

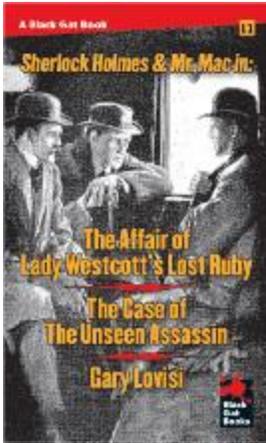
# STARK HOUSE PRESS

We had a printer glitch in April and the Day Keene book didn't arrive until the first week in May. Sorry about that. Hopefully that won't happen this month. But you never know. We aim for the end of the month, but sometimes we miss. Which is not to say that we don't have a great printer. They're the best. Mistakes happen, though. For example, it looks like we're not going to have a lead title for August at all this year. We've got a Black Gat book scheduled for that month, and another James Hadley Chase two-fer. But we just needed more time in order to bring you the book we had scheduled for August, so our Peter Rabe 3-fer has been pushed back to September.

Meantime, here we are in mid-May, with Black Gat #12 set to arrive next Monday, and our lead Stark House title two weeks after that. The Black Gat book is by Gary Lovisi, the editor and publisher of *Paperback Parade*, and offers us two short Sherlock Holmes pastiches featuring Mr. Mac, the Scottish inspector. Conan Doyle introduced us to Alec MacDonald—Mr. Mac—in *The Valley of Fear* as a young kindred spirit to Holmes, a Scotland Yard detective who, unlike Lestrade, prefers to work with Holmes rather than against him.

These two novelettes are *The Affair of Lady Westcott's Lost Ruby* and *The Case of the Unseen Assassin*. The former pits young MacDonald against a clever criminal as he first tries to solve the mystery of some missing jewelry, and then the disappearance of Lady Westcott herself. The second novelette finds him trying to track down an elusive assassin who is randomly killing people in and around London.

The critic for *Booklist*, the review magazine of the American Library Association, called this book “a must-read for Holmes devotees.” He further points out that “Lovisi is aware of the modern understanding of Holmes. We see him not, as in too many pastiches, as snippy and acerbic, but as a decent chap who values justice even more than logic.” We were charmed by Lovisi's tales, and hope you are, too.



**Gary Lovisi**  
**The Affair of Lady Westcott's Lost Ruby / The Case of the  
Unseen Assassin**

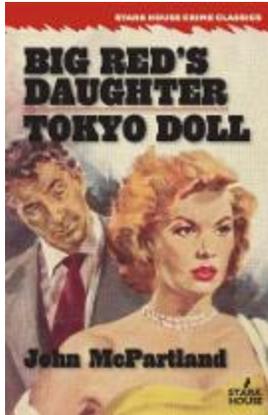
**978-1-944520-22-9 \$9.99**

On the other side of the mystery field from that of calm, cool deduction, we present our lead Stark House trade paperback, *Big Red's Daughter / Tokyo Doll* by John McPartland, two rather brutal tales of wild youth and Asian espionage from the early 1950s. Gold Medal published these books originally, and they fit the mold of that publisher perfectly—men's fiction with a vengeance. Street fights, knifings, explosions, a woman who isn't entirely to be trusted, and a guy with something to prove....

As John Fraser says about McPartland in his blog on hardboiled authors: "McPartland is that rarity, a writer of tough novels who feels tough himself. McPartland was one of the Gold Medal blue-collar writers; had served in Korea; obviously knew the black-market milieu of that war; came back and wrote raw, rugged, at times very powerful novels."

In *Big Red's Daughter*, he pits a young war vet against a sadistic punk for the love a strong-willed woman, and in *Tokyo Doll*, he offers a post-WWII thriller in which a disgraced soldier must track down a Japanese scientist who may have a cure for radiation poisoning. Both books pack a punch.

McPartland, like his character in *Big Red*, settled in the Monterey area of coastal California after returning from duty in Asia, and died much too early from a heart attack at age 47. During his lifetime, he had a wife and a mistress, and kept simultaneous families both in Monterey and in Mill Valley. He once wrote that "sex is the great game itself," and had no problem living his philosophy. McPartland seemed to live the books he wrote, and it's no wonder he didn't enjoy a long life. We're just lucky he found time to write the dozen novels and handful of screenplays he did.



**John McPartland**  
**Big Red's Daughter / Tokyo Doll**  
**978-1-944520-21-2 \$19.95**

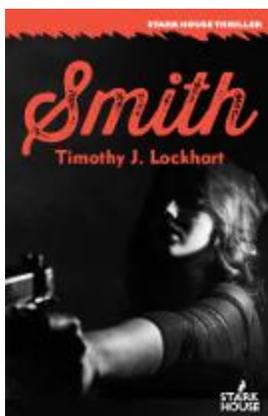
As usual, Stark House Crime Club members will automatically receive *Big Red's Daughter*. But if you are a member and want to receive the Black Gat book—our mass market line of mostly single title books—we will need to hear from you via [griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net). That book will not be automatically sent—it needs to be requested. In this way, we continue to protect you from receiving more books—and more **Paypal** invoices— than you want.

In case you're *not* a member, perhaps you'd like a reminder about our April title: *Sleep With the Devil / Wake Up to Murder / Joy House* by Day Keene. Here's what Evan Lewis had to say about it in his *Forgotten Books* blog:

“This novel has everything I look for in a mystery: Tight, no nonsense prose. Terse, vivid dialogue. A plot that grips you on page one and keeps squeezing all the way to the finish.”

It's not too late to pick up a copy. It's a little pricier than our usual two-fers at \$21.95, but well worth it in noir charms.

And if you'd like to join the Crime Club, just drop us a note at [griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net).



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

We've got lots of interesting books coming up. Some authors who are new to us (Timothy J. Lockhart, Basil Heatter), some old friends (Arnold Hano, W. R. Burnett, Clifton Adams); the occasional supernatural classic (more Algernon Blackwood, of course) and a surprise or two which we will save for another time. For now, thanks for all your support and...

Cheers,  
Greg Shepard, publisher  
Stark House Press

We usually offer a few sale items from the returns shelf at Stark House Press, and this May is no exception. Here's what we've got, most in multiple copies this time:

Ancient Egyptian Supernatural Tales ed by Jonathan Lewis - \$8  
He Won't Need it Now / The Dead Stay Dumb by James Hadley Chase - \$8  
Shanghai Flame / Counterspy Express by A. S. Fleischman - \$8  
Night of the Horns / Cry Wolfram by Douglas Sanderson - \$8  
Liz / Syndicate Girl – Frank Kane - \$7  
Mad Dog Barked by Rick Ollerman - \$7  
Sign for the Sacred by Storm Constantine (gothic fantasy novel, one of our first books) - \$6  
The Persian Cat by John Flagg (Black Gat #4) - \$4

PLUS - These special editions:

Shake Him Till He Rattles / It's Cold Out There by Malcolm Braly (an original review copy we found in a box, still new, 1 copy) - \$5  
The Oracle Lips by Storm Constantine (gothic fantasy stories, our first book, a signed/numbered hardback) - \$5

If you want to order any of these, just reply to [griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net), and you will be charged for the book plus media mail shipping via **Paypal**.



*Bring back the mystery!*