

## ELMORE LEONARD, 1925-2013

Elmore Leonard was born October 11, 1925 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Due to his father's position working for General Motors, Leonard's family moved numerous times during his childhood, before finally settling in Detroit, MI in 1934. Leonard went on to graduate high school in Detroit in 1943, and joined the Navy, serving in the legendary Seabees military construction unit in the Pacific theater of operations before returning home in 1946.

Leonard then attended the University of Detroit, majoring in English and Philosophy. Plans to assist his father in running an auto dealership fell through on his father's early death, and after graduating, Leonard took a job writing for an ad agency. He married (for the first of three times) in 1949.

While working his day job in the advertising world, Leonard wrote constantly, submitting mainly western stories to the pulp and/or mens' magazines, where he was establishing himself with a strong reputation. His stories also occasionally caught the eye of the entertainment industry and were often optioned for films or television adaptation. In 1961, Leonard attempted to concentrate on writing full-time, with only occasional freelance ad work.

With the western market drying up, Leonard broke into the mainstream suspense field with his first non-western novel, *The Big Bounce* in 1969. From that point on, his publishing success continued to increase – with both critical and fan response to his works helping his novels to appear on bestseller lists. His 1983 novel *La Brava* won the Edgar Award for best mystery novel of the year. In the 1990s, Leonard became a hot property, with his novels *Get Shorty*, *Rum Punch* and *Out of Sight* being turned into hit Hollywood films, with many more to follow. He's also had three television series based on his works – *Maximum Bob* (1998), *Karen Sisco* (2003-2004) and the current hit, *Justified* (2010-present).

Leonard's work was renowned for his sharp wit, lean descriptions and well-defined characters. But he is perhaps best known for his incredible use of realistic dialog. He wrote a famous essay, "10 Rules of Writing" for the New York Times, in which he humorously stated as #10: "Try to leave out the part that readers tend to skip." His natural writing style is epitomized by the statement with which he ended that essay: "If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it."

Over the course of his career, Elmore Leonard has won the following awards: The Edgar Award, The Grandmaster Edgar Award, The Cartier's Diamond Dagger Award, The Raymond Chandler Award, The F. Scott Fitzgerald Award, The PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award, The Peabody Award, The National Book Award Medal for Distinguished Competition.

After suffering a stroke on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and appearing to be recovering, Elmore Leonard passed away from complications relating to the stroke, on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Elmore Leonard's official website is located at: <http://www.elmoreleonard.com>



## Elmore Leonard's novels:

**The Bounty Hunters** [1953]  
**The Law at Randado** [1954] (filmed as *Border Shootout* [1990])  
**Escape From Five Shadows** [1956]  
**Last Stand at Saber River** [1959] (filmed [1997])  
**Hombre** [1961] (filmed [1967])  
**The Big Bounce** [1969] (filmed [1969]+[2004])  
**The Moonshine War** [1969] (filmed [1970])  
**Valdez is Coming** [1970] (filmed [1971])  
**Forty Lashes Less One** [1972]  
**Mr. Majestyk** [1974] (filmed [1974])  
**52 Pick-Up** [1974] (filmed as *The Ambassador* [1984], and *52 Pick-Up* [1986])  
**Swag** [1976]  
**Unknown Man No. 89** [1977]  
**The Hunted** [1977]  
**The Switch** [1978]  
**Gunsights** [1979]  
**City Primeval** [1980]  
**Gold Coast** [1980] (filmed for TV [1997])  
**Split Images** [1981] (filmed for TV [1992])  
**Cat Chaser** [1982] (filmed [1989])  
**Stick** [1983] (filmed [1985])  
**La Brava** [1983]  
**Glitz** [1985] (filmed for TV [1988])  
**Bandits** [1987]  
**Touch** [1987] (filmed [1997])  
**Freaky Deaky** [1988] (filmed [2012])  
**Killshot** [1989] (filmed [2009])  
**Get Shorty** [1990] (filmed [1995])

**Maximum Bob** [1991] (TV series [1998])  
**Rum Punch** [1992] (filmed as *Jackie Brown* [1997])  
**Pronto** [1993] (filmed for TV [1997]; also TV series *Justified* [2010-present])  
**Riding the Rap** [1995] (TV series *Justified* [2010-present])  
**Out of Sight** [1996] (filmed [1998]; also TV series *Karen Sisco* [2003-2004])  
**Naked Came the Mantee** (one chapter in multi-author novel) [1996]  
**Cuba Libre** [1998]  
**The Tonto Woman and Other Western Stories** (collection) [1998]  
**Be Cool** [1999] (filmed [2005])  
**Pagan Babies** [2000]  
**Fire in the Hole** [2001] (TV series *Justified* [2010-present])  
**When the Women Come Out to Dance** (collection) [2002]  
**Tishomingo Blues** [2002]  
**A Coyote's in the House** [2004]  
**The Complete Western Stories of Elmore Leonard** (collection) [2004]  
**Mr. Paradise** [2004]  
**The Hot Kid** [2005]  
**Comfort to the Enemy** [2006]  
**Up in Honey's Room** [2007]  
**Road Dogs** [2009]  
**Djibouti** [2010]  
**Raylan** [2012] (TV series *Justified* [2010-present])  
*[filmed versions of Leonard's works used the same titles as the books, unless otherwise noted in this list.]*

## Elmore Leonard's Screenplays

**The Moonshine War** [1970]  
**Joe Kidd** [1972]  
**Mr. Majestyk** [1974]  
**High Noon, Part II** [1980 TV]  
**Stick** [1985]

**52 Pick-Up** [1986]  
**The Rosary Murders** [1987]  
**Desperado** (TV series) [1987]  
**Cat Chaser** [1989]