

## MICKEY SPILLANE, 1918-2006

On March 9, 1918, in Brooklyn, New York, **Frank Morrison Spillane** was born on March 9, 1918, in Brooklyn, to parents Anne and John Spillane. Although he would be known as Morrison by his teachers, it was his father's nickname for him which would endure: **Mickey**. As a youth, he excelled at football and swimming. It was during his high school years that he began his writing career, with his first piece published shortly after graduation. Early in his career, he would often have his work published under pseudonyms, Frank Morrison being one of them. After high school, he briefly attended Kansas State Teachers College, spending most of his time there playing football. After college, he returned to New York. He worked at Gimbel's then joined the staff of writers at Marvel Comic Books, penning detective and superhero stories. When WW II broke out, Mickey enlisted in the Air Force but remained stateside and out of the action. Stationed in Mississippi, he met Mary Ann Pearce, who, in 1945, became his first wife. They later had four children, Kathy, Ward, Michael and Caroline.

After the war, he returned to New York. He bought a plot of land and decided to build a new home on it. To do so required a thousand dollars, a thousand dollars more than he had. So, in order to raise the money, he decided to write a book. He based it on a comic book character called **Mike Danger** he had created early in his career. That book was I, The Jury. It was published in 1947, introducing the world to **Mike Hammer**. The hardcover edition didn't sell very well, but the paperback sold more than enough to finance the construction of his new home. He continued to write, often writing a book in as little as a month. However, as more books were published, the attacks by the critics also grew, attacking the sexual and violent nature of his stories. Even though he shrugged off criticism publicly, privately he was hurt. He began to retreat from his celebrity hobnobbing and instead, began living up to the image of being a 'beer-drinking blue collar writer'. What the critics didn't seem to understand about his work was that he was writing to an audience that consisted largely of ex-servicemen who had just come out of WW II. These men didn't have to imagine too *hard* what the world of Mike Hammer might be like, considering what they had just gone through.

In the years between 1947 and 1952, Mickey wrote and published seven books, each of which sold in the millions. The last of these books, published in 1952, was Kiss Me, Deadly, became one of his best selling books. Though no more books were *published* in the 1950s, Mickey continued to write. During this decade, he wrote many short pieces which were printed in various magazines, including Manhunt. These were later collected and reprinted. Also, he wrote some non-fiction pieces, recorded the album 'Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer Story', in which he plays the part of Mike Hammer, and wrote a year's worth of Mike Hammer comic strips.

On the less literary side, he also did some circus work, which included getting shot out of a cannon as well as being involved in a trampoline act. Other activities included stock car racing, flying, fencing, diving for sunken treasure and some film work, including appearing as himself in 'Ring of Fear'.

After nearly a decade, Mickey began publishing books again, starting with The Deep (1961). This book was followed by the long awaited return of Mike Hammer in The Girl Hunters (1962), which was made into a film that starred Mickey Spillane as Mike Hammer, and whose script was co-written by Mickey. Unlike his books, most critics praised his acting. On a challenge from his publisher, he wrote his first young adult book, The Day The Sea Rolled Back, which ended up receiving a Junior Literary Guild Award. This book was followed up several years later with another young adult book, The Ship That Never Was. Mickey continued to appear occasionally in movies, including two films by his friend Max Allan Collins, and was honored with the title of Grand Master by the **Mystery Writers of America** at the Edgar Allen Poe Awards in 1995.

In November of 1965, several years after his divorce with his first wife Mary Ann, he married Sherri Malinou, actress and Mike Hammer cover model. Their marriage came to an end in 1983. In October of that same year, Mickey married Jane Johnson, a 'local girl' who lived quite close to him in Murrells Inlet, SC, where he resided until his death.

### BOOKS:

#### The Mike Hammer Novels

I, the Jury (1946)  
My Gun is Quick (1950)  
Vengeance is Mine! (1950)  
One Lonely Night (1951)  
The Big Kill (1951)  
Kiss Me Deadly (1952)  
The Girl Hunters (1962)  
The Snake (1964)  
The Twisted Thing (1966)  
The Body Lovers (1967)  
Survival...Zero! (1970)

The Killing Man (1989)  
Black Alley (1996)

#### The Tiger Mann Novels

The Day of the Guns (1964)  
Bloody Sunrise (1965)  
The Death Dealers (1965)  
The Bypass Control (1967)

#### Other Novels

The Long Wait (1951)  
The Deep (1961)  
The Delta Factor (1969)  
The Erection Set (1972)

The Last Cop Out (1973)  
Something Down There (1983)

#### Young Adult Books

The Day the Sea Rolled Back (1979)  
The Ship That Never Was (1982)

#### Anthologies edited or co-edited by Spillane

Murder is My Business (1995)  
Vengeance is Hers (1997)  
Private Eyes (1998)

## Collections

Me, Hood! (1963 UK 1969 US)  
Return of the Hood (1964 UK)  
The Flier (1964 UK)  
Killer Mine (1965 UK 1968 US)  
The Tough Guys (1969 US based  
on UK collections)  
Vintage Spillane (1974 UK)

## Short Stories

"Fresh Meat for a Raider" (Winter 1941, Sub-Mariner Comics #4; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Clams Make the Man" (1942, Joker #2; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"The Sea of Grassy Death" (February 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #28; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"The Ship In the Desert" (March 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #29; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Jinx Heap" (March 1942, Blue Bolt, Vol. 2, #10; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Lumps of Death" (April 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #30; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Killer's Return" (May 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #31; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Terror in the Grass" (May 1942, Blue Bolt Vol. 2, #12; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Creature of the Deep" (May 1942, Target Comics, #27; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Trouble - Come and Get It" (Spring 1942, 4 Most Comics #2; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Tight Spot" (Spring 1942, Sub-Mariner Comics #5; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Devil Cat" (Spring 1942, Human Torch #7; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"A Case of Poison Ivy" (June 1942, Blue Bolt, Vol. 3 #1; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Last Ride" (June 1942, Marvel I Mystery Comics #32; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Jap Trap" (July 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #33; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"The Curse of Tut Ken Amen" (August 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #34; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Woodsman's Test" (Summer 1942, 4 Most Comics #3; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"The Woim Toins" (Summer 1942, All Winners Comics #5; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"The Sea Serpent" (Summer 1942, Sub-Mariner Comics #6; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Flight Over Tokyo" (Summer 1942, Human Torch #8; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"A Shot in the Dark" (August 1942, Blue Bolt, Vol. #3, #3; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Undersea Champion" (August 1942, Target Comics #30; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Satan Himself!" (September 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #35; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Man in the Moon" (Fall 1942, All Winners #6; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Woe Is Me!" (October 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #36; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Scram, Bugs!" (November 1942, Marvel Mystery Comics #37; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Spook Ship" (November 1942, Target Comics #33; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"Sky Busters" (December 1942, Target Comics #34; also 2004, Primal Spillane)  
"The Veiled Woman" (November/December 1952, Fantastic; sci-fi; ghost-written by Howard Browne, from an outline by Spillane)  
"Together We Kill" (January 1953, Cavalier; also 2001, Together We Kill)

Tomorrow I Die (1984)  
Together We Kill: The Uncollected  
Stories of Mickey Spillane (2001)  
Primal Spillane (2004)  
Byline: Mickey Spillane! (2004)  
**Comic Strip**  
From the Files of...Mike Hammer  
(1953-54)

*Collected as Mickey Spillane's Mike  
Hammer – The Comic Strip – The  
Sudden Trap and Other Stories  
(1982)*

"Everybody's Watching Me" (January-April 1953, Manhunt; serialized in four issues; 2001, Pulp Masters)  
"The Girl Behind the Hedge" (October 1953, Manhunt; AKA "The Lady Says Die!")  
"The Night I Died" (1953; Mike Hammer; originally an unproduced radio play, tidied up and presented as a short story by Max Allan Collins in 1998's Private Eyes, edited by Spillane and Collins)  
"The Pickpocket" (December 1954, Manhunt; 1984, Tomorrow I Die)  
"Tonight My Love" (1954, released as 33 1/3 and 45 rpm records Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer Story)  
"The Screen Test of Mike Hammer" (July 1955, Male)  
"Tomorrow I Die, (February 1956, Cavalier)  
"Stand Up and Die!" (June 1958, Cavalier; 1984)  
"Me, Hood!" July 1959, Cavalier)  
"I'll Die Tomorrow" (March 1960, Cavalier)  
"The Seven Year Kill" (July 1960, Cavalier)  
"Kick It or Kill" (July 1961, Cavalier; AKA "The Girl Hunters")  
"The Affair with the Dragon Lady" (March 1962, Cavalier)  
"Hot Cat" (April 1964, *Saga*)  
"The Bastard Bannerman" (June 1964, *Saga*)  
"The Flier (1964, The Flier; AKA "Hot Cat")  
"Return of the Hood" (1964, Return of the Hood; 1969, Me, Hood!)  
"The Seven Year Kill" (1964, The Flier)  
"The Big Bang" (January 1965, *Saga*; AKA "Return of the Hood")  
"Death of the Too-Cute Prostitute" October 1965, Man's Magazine; AKA "Man Alone")  
"The Gold Fever Tapes" (1973, Stag Annual #15; 1984, Tomorrow I Die)  
"The Dread Chinatown Man" (August 1975, True)  
"Toys for the Man-Child" (August 1975, True)  
"Sex Is My Vengeance" (1984, Tomorrow I Die)  
"Trouble... Come and Get It" (1984, Tomorrow I Die).  
"The Killing Man" (December 1989, Playboy; Mike Hammer)

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March 9, 1918 – July 17, 2006

