

## STARK HOUSE PRESS

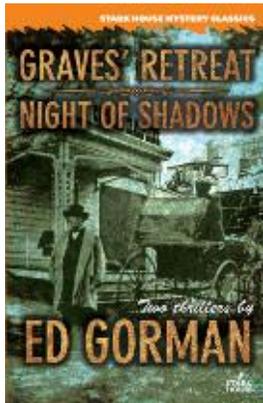
July

Newsletter, volume 4, issue 7

2015

It's been a great summer so far at Stark House. We started by getting two more Ed Gorman books back into circulation—his historical mysteries, *Graves' Retreat* and *Night of Shadows*. These two books were marketed as westerns when they first came out in the early 1990s, which makes sense since they are set in Cedar Rapids during the late 1800s. But we see them more as mysteries. And certainly Ed Gorman's reputation can handle it no matter how we market them—he's always had feet in both camps.

*Graves' Retreat* is the story of a man whose past catches up with him when his bank robbing brother comes to town and tries to rope him back into a life of crime, and *Night of Shadows* is the story of an aspiring woman detective who tries to help an aging gunfighter prove his innocence against a murder charge committed by a wily serial killer. The best westerns, like the best crime novels, are morality plays, human dramas where crime pushes the emotions to the center of the stage to force a crisis. These two novels by Ed Gorman—like those of Harry Whittington, Clifton Adams, Luke Short and A. S. Fleischman—put their characters between the proverbial rock and a hard place, and then squeeze them tight.

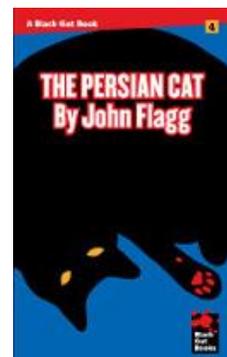


They are being offered as special releases, and will only be shipped to Crime Club members who ask for them. Available now.

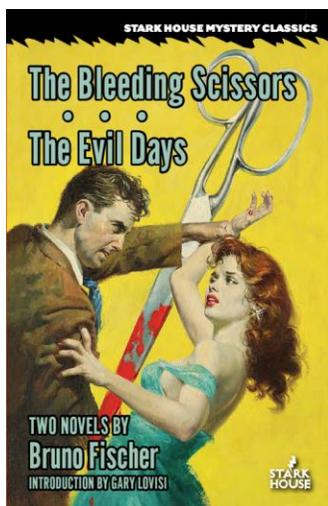
Graves' Retreat / Night of Shadows by Ed Gorman  
978-1-933586-86-1 \$20.95

Not so with the next Black Gat book: *The Persian Cat* by John Flag. This will ship automatically to Crime Club members with *The Bleeding Scissors/The Evil Days* by Bruno Fischer, making August a bang-up month. As we have mentioned before, *The Persian Cat* is an early 1950s espionage novel set in the cynical post-WWII days, in which an allied agent is recruited to enter the lion's den and bring a Nazi sympathizer to justice. The action is set in Teheran in the heart of the Middle East, and involves lots of shady set-ups and double-crosses in the vein of the early James Bond books.

Black Gat #4: *The Persian Cat* by John Flag  
978-1933586-90-8 \$9.99



The Bruno Fischer two-fer is another matter entirely. These two books both offer clever mysteries that must be solved, the first one involving two sisters who have disappeared on a dark, snowy night, and the second one a masterful set-up that starts when a wife finds a bag full of jewels and decides to keep them. A local poet is found murdered, and the husband soon finds himself in the middle of a situation that becomes less than coincidental.

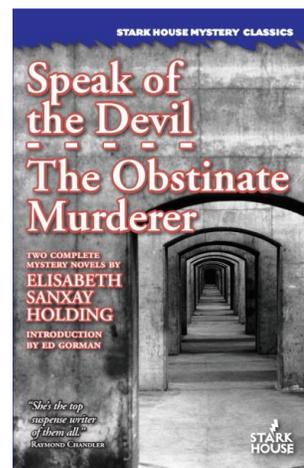


*The Evil Days* was Fischer's final novel, written after a lengthy writer's block, and is generally considered his best work. Gary Lovisi, mystery writer and editor of *Paperback Parade*, got to know the Fischers toward the end of Bruno's life, and has generously contributed an introduction to the book. And to top it off, Lynn Maguire, the daughter of cover artist, Robert Maguire, allowed us to use one of her dad's unused covers intended for the original Signet edition of the book. So we've got Bruno, Gary and Robert, all together in one package!

The Bleeding Scissors / The Evil Days by Bruno Fischer  
978-1-933586-80-x \$20.95

And that's for August. September will see the release of three previously-unpublished Gil Brewer novels. More on that next month. But in the meantime, we want to announce that if you've always wanted a copy of Bill Pronzini's *SNOWBOUND/GAMES*, which we published in November of 2007, this book has been reduced this month to \$4, including shipping. Or, in other words, we're selling the book for about 75c. Two excellent suspense novels for 3 bits. You can't even get an ice cream cone for that price these days.

Also, back at the beginning of the year, we created an 11" x 17" poster from the cover of Elisabeth Sanxay Holding's *Speak of the Devil/The Obstinate Murderer*. It's basically a b&w picture with a few color highlights, but we only printed 25 copies, so it's definitely a limited run. If you'd like a copy mailed to you in a protective tube, we're only charging \$8 for the poster, the postage and the tube. Suitable for framing, or just to add a touch of creepiness to the den—while supplies last!



The Featured 25% Off Book this month changes to *Daniel Port Omnibus 1* by Peter Rabe, which leads us to the current book, *Daniel Port Omnibus 2*—due soon from the printer—with special releases like *Underlay* by Barry N. Malzberg and *The Trees Beneath Us* by Darren R. Leo being offered as well to make things even more interesting. *Booklist* reviewed the new Rabe book with this concluding line: “Donald E. Westlake cited Rabe as an influence equal to that of Hammett; thanks to Stark House, today’s readers can find out why.” We love reading comments like this.

The previous month’s issue of *Booklist* reviewed *Night of the Horns/Cry Wolfram* by Douglas Sanderson with these lines: “Written in a lean, mean style (not quite noir, perhaps, but close), the books are absolutely riveting. Hard-boiled-crime fans will finish this volume and wonder, How is it I haven’t heard of this guy?” Reviews like this make it all worthwhile, but then so do comments from our readers. Thanks again for all your support, and if you’ve got an old favorite you want to recommend, don’t hesitate to let us know. Who knows, your author might show up between the pages of a future Stark House book.

Greg Shepard, publisher  
Stark House Press

**Bring back the mystery!**

