The Philip Marlowe Novels of Raymond Chandler

The Marlowe Novels

**The Big Sleep** [1939]

A dying millionaire hires private eye Philip Marlowe to handle the blackmailer of one of his two troublesome daughters, and Marlowe finds himself involved with more than extortion. Kidnapping, pornography, seduction, and murder are just a few of the complications he gets caught up in.

**Farewell, My Lovely** [1940]

This novel, which Chandler regarded as his finest work, has Marlowe dealing with the Los Angeles gambling circuit, a murder he stumbles upon, and three very beautiful but potentially deadly women. Marlowe's about to give up on a completely routine case when he finds himself in the wrong place at the right time to get caught up in a murder that leads to a ring of jewel thieves, another murder, a fortune-teller, a couple more murders, and more corruption than your average graveyard.

**The High Window** [1942]

A wealthy Pasadena widow with a mean streak, a missing daughter-in-law with a past, and a gold coin worth a small fortune—the elements don't quite add up until Marlowe discovers evidence of murder, rape, blackmail, and the worst kind of human exploitation.

**The Lady in the Lake** [1943]

In *The Lady in the Lake*, hardboiled crime fiction master Raymond Chandler brings us the story of a couple of missing wives—one a rich man's and one a poor man's—who have become the objects of Philip Marlowe's investigation. One of them may have gotten a Mexican divorce and married a gigolo and the other may be dead. Marlowe's not sure he cares about either one, but he's not paid to care.

**The Little Sister** [1949]

In noir master Raymond Chandler’s *The Little Sister*, a movie starlet with a gangster boyfriend and a pair of siblings with a shared secret lure private eye Philip Marlowe into the less than glamorous and more than a little dangerous world of Hollywood fame. Chandler’s first foray into the industry that dominates the company town that is Los Angeles...

**The Long Goodbye** [1953]

In noir master Raymond Chandler’s *The Long Goodbye*, Philip Marlowe befriends a down on his luck war veteran with the scars to prove it. Then he finds out that Terry Lennox has a very wealthy nymphomaniac wife, whom he divorced and remarried and who ends up dead. And now Lennox is on the lam and the cops and a crazy gangster are after Marlowe.
In noir master Raymond Chandler’s *Playback*, Philip Marlowe is hired by an influential lawyer he’s never heard of, to tail a gorgeous redhead, but then decides he’d rather help out the redhead. She’s been acquitted of her alcoholic husband's murder, but her father-in-law prefers not to take the court's word for it...

**THE MARLOWE MISCELLANEA**

**The Simple Art of Murder [1950]**

In *The Simple Art of Murder*, which was prefaced by the famous *Atlantic Monthly* essay of the same name, noir master Raymond Chandler argues the virtues of the hard-boiled detective novel, and this collection, mostly drawn from stories he wrote for the pulps, demonstrates Chandler’s imaginative, entertaining facility with the form. Included are the classic stories "Spanish Blood," Pearls Are a Nuisance," and "Guns at Cyrano's," among others.

**Trouble is My Business [1951]**

Trouble is My Business is a collection of four riveting novellas from Raymond Chandler. In the first of the four cases LA PI Philip Marlowe is offered a job that leaves a bad taste in the mouth: smearing a girl who’s ‘got her hooks into a rich man’s pup’. Before too long Marlowe’s up to his neck in corpses and cops and he’s taken pity on the girl. There’s nothing like making trouble of your business . . . The four novellas collected here are quintessential Raymond Chandler: slick, crystal-clear writing that pins the reader to the seat and won’t let go until the last page is turned. [NOTE: These originally featured different sleuths before being reprinted as a Marlowe collection.]

**PHILIP MARLOWE NOVELS BY OTHER AUTHORS**

**Ten Percent of Life [1987]**

By Hiber Conteris

An unusually well-off Marlowe probes the 1956 "suicide" of a Hollywood literary agent, one of whose clients is Raymond Chandler.

**Raymond Chandler’s Philip Marlowe: A Centennial Celebration [1988]**

Edited by Byron Preiss

A collection of 24 short stories by a variety of other mystery writers. The second edition (1999) included two additional stories.

**Poodle Springs [1989]**

By Robert B. Parker, from an unfinished manuscript by Raymond Chandler

Philip Marlowe marries a rich, beautiful society lady who wants him to settle down. But old habits die hard, and Marlowe soon is back in business, enmeshed in a case involving pornography, bigamy, and murder. [Chandler left behind only the first four chapters and the novel was finished by Robert B. Parker.]

**Perchance to Dream [1991]**

By Robert B. Parker

In a sequel to Raymond Chandler’s *The Big Sleep*, Marlowe takes on a case involving General Sternwood, who is six feet under, Vivian, who is dating a blackmailer, and Carmen, a sanatorium escapee. [100% Robert B. Parker]
The Black-Eyed Blonde  [2014]
By Benjamin Black

"It was one of those summer Tuesday afternoons when you begin to wonder if the earth has stopped revolving. The telephone on my desk had the look of something that knows it's being watched. Traffic trickled by in the street below, and there were a few pedestrians, too, men in hats going nowhere."

So begins The Black-Eyed Blonde, a new novel featuring Philip Marlowe - yes, that Philip Marlowe. Channeling Raymond Chandler, Benjamin Black has brought Marlowe back to life for a new adventure on the mean streets of Bay City, California. It is the early 1950s, Marlowe is as restless and lonely as ever, and business is a little slow. Then a new client is shown in: young, beautiful, and expensively dressed, she wants Marlowe to find her former lover, a man named Nico Peterson. Marlowe sets off on his search, but almost immediately discovers that Peterson's disappearance is merely the first in a series of bewildering events. Soon he is tangling with one of Bay City's richest families and developing a singular appreciation for how far they will go to protect their fortune.

Only Benjamin Black, a modern master of the genre, could write a new Philip Marlowe detective novel that has all the panache and charm of the originals while delivering a story that is as sharp and fresh as today's best crime fiction.

At last Marlowe is back where he belongs. His mission is to investigate Donald Zinn - supposedly drowned off his yacht, leaving a much younger and now very rich wife. Marlowe's specialty. But is Zinn actually alive? Are the pair living off the spoils?

Set between the border and badlands of Mexico and California, Lawrence Osborne's resurrection of the iconic Marlowe is an unforgettable addition to the Raymond Chandler canon.


This booklist created for the
Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group

Lincoln City Libraries – Lincoln, Nebraska
sdc – October 2019

Only to Sleep  [2018]
By Lawrence Osborne

Wealthy dead American. Beautiful young widow. This case has PI Philip Marlowe's name written all over it. Is it enough to bring him back for one last adventure?

The year is 1988. The place, Baja California. Private Investigator Philip Marlowe - now in his 72nd year - has been living out his retirement in the terrace bar of the La Fonda hotel. Sipping margaritas, playing cards, his silver-tipped cane at the ready. When in saunter two men dressed like undertakers. With a case that has his name written all over it.
Chronology of Film, TV and Radio Adaptations of Philip Marlowe Stories

Philip Marlowe has enjoyed a long but complicated history of audiovisual adaptations. Since Raymond Chandler wrote several stories featuring “pre-Marlowe” characters (Carmady, John Dalmas, etc.), which were retroactively changed to make them Marlowe stories in subsequent reprints or re-packaging of the stories in later editions. Therefore, there are numerous film/tv/radio adaptations of stories which are later considered to be “Philip Marlowe” stories, but which were made for film/tv/radio calling the character by other names.

The Falcon Takes Over (1942 film) adaptation of Farewell, My Lovely with detective “The Falcon” (George Sanders) substituting for Marlowe
Time to Kill (1942 film) Adaptation of The High Window with detective “Michael Shayne” (Lloyd Nolan) substituting for Marlowe
Murder, My Sweet (1944 film) Adaptation of Farewell, My Lovely (released in UK under that title). Dick Powell as Marlowe
The Lady in the Lake (1947 film) Robert Montgomery as Marlowe
“The Kandy Tooth” episode of “The Adventures of Sam Spade” (Suspense, CBS Radio, January 10, 1948) Cameo as Marlowe by series host Robert Montgomery
“Murder, My Sweet” (Hollywood Star Time, CBS Radio, June 8, 1948) Adapted from 1944 film. Dick Powell as Marlowe
“The Long Goodbye” (episode of Climax! TV series, CBS TV, October 7, 1954) Dick Powell as Marlowe
Philip Marlowe (ABC TV series, October 6, 1959-March 29, 1960) Philip Carey as Marlowe
Marlowe (1969 film) adaptation of “The Little Sister”. James Garner as Marlowe
The Long Goodbye (1973 film) Elliot Gould as Marlowe
Farewell, My Lovely (1975 film) Robert Mitchum as Marlowe
The Big Sleep (1978 film) Robert Mitchum as Marlowe
Poodle Springs (1998 TV movie) James Caan as Marlowe
“Red Wind” (November 26, 1995 episode of Fallen Angels Showtime TV series) Danny Glover as Marlowe
Marlow (2007 unsold TV pilot) Jason O’Mara as Marlowe
Classic Chandler (BBC Radio, February 5-October 11, 2011) adaptations of all 7 novels. Toby Stephens as Marlowe