

STARK HOUSE PRESS

November

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2016

It's been a wild month. Hard to keep focused on hardboiled reprints with all the activity in the political arena to distract and dismay. But in spite of all the drama, we persevere. For November, we have a couple of new books to present to you.

The first is a three-some from Harry Whittington that showcases another side of this multifaceted author—his gritty westerns. Of course, it goes without saying that Whittington wrote westerns that were just as hardboiled as his contemporary crime fiction. This is the face of noir, no matter what the setting. Whittington always put his characters through the wringer. *Trouble Rides Tall / Cross the Red Creek / Desert Stake Out* is no exception.

In the first novel, *Trouble Rides Tall*, an aged sheriff has to decide if he has a future beyond bringing lawless towns to order. He's been hired all his adult life to travel from hellhole to hellhole, but once he settles the town down, they don't need him anymore. Now, at the apex of a long life lived behind his pistols, he is ready to settle down for good. But once again, the town he civilized wants him gone. His personal dilemma is exacerbated by the murder of a young prostitute whose gruesome death nobody wants him to solve.

Cross the Red Creek tells the story of a fellow who is trying to find his own kind of peace as well as he looks for a new place to settle. But right off the bat he is mistaken for an escaping outlaw, and though proven innocent, is thereafter distrusted by the entire town. When he brings his reluctant wife west to join him, even she doesn't want him around. This is the story of a fellow on the wrong end of the stick who fights a losing battle against adversity.

In the final book, *Desert Stake-Out*, a lone man on a mission of mercy must cope with a band of outlaws and a couple of settlers who all find themselves hounded by a menacing tribe of Apaches. Our hero is trying to bring medicine to a disease-stricken fort. He's traveling in one direction. The others are trying to escape the Apache, and are traveling in the other. To make matters worse, the hero's brother has been murdered earlier, and he suspects that the bandits might have been involved. Something's gotta give, and in this situation, there's nothing but one tense situation after another until the crashing climax.



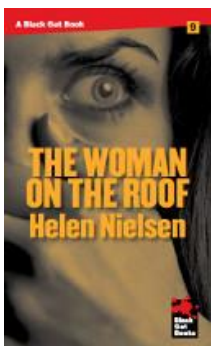
Trouble Rides Tall / Cross the Red Creek / Desert Stake-Out
978-1-944520-11-3 \$21.95

We happen to be big fans of classic westerns, and intend to publish more noir tales of the Old West. Hopefully, you all agree that it's high time somebody did so, and are looking forward to this initial offering from Harry Whittington. You can't start a western series any better than with "the king of the paperbacks."

This month also happens to be time for the next Black Gat Book. *The Woman on the Roof* by Helen Nielsen is already the ninth book in the series. Each one seems to sell a little better than the one before. Perhaps before long, these crazy little paperbacks might actually catch on.

The Woman on the Roof is the story of an older woman who is living on the roof apartment in a complex owned by her brother. She's recently been released from a sanitarium, and is filled with doubts about the world she sees around here. Her doubting brother only compounds her confusion. So when she looks down into the apartment below her and sees a dead body in the bathtub, she doesn't tell anyone.

When the body is soon discovered, her reluctance to discuss the details with the police gets her into trouble with just about everyone. At first the death is viewed as an accident. But is it? And if so, has the woman seen too much? And even if she has, will anyone listen to her before she becomes victim number two?



The Woman on the Roof
978-1-944520-13-7 \$9.99

This excellent suspense novel was called "among the best mysteries of the year," by the Mystery Writers of America when it was first published in 1954. It was recently reviewed by John Norris at his blog, *Pretty Sinister Books*, as "one of the better crime novels I've ever read in how it deals with mental illness and the fear that tends to ruin the lives of those afflicted with alternate perceptions and misaligned realities." We're proud to offer this book as our latest Black Gat release.

Also, a word here about a few of our older titles—we've lowered some prices. For example, *One for Hell* by Jade M. Davis was \$19.95. It is now \$15.95. *The Babysitter* by Andrew Coburn was \$17.95, and now it's \$15.95. *Marilyn K./The House Next Door* by Lionel White was \$20.95, and has now been dropped to \$19.95. These aren't dramatic changes, but we're doing what we can to make Stark House books a little bit more affordable, and pass the savings of these older titles on to the reader.

Speaking of affordable, we have a small batch of books which we are putting on **sale** this month. Most are slightly shopworn returns, some are overstock. Each are individually priced below. As always, if you're interested, let us know via our email address — griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net—and we will add the cost of media mail and bill you via **Paypal**.

\$5.00 Books

Underlay by Barry N. Malzberg (was \$15.95, now \$5)

Snowbound/Games by Bill Pronzini (was \$14.95, now \$5)

Johnny Porno by Charlie Stella (was \$14.95, now \$5)

Thief of Midnight by Catherine Butzen (was \$14.95, now \$5)

\$6.00 Books

Lust Queen / Lust Victim by Don Elliott (was \$19.95, now \$6)

Violence is My Business/Turn Left for Murder by Stephen Marlowe (was \$19.95, now \$6)

The Damnation of Adam Blessing/Alone at Night by Vin Packer (was \$19.95, now \$6)

\$7.00 Books

Scratch a Thief/House of Evil by John Trinian (was \$19.95, now \$7)

Cry Blood/Killer in Silk by H. Vernor Dixon (was \$20.95, now \$7)

Night of the Horns/Cry Wolfram by Douglas Sanderson (was \$20.95, now \$7)

Little Men, Big World/Vanity Row by W. R. Burnett (was \$20.95, now \$7)

Sign for the Sacred by Storm Constantine (was \$24.95, now \$7)

The *Scratch a Thief* book comes with an interesting story. We were contacted last month by an irate comic fanboy who chastised us up and down and all around the place for not recognizing the artwork of Jack Kirby which we had inadvertently used on the book cover. Our art director pulled the b&w art from a website that offers free downloads, and once he colorized it, we thought it worked well with the previous pop art cover for *North Beach Girl*. But hell hath no fury like a pissed-off fanboy, and rather than risk the ire of the entire comic book community, we decided to create a new, moodier cover for *Scratch a Thief*...



So, we're selling off the old editions with the original covers at a bargain. With our apologies to the ghost of Mr. Kirby, and fanboys everywhere.

And finally, a few recent review quotes to leave you from our October titles:

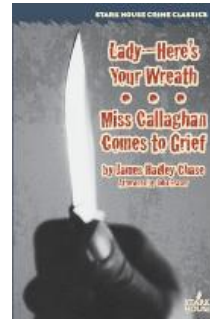
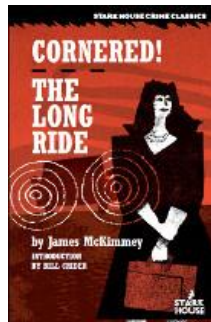
Cornered! / The Long Ride by James McKimmey

“A goddam fine crime novel with nary a bit of fat, all lean, all muscle, a taut and efficient suspenser that kindles its fires of tension early and keeps em stoked right to the explosive, surprising finale.”—Kristofer Upjohn, *Noir Journal*

“McKimmey is definitely a crime author worth discovering.”—Alan Cranis, *Bookgasm*

Lady—Here’s Your Wreath / Miss Callaghan Comes to Grief by James Hadley Chase

“Very highly recommended for the personal reading lists of hardcore noir thriller buffs.”—*Midwest Book Review*



Next month: an exciting two-fer by A. S. "Sid" Fleischman to close out the year, plus we finally discuss our latest Edgar Wallace classic reprint.

Cheers....

—Greg Shepard, publisher
Stark House Press

Bring back the mystery!

