

STARK HOUSE PRESS

June

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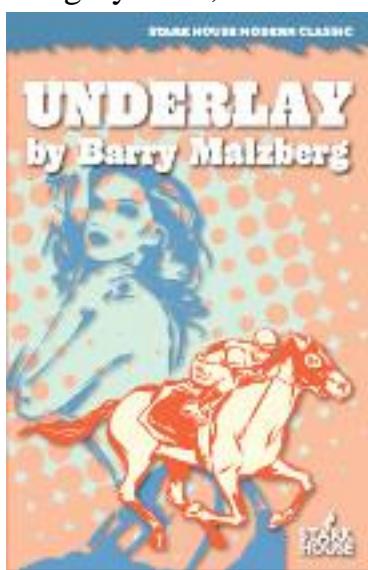
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First of all, my apologies for the continued lateness of our monthly books from Stark House Press. The increase in titles has led to a decrease in efficiency in getting everything out on time. *Night of the Horns/Cry Wolfram* by Douglas Sanderson was supposed to arrive at the beginning of the month, but now it looks like our printer will deliver copies at the end of the month. We'll try to get back on track, but bear with us as we do.

Part of the problem are the extra books we've scheduled for this summer. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have *The Trees Beneath Us* by Darren R. Leo due shortly. Crime Club members need to let us know if they want that one. We think it's a great story ourselves, one man's journey down the Appalachian Trail in search of himself. But it's not one of our usual two-fer vintage crime classics. We don't think you'll be disappointed if you choose to receive it.

And then there's *Underlay* by Barry N. Malzberg, which really doesn't fit into any category at all, bless its variegated heart.



Underlay is Malzberg's personal favorite of all his books. It is the story of an unnamed protagonist who must dig up his best friend, Harry the Flat, who has been buried in the backstretch of the Aqueduct in Queens, New York. Harry the Flat came to an untimely end at the racetrack and was buried by his fellow bettors as an act of respect. Unfortunately, this burial is wreaking havoc with the Mob's own betting system. It has created an element of random chaos in an otherwise orderly system. Harry must be dug up, and our hero has been assigned the task—at risk of his own life should he refuse.

Sounds like a crime novel, doesn't it? But nothing is as it seems in Malzberg's world, and *Underlay* is to crime fiction as *Slaughterhouse Five* is to science fiction, existing on that literary cutting edge.

If you want to receive *Underlay* automatically, let us know by replying to griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net. A couple members have already weighed in. We appreciate that. But this one won't go out unless we get your thumbs up, so if you think you'd like to give *Underlay* a try, let us know.

In the meantime, the next Stark House crime book to look forward to is Peter Rabe's *Daniel Port Omnibus 2*, which includes the final three Port novels: *The Cut of the Whip*, *Bring Me Another Corpse* and *Time Enough to Die*. And once again, Rick Ollerman provides a fitting introduction to this fine series. Port was a major gangster's right-hand-man, but he broke away from the mob, naming names in a hidden document should anyone think of coming after him. Now he's on the move, in search of a new identity.

These three novels show us a side of Port that the first three books only hinted at—a man on the run from himself, losing a little bit of power the further he gets from his home base; a man looking for peace but finding only conflict. It's no secret that Peter Rabe is one of Stark House's favorite authors. No one writes like Rabe. This trilogy of titles is scheduled for late July.

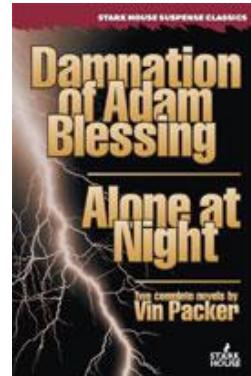
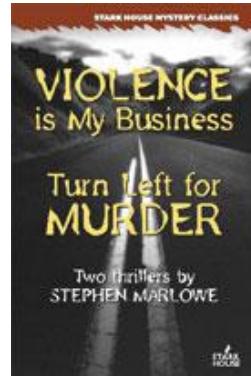
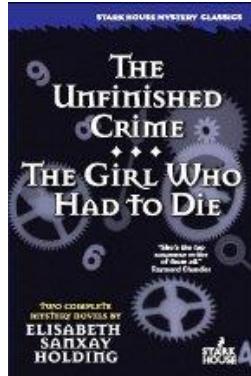
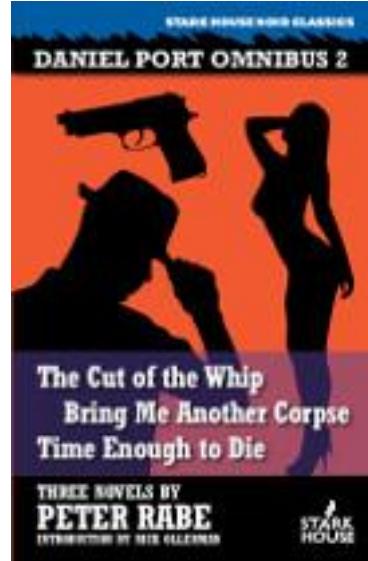
In August, we follow up our first three Black Gat Books with *The Persian Cat* by John Flagg, a wonderful bit of cat-and-mouse espionage set in Teheran (back before they took out the middle “e”). And in addition to that, we have our very first Bruno Fischer two-fer, *The Bleeding Scissors/The Evil Days*, which we will write more on next time. For now, let's just say that these are two of Fischer's best, and leave it at that.

This month, we changed the “25% off featured book” on our website to Edgar Wallace's *Jack o' Judgment/Captains of Souls*. A couple of British mystery classics for your consideration.

And for those who might be collecting Stark House books but are missing the following titles:

-  *Midnight Road* by Jada M. Davis
-  *The Unfinished Crime/The Girl Who Had to Die* by Elisabeth Sanxay Holding
-  *Underground/Collected Stories* by Russell James
-  *Violence is My Business/Turn Left for Murder* by Stephen Marlowe
-  *The Damnation of Adam Blessing/Alone at Night* by Vin Packer

...we offer these books at \$5 each, plus \$3 shipping, this month only. Again, reply to griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net if you're interested.



As always, we thank you for your continued support. We are always trying new things—introducing new authors to the list, a few single title books, our new mass market line—and more changes are bound to be on the way. We'll try not to overwhelm you with books, but it's not easy. There are just so many great mysteries out there, crying out for reprint—and new authors, crying out for recognition. We love what we're doing, and love hearing from you, too. And if you haven't already, we encourage you to join the Crime Club to keep up with it all!

Greg Shepard, publisher

Bring back the mystery!

