

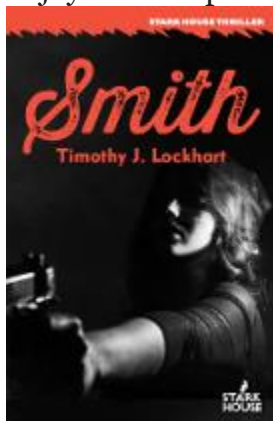
Newsletter, Volume 6, Number 5
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Those of you who follow Stark House's publishing schedule know that for the most part we specialize in reprinting the good old stuff by the 1950s and 60s. Every now and then we get a new manuscript query that sounds interesting, and even less frequently we get so excited about the submission that we whip out a contract and buy it. *Smith* by Timothy J. Lockhart is one of those books.

Smith is the story of a reluctant assassin, hired by a shady American operation known as the Enterprise to remove foreign undesirables. What's interesting about this story—besides the arrogant politics of the situation—is the character development that moves the story along. We start with an assassination, and then get the assassin's back story, and follow this to the inevitable level of empathy that explodes in a confrontory ending as tense as you can imagine.

Reviews have been pouring in, and they all seem to be enjoying *Smith*. As Don Crinklaw pointed out in *Booklist* magazine, "There are sequences of edgy suspense and artfully done violence. And generous helpings of sex. A chilling story that knows what lurks beneath those superspy romances." Here's what Nicholas Litchfield had to say in the Lancaster *Guardian*: "*Smith* is a notable hard-boiled noir that hits the ground running, with guns blazing and knives slashing, and doesn't let up until there are ample corpses piled high."

We know we will be hearing more from Mr. Lockhart, but in the meantime, we hope you enjoy his first published novel from Stark House Press.

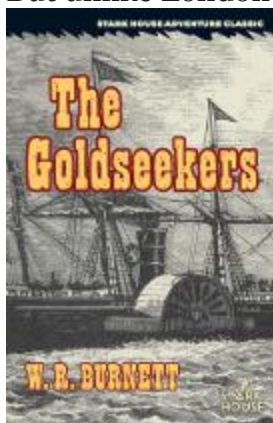


Timothy J. Lockhart
Smith
978-1-944520-23-6
\$15.95

Our second title for the month of June is an adventure classic from 1962, originally published in hardback by Doubleday & Co. *The Goldseekers* is by W. R. Burnett, one of our favorite authors here at Stark House. Burnett started his career writing about gangsters and tough guys with *Little Caesar* and *Iron Man* (also available from Stark House Press), back in the late 1920s. By the 1960s, he had added westerns, political novels, historicals, sport stories and lots of screenplays to his output. He was all over the place.

The Goldseekers is the story of the Alaskan Gold Rush as told through the travails of a small group of adventurers who start out from turn-of-the-century Seattle to strike it rich. There is a veteran miner among them, Nollys Harp, who has been to Alaska before, and knows just where to go to find their fortune. He meets two young men named Hoxie and James at a local bar, and pulls them into the plan, along with Lloyd, a naïve fellow whose parents run the boarding house where they all live.

Their story is a constant push and pull between enthusiasm and doubt, between faith and expediency, as the group slowly makes their way north via ship to the inland coast of Alaska. One critic compared it to B. Traven's *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*. We figure that anyone who read Jack London when they were a kid will recognize the story. But unlike London's tales of sheer bravado, *The Goldseekers* feels very real.



W. R. Burnett
The Goldseekers
978-1-944520-29-9
\$15.95

If you are a member of the Stark House Crime Club, you will automatically receive *Smith* (in fact, it just shipped). If you would like a copy of *The Goldseekers* as well, send an email to griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net, and we'll get it to you within the next week.

Also, this would be a good time to mention that we have started a campaign toward making our Stark House books available as ebooks. We've had a few titles released already, but in the past three months we've added 17 more titles to the list. They are only available as Kindle ebooks at the moment, but we will release them as Nook books very shortly. It would be interesting to get reader feedback as to which format is preferred, what books you'd like to see released as ebooks, that kind of thing. If you are an ebook reader and you have something to say, let us know.

There are more literary treasures coming in the next few months, not the least of which is a collection of essays by Rick Ollerman called *Hardboiled, Noir and Gold Medals*, including his insightful introductions and lots of new material. More on that later....

Cheers,
Greg Shepard, publisher
Stark House Press

And here's what's on sale this month, from the Return Shelf at Stark House Press (which means a few corner dings and occasional creases):

Mad Dog Barked by Rick Ollerman - \$6
Scratch a Thief / House of Evil by John Trinian - \$8
He Won't Need it Now / The Dead Stay Dumb by James Hadley Chase - \$8
Cry Blood / Killer in Silk by H. Vernor Dixon - \$8
The Autumn Dead / The Night Remembers by Ed Gorman - \$8

And from our overstock:

Dogtown / Soultown by Mercedes Lambert - \$3
Underground & Collected Stories by Russell James - \$3
Snowbound / Games by Bill Pronzini - \$3

A Shot in the Dark / Shell Game by Richard Powell - \$3

Shanghai Flame / Counterspy Express - \$7

Cornered! / The Long Ride by James McKimmey - \$7

Kill the Boss Good-bye / Mission for Vengeance by Peter Rabe - \$7

To order, simply let us know what you want via griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net, and we will ship what is available via media mail (which usually adds \$2.65 to \$4, depending on the size of the order).



Bring back the mystery!