

STARK HOUSE PRESS

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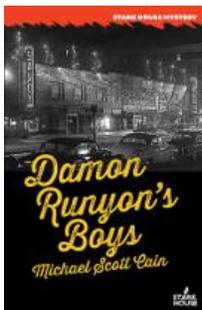
April/May 2018

If you are a Stark House Crime Club member, you already know about the April releases. But for everyone else, we published three new titles last month.

The lead title is *Damon Runyon's Boys* by the late Michael Scott Cain, a wonderful recreation of late 40s New York City in a mystery that involves the murder of a dance leader at the Savoy. *Crime Scene* reporter Damon Taylor has come back from the Second World War with a cynical, hardbitten soul. But with the help of a young Truman Capote and the advice of Walter Winchell, he begins to track the murderer back to crime lord Frank Costello. Hell, even the FBI may be involved. Soon Damon is driven to find the killer in spite of himself.

So far the reviews have been very positive. Author James Reasoner had this to say in his *Rough Edges* blog: "Damon Taylor is a flawed but likable protagonist, and Cain keeps the action moving along at a very nice pace indeed. *Damon Runyon's Boys* is exactly the sort of complex, hardboiled, vividly written novel that I really enjoy, and I had a great time reading it. Highly recommended."

And Alan Cranis over at *Bookgasm* said that "Cain effectively portrays the settings and ambiance of post-War New York, with its flashy dress styles, vintage cars, and endless nightlife celebrated at nightclubs and bars throughout the city" and called Cain's writing style "energetic and engaging." Check it out and see if you agree.



Michael Scott Cain

Damon Runyon's Boys

978-1-944520-45-8

\$15.95

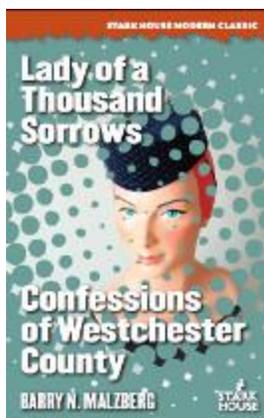
We are also publishing a reprint of two classic Barry Malzberg novels

from the 1970s: *Lady of a Thousand Sorrows*, originally published under the nom de plume “Lee W. Mason” by Playboy Press, and *Confessions of Westchester County*, one of many books Malzberg published by Olympia Press. Barry is a favorite of ours, and we’re very pleased to be able to make these two books available again.

Lady of a Thousand Sorrows is the story of Vivian Sarris, a thinly veiled portrait of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis who, after the assassination of her president husband and his younger brother, is being held against her will and awaiting a possible death at the hands of some sinister caretakers. Besides delving into the psyche of a woman whose life has been torn apart by endless tragedy, it is also a grim trip into delusional paranoia. The book didn’t have any editorial support when it was first published and was quickly buried by the publisher. But like everything that Malzberg writes, the novel is compelling and fiercely intelligent, and demands to be read.

Confessions of Westchester County was not well distributed by Olympia Press, but this darkly comic foray into Updike and Cheever Country — the self-told story of a reluctant murderer — deserves another chance. One reader at Amazon.com called it “a rollicking tale of obsession, manipulation, and murder,” and we must agree, it’s all that and more. If you’ve enjoyed Malzberg’s science fiction, you’ve got to check out his take on the suburban stud-turned-mercy-killer. You won’t be disappointed.

[Quick note: our printer had to delay printing and shipping the Malzberg book, so those of you who asked for this one already, if you haven’t received it yet, don’t worry. It should arrive here by the end of the week — around May 11th. We’ll ship them out just as soon as we get them. So if you haven’t signed up for this one, there’s still time.]



Barry N. Malzberg

**Lady of a Thousand Sorrows / Confessions of Westchester
County**

978-1-944520-61-8

\$17.95

And finally, our third April release is a new film book called *Jess Franco: The World's Most Dangerous Filmmaker* by Kristofer Todd Upjohn. Some of you may know Upjohn from his film reviews, some may know him from his *Noir Journal* blog in which he reviews his favorite media — books, films, whatever. That's how we met him. He has energetically supported Stark House in a variety of reviews, and in one exchange, he confessed to have written a film book on exploitation director/writer/actor/producer/composer Jess Franco.

We had only published one previous film book, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, and figured this was a great opportunity to build on that. And so far, the sales reaction to Upjohn's book has been very positive. Over at *Bookgasm*, Rod Lott called the book “probing enough to whet the reader's appetite for first tastes or return visits — the author clearly knows of what he writes...”

Jess Franco created over 150 fiercely independent films from 1959 to 2013. Films like *Christina, Princess of Eroticism, Vampyros Lesbos, Daughter of Dracula, Tender Flesh, The Awful Dr. Orloff, Venus in Furs, Marquis de Sade's Justine, Revenge in the House of Usher, Count Dracula, Jack the Ripper* and many, many more. Born in Madrid, Spain, he was declared by the Catholic Church as one of the most dangerous filmmakers ever. And Upjohn's essays examine Franco's career not just an artistic perspective but also with a subtextual psychological analysis as well. A true labor of love.

If your tastes run to the sexploitative, we can only suggest you check it out. And yes, it's profusely illustrated as well.



Kristofer Todd Upjohn

Jess Franco: The World's Most Dangerous Filmmaker

978-1-944520-60-1

\$15.95

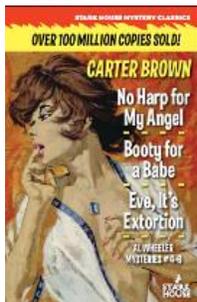
That was April, a month chock full of three very different books. May is back to normal, to what we might refer to as our regular publishing pattern, with two hardboiled and noirish volumes from the likes of Carter Brown and Henry Kane.

The lead book features the fourth, fifth and sixth Al Wheeler mysteries from Carter Brown: *No Harp for My Angel*, *Booty for a Babe* and *Eve, It's Extortion*. The first two books have never appeared here in the States before, having only been published in Australia by Horwitz Publications back in 1956. And the third book has only appeared in a revised edition as *The Victim*.

Carter Brown is, of course, Alan Geoffrey Yates. A transplanted Englishman who moved to Australia with his wife, he raised a family and cranked out a horde of clever, sexy mysteries, mostly set in the U.S. In fact, Horwitz got the brilliant idea of marketing these books to the U.S., and signed a deal with New American Library back in the late 1950s to begin flooding the market via their Signet Books line. The first American Al Wheeler novel was *The Body*, originally published in Australia as *No Law Against Angels*. The sixth book in the Signet series was *The Victim*, now published here for the first time in its original Australian version as *Eve, It's Extortion*.

Each novel features the irrepressible police lieutenant Al Wheeler, the bane of his captain's existence, who drinks and flirts and wisecracks his way around every murder investigation, somehow always solving it in the end. Those of us who remember the good old days when paperbacks ruled the racks, have nothing but fond memories of the original Robert McGinnis covers. Many collectors still seek out these Signet editions for their covers alone.

If you want to treat yourself to some retro fun, try reading *No Harp for My Angel*, and see if you don't agree with blogger Ron Fortier who called this "a breezy, fun caper that doesn't disappoint." Or Sergio Angelini in his *Tipping My Fedora* blog who said: "These are fast-paced and very humorous mysteries that succeed completely on their own terms."



Carter Brown

Al Wheeler #2: No Harp for My Angel / Booty for My Babe / Eve, It's Extortion

978-1-944520-44-1

\$19.95

Our second May book is the latest Black Gat release—our 15th Black Gat book, in fact—*Frenzy of Evil* by Henry Kane. Kane is best known as the creator of Peter Chambers, private eye — or “private richard,” as the character often refers to himself. Chambers hasn’t weathered the test of time for many readers, but *Frenzy of Evil* is something else indeed, a great standalone novel. George Kelley recently reviewed it in his blog as “a psychological thriller with plenty of twists and turns.”

Jonathan Joseph Carson is an aging egotist who marries a much younger woman, and then begins to do what he has always done in the past, and starts to abuse her. But his young wife is not without her champions, and pretty soon murder is being plotted. Kane takes the reader down some dark psychological alleys, but where he ends up is nicely unexpected and filled with subtle surprises. Twists and turns indeed. We think you will like this one.



Henry Kane
Frenzy of Evil
978-1-944520-53-3
\$9.99

If you are a Crime Club member, you will automatically receive the Carter Brown book. And if you have signed up for a standing order of Black Gat books, you will automatically receive *Frenzy of Evil* as well. Most Crime Club members have already done so, and we definitely appreciate that. Makes shipping the books so much easier!

And that’s it for April and May. A cornucopia of delights. We hope you enjoy them.

Until next time, thanks again for all your support, and keep those emails and suggestions coming. We love to hear from you.

Cheers,
Greg Shepard, publisher
Stark House Press



April showers bring May flowers



We haven't received very many damaged returns lately, so rather than list a few sale books which are only available in ones and twos, here is a general list of Sale Books which is current and ongoing, as we try to whittle down our back stock and make room for new books....

OVERSTOCK SALE

All new copies — original retail from \$14.95 to \$21.95

Snowbound/Games by Bill Pronzini - \$2

Underground/Collected Stories by Russell James - \$2

A Devil for O'Shaugnessy/The Three-Way Split by Gil Brewer - \$2

Dogtown/Soultown by Mercedes Lambert - \$2

A Shot in the Dark/Shell Game by Richard Powell - \$2

Spouses & Other Crimes by Andrew Coburn - \$3

The Babysitter by Andrew Coburn - \$3

Thief of Midnight by Catherine Butzen - \$3

Fell the Angels by Catherine Butzen - \$3

Midnight Road by Jada M. Davis - \$3

Anatomy of a Killer/A Shroud for Jesso by Peter Rabe - \$4

A Trio of Gold Medals by

Dan Marlowe/Fletcher Flora/Charles Runyon - \$4

The Beat Generation & the Angry Young Men - \$4

Ghosts & Gamblers by E. Phillips Oppenheim - \$4

Tommy Red by Charlie Stella - \$4

Truth Always Kills by Rick Ollerman - \$4

Lust Queen/Lust Victim by "Don Elliott"/Robert Silverberg - \$5

The Bleeding Scissors/The Evil Days by Bruno Fischer - \$5

The Sun Worshippers/Yellowleg by A. S. Fleishman - \$5

Shanghai Flame/Counterspy Express by A. S. Fleischman - \$5

Cornered/The Long Ride by James McKimmey - \$5
Night of the Horns/Cry Wolfram by Douglas Sanderson - \$5
Kill the Boss Good-By/Mission for Vengeance by Peter Rabe - \$5

As always, if you would like to order any of these, just write to us at griffinskye3@sbcglobal.net, and we will bill you via Paypal.



Bring back the mystery!