

Little Caesar
By W.R. Burnett

This is the classic story of a Chicago gangster's rise, decline and fall. It mirrors all too exactly the jungle of protection rackets and resultant gang warfare that the police are resisting in London, England—and many other places in the world—at this very hour. It is written in a cold hard style as befits its theme, and the characters of Rico, the smooth, ruthless killer; Sam Vettori—turning flabby—first his boss, then his victim; and the "Big Boy", overlord of a slice of the city, are unforgettable. Thugs like these still live today—and they die quickly, brutally and unmourned.

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L.A. Confidential
By James Ellroy

A horrific mass murder invades the lives of victims and victimizers on both sides of the law—three cops treading quicksand in the middle. Detective Ed Exley wants glory. Haunted by his father's success as a policeman, he will pay any price, break any law to eclipse him. Detective Bud White watched his own father murder his mother--he is now bent on random vengeance, a time bomb with a badge. Celebrity cop Jack Vincennes shakes down movie stars for a scandal magazine. An old secret possesses him—he'll do anything to keep it buried. Three cops in a spiral, a nightmare that tests loyalty and courage, a nightmare that offers no mercy, allows for no survivors. Here is James Ellroy's masterpiece. . . darkness to haunt you in shades of red, gray, and black.

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The Long Goodbye
By Raymond Chandler

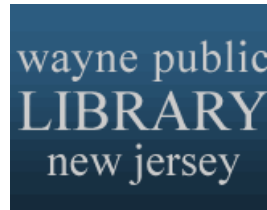
Marlowe befriends a down on his luck war veteran with the scars to prove it. Then he finds out that Terry Lennox has a very wealthy nymphomaniac wife, who he's divorced and re-married and who ends up dead. and now Lennox is on the lam and the cops and a crazy gangster are after Marlowe.

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Dark Passage
By David Goodis

Sentenced to life in San Quentin for the alleged murder of his wife, Vince Parry escapes in a desperate attempt to prove his innocence. A fugitive from justice, in the depths of despair, he finds refuge with a beautiful woman as he struggles to unravel a nightmarish plot. First published as a magazine serial, *Dark Passage* was filmed in 1947 by Delmer Daves.

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By Ross MacDonald

In *The Chill* a distraught young man hires Archer to track down his runaway bride. But no sooner has he found Dolly Kincaid than Archer finds himself entangled in two murders, one twenty years old, the other so recent that the blood is still wet. What ensues is a detective novel of nerve-racking suspense, desperately believable characters, and one of the most intricate plots ever spun by an American crime writer.

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Black Alley

By Mickey Spillane

Yes, Mike Hammer is back, and in deeper trouble and darker danger than ever before. He has the gunning down of an old army buddy to pay back with interest. He has two generations of the most powerful family in the Mafia to beat at their own gory games. He has a missing chunk of vital memory blown out of his head by a bullet in his guts. And above all, he has a missing cache of \$89 billion to find in a slick maze of false clues, phony stories, brutal betrayals, and deadly twists and turns, before the bad guys get their hands on it and their sights on him. And to complicate matters, the Feds have dealt themselves into the game, eager to beat everybody else to the loot. On his side, against this awesome array of evil, he has only his beautiful, loving, and when necessary lethal secretary, Velda. Plus a pair of rock-hard fists. And his old reliable companion, his well-oiled .45.

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By Dashiell Hammett

A young, frightened, foreign woman appears at the door of an isolated house. The man and woman inside take her in. Other strangers appear in pursuit of the girl. Menace is in the air. Originally published in 1933, this novel shows the author at the peak of his narrative powers.

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By James M. Cain

This novel contains three short novels. Like almost everything he has written, they deal with violent deeds and violent emotions. Passion and murder are their materials, and they are presented with the amazing skill that makes any Cain story an adventure in suspense. They are indeed three of a kind—and every one of the an ace.

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By Cornell Woolrich

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