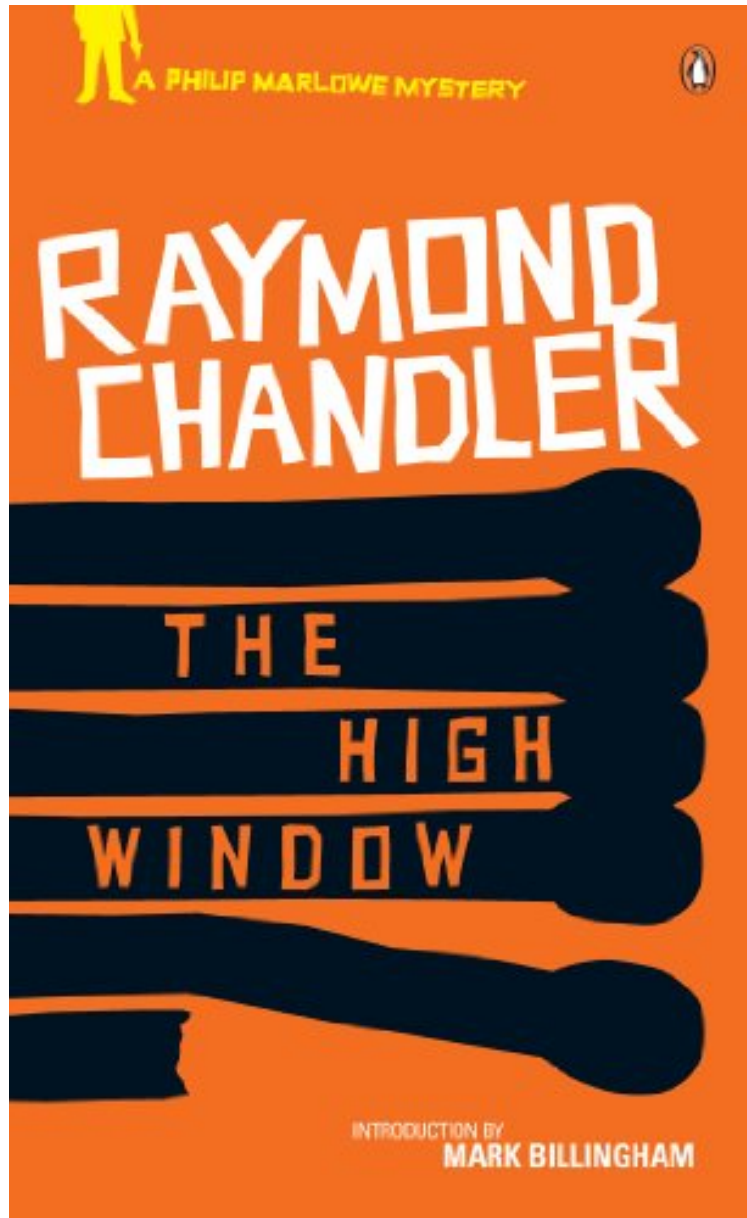


(Library ebook) The High Window: Classic Hard-Boiled Detective Fiction (Philip Marlowe Series)

The High Window: Classic Hard-Boiled Detective Fiction (Philip Marlowe Series)

Von Raymond Chandler

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Von Raymond Chandler : The High Window: Classic Hard-Boiled Detective Fiction (Philip Marlowe Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The High Window: Classic Hard-Boiled Detective Fiction (Philip Marlowe Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "If you hire me, you get all the delicacy I have." (P. Marlowe)Von expressChandler originally intended his third novel (published in 1942) to be a burlesque of the sort of pulp fiction he had been writing in the style of *Pearls Are a Nuisance*. This element remains very strong and shapes practically all main characters. Mrs. Murdock, a female parody of General Sternwood (*The Big Sleep*), is introduced this way: "She had a lot of face and chin. ...she had a hard beak and large moist eyes with the sympathetic expression of wet stones. There was a lace at her throat, but it was the throat that would have looked better in a football sweater." The description is funny and would be suitable for minor characters. But to give this caricature one of the main roles in the novel borders on *navet*.The burlesque element of the book is oddly mixed with the central theme: the misuse of power and the control of one person by another. In this case Mrs. Murdock's control over her weak son and her dependent secretary, Merle Davies. The seriousness of the central theme shows how ambitious Chandler was for the detective story. It may explain why he thought he had to exaggerate the jokes and wisecracks to make the book palatable for a wider audience but its odd and curious mixture of dramatic elements seem somewhat uncomfortable together.Also the mystery element doesn't show Chandler at his most innovative, relying merely on an improbable photograph. Instead, as the story progresses, his attention is shifting more and more on Marlowe himself and his growing frustration: "I drove back to Hollywood, bought a pint of good liquor, checked in at the Plaza and sat on the side of the bed staring at my feet and lapping the whisky out of the bottle. Just like any common bedroom drunk." A general lack of energy is hanging over the book, Marlowe is starting to question even the skills for which people hired him, calling himself 'cock-eyed', 'club-footed' and 'careless'. It seems Chandler and his hero worry more about their own depressive mood than about the case at hand. Oh yes, it's about the recovery of a missing rare and valuable coin called the Brasher Doubloon, but it could be just about anything else. So the reader doesn't need to worry too much about the McGuffin.The novel has been turned into two films which are equally pedestrian. The first was *Time to Kill*, directed by Herbert I. Leeds and released in 1942. The second adaptation was *The Brasher Doubloon*, directed by John Brahm and released in 1947.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "If you hire me, you get all the delicacy I have." (P. Marlowe)Von expressChandler originally intended his third novel (published in 1942) to be a burlesque of the sort of pulp fiction he had been writing in the style of *Pearls Are a Nuisance*. This element remains very strong and shapes practically all main characters. Mrs. Murdock, a female parody of General Sternwood (*The Big Sleep*), is introduced this way: "She had a lot of face and chin. ...she had a hard beak and large moist eyes with the sympathetic expression of wet stones. There was a lace at her throat, but it was the throat that would have looked better in a football sweater." The description is funny and would be suitable for minor characters. 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The second adaptation was *The Brasher Doubloon*, directed by John Brahm and released in 1947.4 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Best sledgehammer aroundVon Sandra McKinnon (sandracmc@aol.com)The High Window by Raymond Chandler The "High Window" begins one hot day in Pasadena, when "everything that grew was perfectly still in the breathless air they get over there on what they call a nice cool day." If we don't know we are in a Philip Marlowe novel yet, we do as soon as we meet his new client--a wealthy, obese widow named Mrs. Murdock. From the overgrown, dimly-lit sun room where she holds court, she gives Marlowe his latest p.i. assignment. He's to find a rare coin, the Brasher Doubloon, that was stolen from her possession. He's also to find her daughter-in-law, a former nightclub singer named Linda Conquest, who disappeared at the same time as the coin. "A charming girl--and tough as an oak board," Mrs. Murdock tells him, through sips of her port. Marlowe's search for the pair leads to a tale more dense and tangled than the thick foliage of his client's sun porch. He quickly finds himself enmeshed with a rich gambler and his philandering, showgirl wife; a thug with a frozen eye; and a mortician who delves into politics. Marlowe also has to contend with the police and a man in a sand-colored coup who keeps tailing him. Then there are the corpses that keep piling up in his path. There's also his client, who has her own share of tightly-bound secrets. A near-invalid who spends her days lying on a reed chaise lounge, Mrs. Murdock still holds an iron grip on her effeminate son and the

fragile woman who works as her secretary. The plot is fast-paced and engrossing, but the real power of the novel lies in the snappy dialogue and beautifully conveyed atmosphere. Chandler's style has been copied endlessly by other writers over the past fifty years, but no one can touch him. Marlowe's is a world filled with hard-eyed Filipinos answering doors, nightclubs named the Tigertail Bar, and women who are "all cigarettes and arched eyebrows and go-to-hell expressions." Even his butterflies take off heavily and stagger away "through the motionless hot scented air." As with the other Marlowe novels, there's the usual gratuitous wisecracks exchanged with minor characters--the sourpuss maid; the streetwise chauffeur; the old, watery-eyed elevator operator who breathed hard, "as if he was carrying the elevator on his back." Despite his cynical words, Marlowe holds a special place in his heart for the losers in the world. He sends cash to a pitiful handwriting expert and takes an inept detective under his wing. "The shop-soiled Galahad," an associate calls him. For the rest of the characters, however, he has nothing but contempt. A tough man in a tough world, Marlowe doesn't hide his true feelings under a bushel. He describes the gambler's wife: "From thirty feet away she looked like a lot of class. From ten feet away she looked like something made up to be seen from thirty feet away." His instructions to the portly Mrs. Murdock: "Tell her to jump in the lake...Tell her to jump in two lakes, if one won't hold her." Chandler's master stroke as a writer is hyperbole. Even his silences are "as loud as a ton of coal going down a chute." He may write with a sledgehammer, but it's the best sledgehammer around.

KurzbeschreibungThe High Window is a classic novel by the master of hard-boiled crime Philip Marlowe's on a case: his client, a dried-up husk of a woman, wants him to recover a rare gold coin called a Brasher Doubloon, missing from her late husband's collection. That's the simple part. It becomes more complicated when Marlowe finds that everyone who handles the coin suffers a run of very bad luck: they always end up dead. That's also unlucky for a private investigator, because leaving a trail of corpses around LA gets cops' noses out of joint. If Marlowe doesn't wrap this one up fast, he's going to end up in jail - or worse, in a box in the ground . . . 'Anything Chandler writes about grips the mind from the first sentence' Daily Telegraph 'One of the greatest crime writers, who set standards others still try to attain' Sunday Times 'Chandler is an original stylist, creator of a character as immortal as Sherlock Holmes' Anthony Burgess Best-known as the creator of the original private eye, Philip Marlowe, Raymond Chandler was born in Chicago in 1888 and died in 1959. Many of his books have been adapted for the screen, and he is widely regarded as one of the very greatest writers of detective fiction. His books include The Big Sleep, The Little Sister, Farewell, My Lovely, The Long Good-bye, The Lady in the Lake, Playback, Killer in the Rain, The High Window and Trouble is My Business.

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