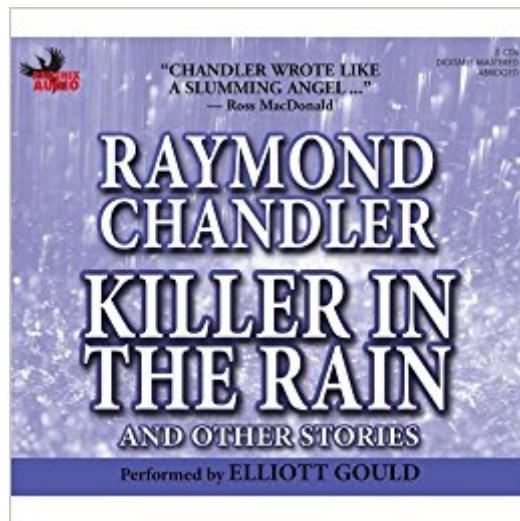


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# Killer In The Rain



## **Synopsis**

It was in the pulp detective magazines of the 1930s that Raymond Chandler's definitive take on the hard-boiled detective story first appeared. Here then, from the well-thumbed pages of 'Black Mask' and 'Dime Detective Magazine', are eight of his finest stories including 'The Man Who Liked Dogs', 'The Lady in the Lake' and 'Bay City Blues'. Sharper than a hoodlum's switchblade, more exciting than an unexpected red-head and stronger than a double shot of whisky, they are packed full of the punchy poetry and laconic wit that makes Chandler the undisputed master of his genre. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: Phoenix Books; Abridged edition (January 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597770558

ISBN-13: 978-1597770552

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 5.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,374,501 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( C ) > Chandler, Raymond #9760 in Books > Books on CD > General #10157 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

## **Customer Reviews**

Elliott Gould is an Academy Award and Golden Globe nominee who has performed in over 70 feature films. Upcoming motion picture projects include Playing Mona Lisa, and Picking up the Pieces, with Woody Allen and Sharon Stone. He can be seen ongoing in his recurring role on NBC's smash hit, Friends. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Raymond Thornton Chandler (1888 - 1959) was the master practitioner of American hard-boiled crime fiction. Although he was born in Chicago, Chandler spent most of his boyhood and youth in England where he attended Dulwich College and later worked as a freelance journalist for "The Westminster Gazette" and "The Spectator," During World War I, Chandler served in France with the First Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, transferring later to the Royal Flying Corps (R. A. F.). In 1919 he returned to the United States, settling in California, where he eventually became

director of a number of independent oil companies. The Depression put an end to his career, and in 1933, at the age of forty-five, he turned to writing fiction, publishing his first stories in "Black Mask," Chandler's detective stories often starred the brash but honorable Philip Marlowe (introduced in 1939 in his first novel, *The Big Sleep*) and were noted for their literate presentation and dead-on critical eye. Never a prolific writer, Chandler published only one collection of stories and seven novels in his lifetime. Some of Chandler's novels, like *The Big Sleep*, were made into classic movies which helped define the film noir style. In the last year of his life he was elected president of the Mystery Writers of America. He died in La Jolla, California on March 26, 1959.

Chandler says way more, shows life in its contrasts, strong observations, detailed without being boring, creating an atmosphere who drags you around the same way he got dragged. Emotional contrasts, like exposing nudity and vulnerability in its beauty and ugliness. Chandler takes you and shows you all corners of life as it was and still is, secrecy, plots, backstabbing scams with the ability to reduce all of it in simple actions exposing all who wanted to remain hidden. His in depth understanding of human nature with its motivations are razor-blade sharp. The survival of a loner, staying strong in the turmoil of deception, crimes, sex and money hungry egos, going down when they cross his path. There is so much more to it.....

The Underland Chronicles #1: Gregor the Overlander Having grown up with the old movies which were in black & white, when I happened upon some Raymond Chandler Novels in the Kindle Store I just had to buy one at once, and I haven't been disappointed, his writing is very sardonic and his descriptions of situations are spot on and exciting, his characters are very believable and menacing and the wise cracks and one liners are great. this book is a very good read and would be as good as any of the big authors of today.

Haven't finished this book yet - have lots of others to read at the mo - but so far I have enjoyed reading Chandler again - last read him many years ago. I like his style of writing - nothing flowery, no over-writing. Good.

I chose this rating because the book started off with so much "jargon" it was hard to understand what it was about at times. The influence of Peter Robinson began to come clear as the book progressed. The story line was okay once the language used became more normal english. Maybe an index of sayings and words would have been useful; not understanding the terms used certainly

spoiled it for me.

Chandler's first novel (THE BIG SLEEP) appeared in 1939, but he had been supporting himself as a writer for a half dozen years before that. His first story appeared in the pulp magazine Black Mask in 1933. Even after he became successful as a novelist and screen writer, he continued to write stories for the pulps. Did he need the money or did he simply enjoy writing short stories? In 1950, he published a compilation of some of his pulp stories (THE SIMPLE ART OF MURDER.) His reason for selecting those to publish was that they hadn't been "cannibalized" to provide material for his novels. The eight stories in this book WERE cannibalized and readers familiar with his first, second, and fourth novels (THE BIG SLEEP, FAREWELL MY LADY, and LADY IN THE LAKE) will recognize the characters and plots. In spite of the demand for his work, Chandler refused to allow them to be reprinted in his lifetime and you have to wonder why. He certainly wasn't ashamed to have been a pulp writer and was one of the first to insist that many pulp stories were of surprisingly high quality. Did he feel that reading the stories would somehow take away from the fuller treatments in his novels? Did he find something unseemly about exposing the process by which he combined characters and plots and fleshed them out to make a novel? Fortunately for his fans, his intention not to reprint the stories went to the grave with him. His literary agent and heiress Helga Green published the remaining stories in 1964 with an introduction by UCLA Professor of American Literature Philip Durham. Durham was the author of DOWN THESE MEAN STREETS A MAN MUST GO: RAYMOND CHANDLER'S KNIGHT and a great admirer of both Chandler and his detective Philip Marlowe. In the introduction, he explains how Chandler pieced together his pulp stories to create three of his earliest iconic novels. If you're tempted to skip the introduction, don't. It's good stuff. Are the stories as good as the novels? Absolutely not. Are they good reading? You bet. And if you know and love the novels, you'll enjoy seeing their origins. My favorite is "No Crime in the Mountains." It has a wonderful country constable who's the spitting image (pun intended) of the one in THE LADY IN THE LAKE. Unlike that book, this story doesn't ignore WWII, but jumps in with both feet, complete with Japanese saboteurs and German spies. It reads like a parody now, but in 1941 West Coast Americans were vulnerable and they knew it. This one isn't available as a Kindle version, but used paperbacks can be found for a few dollars. If you love Chandler, it's worth the effort.

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