via paypal. If you live outside the U.S., the freight free offer is off the table, but we will still ship and bill via paypal. Canada and Mexico is \$12 per book, and the rest of the world is \$18. We wish it didn't cost so much to mail books around the world, but no matter how large the book, we are still willing to ship at the rate of a 1 lb. book. That's the best we can do in that regard.

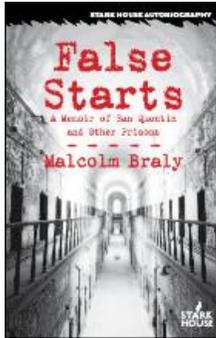
If you're interested in joining the Stark House Crime Club, just email us at griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net. It's as easy as that.

Meantime, here's what we've got coming up next...

As mentioned in the December newsletter, our January book is *Cry Blood/Killer in Silk* by H. Vernor Dixon. Check out the last newsletter if you missed it.

<http://starkhousepress.com/newsletters/dec2015.pdf> This book is currently at the printer, and due in the next 7-10 days.

After that, we've got two books for February: *False Starts: A Memoir of San Quentin and Other Prisons* by Malcolm Braly in trade paperback, and *Felony Tank* by Malcolm Braly as Black Gat #6.



Malcolm Braly

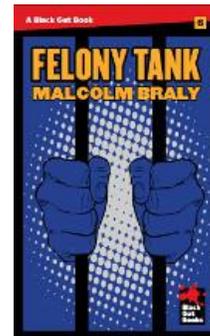
False Starts: A Memoir of San Quentin and Other Prisons

978-1-933586-94-x \$17.95

Malcolm Braly

Felony Tank

978-1-933586-91-5 \$9.99

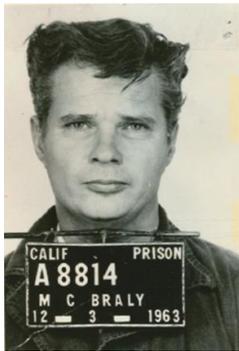


Malcolm Braly had a short career as a writer. He spent most of his life behind bars. Opting for the expedient road to success, he began life as a petty thief. Finally he became involved in an armed robbery. Things went downhill from there. Eventually Braly managed to snare the editorial eye of Knox Burger at Fawcett Publications, and wrote a novel about a young guy who falls into the penal system very much as he had. This book is *Felony Tank*, first published in 1961 by Gold Medal Books. The Stark House Press version is its first new edition in 40 years.

Braly also wrote *Shake Him Till He Rattles*, about a corrupt cop who pursues a musician who's trying to go straight; *It's Cold Out There*, about a released con trying to make it on the outside; *On the Yard*, considered by many to be one of the best prison novels ever written...and Braly's autobiography, *False Starts*. And outside of two film novelizations, that's about it for Malcolm Braly. That's all he wrote before he was accidentally killed in a car accident after 15 years of freedom.

Stark House reprinted *Shake Him Till He Rattles* and *It's Cold Out There* in one volume back in 2006. Ed Gorman had recommended them to us, and we're glad he did. It's still in print and available on our website at <http://starkhousepress.com/braly.php>

In 1976, Braly decided to come clean. After he told the story of various fictionalized characters in and out of jail, *False Starts* tells Braly's own story, sharing with us the frustration and pain of both his own inability to make sensible choices, and of the penal system which—all best intentions to the contrary—works so hard to keep its prisoners coming back. It's a heartfelt book, and an honest one. Braly is the first to admit that he's his own worst enemy. But he has much to say about the system that kept him in *mental* bondage for so many years.



This is the first paperback edition of *False Starts*. Rick Ollerman provides a new introduction (welcome back, Rick!). And to further celebrate the occasion, we will produce an ebook that includes *Shake Him Till He Rattles*, *It's Cold Out Here* and *Felony Tank* in one edition as well. Crime Club members will automatically receive *False Starts*. We will send out an email to members to confirm that they want the Black Gat edition of *Felony Tank*. If you want the ebook, you will have to check with Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.

And there's more to come—more great vintage crime authors in 2016. March is Fletcher Flora month, but we also have a classic supernatural reprint of two Algernon Blackwood novels in one volume for March, too. Crime Club members will automatically receive the Flora, and get to decide whether they want Blackwood as well. More on that next month. Meantime.....

Cheers,
Greg Shepard, publisher
Stark House Press

Bring back the mystery!

