DASHIELL Hammett

THE MALTESE FALCON THE THIN MAN RED HARVEST

WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY ROBERT POLITO



E V E R Y M A N ' S L I B R A R Y Alfred A.Knopf NewYork London Toronto

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C H R O N O L O G Y

DATE	AUTHOR'S LIFE	LITERARY CONTEXT
1894	Samuel Dashiell Hammett born 27 May in St Mary's County, Maryland to Richard Thomas Hammett and Annie Bond Dashiell.	Conan Doyle: The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes. Conan Doyle visits US for lecture tour. Twain: Pudd'nhead Wilson.
1896	Dasinei.	Fitzgerald born. Chekhov: <i>The Seagull</i> . Hardy: <i>Jude the Obscure</i> .
1898		Titildy. June on Oosean.
1899		Hemingway born. Hornung: Raffles: The Amateur Cracksman. Chopin: The Awakening. James: The Awkward Age.
1900		Nabokov born. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams. Conrad: Lord Jim. Dreiser: Sister Carrie.
1901	Family moves to Baltimore.	Mann: Buddenbrooks. Kipling: Kim.
1902		Conan Doyle: The Hound of the Baskervilles. Steinbeck born.
1904		Chekhov dies. James: <i>The Golden Bowl</i> .
1905		Conan Doyle: The Return of Sherlock Holmes. Wharton: The House of Mirth.
1906		Beckett born.
1907		Conrad: The Secret Agent. Auden born.
1908	Attends Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Leaves after less than a year to work at various jobs.	
1909 1912	,	Stein: Three Lives. Dreiser: The Financier.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The US becomes the leading manufacturing nation in the world. Beginning of Freudian psychoanalysis. Nicholas II becomes Tsar.

William McKinley elected US president. Klondike Gold Rush.

Invention of the cash register. Rockefeller 'retires' worth c. \$200 million. Spanish-American War.

Outbreak of Boer War. Alfred Hitchcock born.

US population 76 million. US railroad network just under 200,000 miles. First International Socialist Congress in Paris. Planck's quantum theory.

President McKinley assassinated. Succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt, ushering in a progressive era in American politics. Marconi transmits messages across the Atlantic. Death of Queen Victoria; accession of Edward VII.

War breaks out between Japan and Russia.

Einstein's theory of relativity. General strikes, mutiny and incipient revolution in Russia.

San Francisco earthquake. Cubist exhibition in Paris.

First Ford Model T car.

Woodrow Wilson elected US president. Sinking of *Titanic*. Charlie Chaplin's first film.

xxxiii

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1913		Frost: A Boy's Will. Lawrence: Sons and Lovers. Gorky: Childhood.
1914		Burroughs: Tarzan of the Apes. Joyce: Dubliners.
1915	Detective for Pinkerton's National Detective Service.	Ford: The Good Soldier. Kafka: Metamorphosis. Lawrence: The Rainbow.
1917		Conan Doyle: <i>His Last Bow</i> . Eliot: 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'.
1918	Enlists in army.	J
1919	Discharged from army with disability pension following bouts of flu, pneumonia and tuberculosis. Returns to work at Pinkerton's.	Black Mask, pulp magazine, set up. Anderson: Winesburg, Ohio. Woolf: Night and Day.
1920	Works as Pinkerton's operative in Spokane, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Is hospitalised, where he meets nurse Josephine ('Jose') Dolan.	Christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles (first novel). Mansfield: Bliss. Fitzgerald: This Side of Paradise. Pound: Hugh Selwyn Mauberly. Lewis: Main Street.
1921	Marries Jose Dolan on 7 July in San Francisco. Daughter Mary Jane born 15 October.	Dos Passos: Three Soldiers. Lawrence: Women in Love. Pirandello: Six Characters in Search of an Author.
1922	First short stories published in Smart Set and Black Mask.	Carroll John Daly creates the first hard-boiled detective in 'The False Burton Combs'. Eliot: <i>The Wasteland</i> . Joyce: <i>Ulysses</i> . Mansfield: <i>The Garden Party</i> .
1923	Introduces the Continental Op in <i>Black Mask</i> short story 'Arson Plus'.	,
1925	'The Scorched Face' (novelette) published in <i>Black Mask</i> .	Dreiser: An American Tragedy. Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby. Loos: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Stein: The Making of Americans. Kafka: The Trial. Woolf: Mrs Dalloway. Dos Passos: Manhattan Transfer.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Completion of new, even grander Grand Central Station building. Post-Impressionist exhibition in New York.

Outbreak of World War I. President Wilson proclaims US neutrality. Panama Canal opens.

US joins war in Europe. Russian October Revolution.

World War I ends 11 November.

The Eighteenth Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, is ratified. Versailles Peace Conference, with Wilson's Fourteen Points. The 'Red Scare' in the US: American steelworkers start year-long strike. Nineteenth Amendment (Female Suffrage) passed by the House.

Warren G. Harding elected US president. Slump in US. League of Nations formed. Russian Civil War ends. The 'jazz age'.

Quota laws restrict immigration to the US. Radio broadcasting.

Mussolini gains power in Italy. Revival of the Ku Klux Klan. Talking pictures developed.

Calvin Coolidge elected president after Harding's death. Moscow becomes capital of USSR; Stalin becomes General Secretary of Communist Party.

Al Capone a powerful force in Chicago. The 'Monkey Trial' in Dayton, Tennessee finds for *Genesis* and signals the withdrawal of Southern culture into other-worldliness.

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1926	Advertising manager for jeweller Albert Samuels. Daughter Josephine Rebecca born 24 May.	Fitzgerald: All the Sad Young Men. Faulkner: Soldier's Pay. Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises. Christie: The Murder of Roger Ackroyd.
1927	First part of <i>Red Harvest</i> (originally called 'Poisonville') published in <i>Black Mask</i> .	Woolf: To the Lighthouse. Cather: Death Comes for the Archbishop. Wilder: The Bridge of San Luis Rey. Proust: Remembrance of Things Past. Conan Doyle: The Case Book
1928		of Sherlock Holmes. Lawrence: Lady Chatterley's Lover. Bulgakov: The Master and Margarita (to 1940). O'Neill: Strange Interlude. Waugh: Decline and Fall.
1929	Red Harvest and The Dain Curse published by Knopf. Moves to New York. First part of The Maltese Falcon and 'Fly Paper' (a novelette) published in Black Mask.	Hemingway: A Farewell to Arms. Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury. Wolfe: Look Homeward, Angel. Remarque: All Quiet on the Western Front.
1930	The Maltese Falcon published by Knopf. Roadhouse Nights, a movie based on Red Harvest, released by Paramount. Moves to Hollywood; meets Lillian Hellman.	Lawrence dies. Faulkner: As I Lay Dying. Crane: The Bridge. Freud: Civilization and its Discontents.
1931	The Glass Key published. Moves back to New York. First film version of The Maltese Falcon, starring Ricardo Cortez and Bebe Daniels, released by Warner Brothers. Hammett cowrites screenplay.	
1932		Crane dies. Huxley: Brave New World. Caldwell: Tobacco Road. Erle Stanley Gardner: The Case of the Velvet Claws (first Perry Mason novel).

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Television invented by John Logie Baird. First liquid fuel rocket. General strike in UK.

Lindbergh's solo Atlantic flight. Financial crisis in Germany. Trotsky expelled from Communist Party in USSR.

First full-length film, first television broadcast; 26 million cars and 13 million radios in use in US. Herbert Hoover elected US president. First 'Mickey Mouse' cartoon. Gershwin: *An American in Paris*. Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo.

Wall Street Crash, 24 October; mass unemployment. US establishes Federal Loans. Beginning of world depression. Al Capone arrested. Museum of Modern Art in New York founded. Land speed record set at 231 mph.

Unemployment rises to 13 million, US tariff raised. France begins Maginot Line. Gandhi begins civil disobedience campaign in India. Empire State Building opened.

Al Capone found guilty of tax evasion and sent to prison (the first time a charge was made to stick). Britain abandons Gold Standard. Invention of the electric razor.

Lindbergh's son kidnapped. Franklin Roosevelt, Democrat, elected US president. Inaugurates New Deal. Stock prices in the US fall to 20% of their 1929 value.

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1933	Novella 'Woman in the Dark' published in <i>Liberty</i> . Condensed version of The Thin Man published in Redbook. The Thin Man published. Film version starring William Powell and Myrna Loy released by MGM (five other Thin Man movies would follow between 1934 and 1947).	Book burnings in Nazi Germany. Nathanael West: Miss Lonelyhearts. Cain: The Postman Always Rings Twice (banned in Boston). Fitzgerald: Tender is the Night. First Soviet Writers' Congress held in Moscow. Waugh: A Handful of Dust. Miller: Tropic of Cancer. Christie: Murder on the Orient Express.
1935	Meets Gertrude Stein.	Cain: Double Indemnity. Wolfe: Of Time and the River. Lewis: It Can't Happen Here.
1936	Secretly joins Communist Party. Satan Met a Lady, a second film version of The Maltese Falcon, is released by Warner Brothers. After the Thin Man released by MGM.	Mitchell: Gone with the Wind. Eliot: Collected Poems. Dos Passos: The Big Money. Faulkner: Absalom, Absalom! Lorca killed by Fascist militia in Spain.
1937		Hemingway: To Have and Have Not. Steinbeck: Of Mice and Men. Stevens: The Man with the Blue Guitar. Woolf: The Years. Dos Passos: U.S.A.
1938		Cummings: Collected Poems. Sartre: Nausea. Beckett: Murphy. Waugh: Scoop.
1939		Chandler: The Big Sleep. Joyce: Finnegans Wake. Steinbeck: The Grapes of Wrath.
1940		Hemingway: For Whom the Bell Tolls. Chandler: Farewell, My Lovely. Fitzgerald dies. Greene: The Power and the Glory.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Twenty-First Amendment, repealing prohibition, ratified. Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany. USSR recognised by US. By this year 11,000 of the 25,000 banks in the US have failed.

Depth of the Great Depression. Stalin institutes purges of the Communist Party in Russia. Al Capone sent to Alcatraz.

Transcontinental air service begins in US. Mussolini invades Abyssinia. Gershwin: *Porgy and Bess.*

Roosevelt re-elected by a landslide. Spanish Civil War begins. Abdication of King Edward VIII who wishes to marry the American divorcee Wallace Simpson. Hitler and Mussolini form Rome-Berlin axis.

Japan invades China. First jet engine and nylon stockings. In the US approximately 75 million visit movies every week. Moscow show trials of Communist Party opponents of Stalin. Strike against Republic Steel in Chicago: four strikers killed, forty-four injured.

Germany annexes Austria; Munich crisis. Pogroms against Jews in Germany. Hitchcock: The Lady Vanishes.

World War II begins. First commercial transatlantic flights. Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable star in *Gone with the Wind*.

The Battle of Britain. Penicillin developed. Fall of Paris. Assassination of Trotsky in Mexico. Churchill prime minister in UK. Extraction of plutonium from uranium.

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1941	Elected president of League of American Writers. John Huston's film version of <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> , starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor, released by Warner Brothers.	Fitzgerald: <i>The Last Tycoon</i> (posthumous). Brecht: <i>Mother Courage</i> . Woolf and Joyce die.
1942	Hammett rejoins army as a private.	Chandler: <i>The High Window</i> . Paul: <i>A Narrow Street</i> . Camus: <i>The Stranger</i> .
1943	Sent to Fort Randall, Alaska. Co-writes screenplay Watch on the Rhine with Lillian Hellman.	Chandler: The Lady in the Lake.
1944		Williams: The Glass Menagerie. Eliot: Four Quartets.
1945	Honourably discharged as a master sergeant. Returns to New York.	Orwell: Animal Farm. Waugh: Brideshead Revisited. Thurber: The Thurber Carnival. Borges: Fictions. Dreiser dies.
1946	Elected president of Communist- sponsored Civil Rights Congress of New York. Begins teaching courses in mystery writing at Jefferson School of Social Science.	Chandler wins Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Allan Poe Award (also in 1954). Goodis: Dark Passage.
1947		The Diary of Anne Frank. Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire.
1948		Eliot wins Nobel Prize. Mailer: The Naked and the Dead.
1949		Chandler: The Little Sister. Faulkner wins Nobel Prize. Orwell: 1984. Greene: The Third Man. Miller: Death of a Salesman.
1950		Chandler: 'The Simple Art of Murder', 'Goldfish'. Eliot: <i>The Cocktail Party</i> .
1951	Questioned before US District Court about Civil Rights Congress bail fund. Found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to six months in prison, where his health deteriorates.	Jones: From Here to Eternity. Salinger: The Catcher in the Rye. Frost: Complete Poems.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. US enters war 11 December. Hitler invades Russia. US introduces 'lease-lend' system of aid to Britain. Orson Welles: Citizen Kane. Irving Berlin: White Christmas. Beginnings of 'bebop'.

Rommel defeated at El Alamein. Build-up of American air force in Free China. World's first nuclear reactor constructed at Chicago University.

Russians defeat Germans at Stalingrad. Allied armies victorious in North Africa. Allied invasion of Italy.

Allied landings in Normandy; German retreat; liberation of Paris. Roosevelt elected for fourth term in US. *Double Indemnity* released (screenplay part written by Raymond Chandler).

Churchill gives 'Iron Curtain' speech. Cold War begins. Unconditional surrender of Germany. Suicide of Hitler. World War II ends after bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Foundation of United Nations. Truman president of US; Attlee prime minister in UK.

Film of The Big Sleep with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

Al Capone dies. Film of *Dark Passage* starring Bogart and Bacall. India proclaimed independent.

Jewish state of Israel comes into existence. Month-long coal miners' strike in America. Hitchcock: *Rope*.

Chinese revolution. Northern Atlantic Treaty signed at Washington. Russian Blockade lifted. Orson Welles stars in *The Third Man*.

Senator Joseph McCarthy accuses State Department of being riddled with Communists, and begins the worst of the American blacklist period. Korean War begins.

President Truman dismisses General MacArthur as commander of the UN forces in Korea. Rogers and Hammerstein: *South Pacific*. Hitchcock: *Strangers on a Train* (screenplay part written by Chandler). Churchill elected prime minister in UK.

DATE	AUTHOR'S LIFE	LITERARY CONTEXT
1952	Moves to Katonah, New York. Begins work on a novel; fragment is later published as <i>Tulip</i> in <i>The Big Knockover</i> , a collection of his stories published in 1966.	Beckett: Waiting for Godot. Ellison: The Invisible Man. O'Connor: Wise Blood. Steinbeck: East of Eden.
1953	Subpoenaed by Senator Joseph McCarthy to testify before his Senate subcommittee.	Chandler: <i>The Long Goodbye</i> . Faulkner: <i>Requiem for a Nun</i> . Williams: <i>Camino Real</i> .
1954		Hemingway wins Nobel Prize. Amis: <i>Lucky Jim</i> .
1955	Suffers heart attack at Lillian Hellman's house on Martha's Vineyard.	Nabokov: Lolita. Williams: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Miller: A View from the Bridge.
1956		Osborne: Look Back in Anger. Brecht dies. Goodis: Shoot the Piano Player.
1957		Kerouac: On the Road.
1958		Pasternak's Dr Zhivago published throughout world (except USSR). Capote: Breakfast at Tiffany's.
1959		Burroughs: The Naked Lunch. Grass: The Tin Drum.
1960		Updike: Rabbit, Run. O'Connor: The Violent Bear It Away.
1961	Dies of lung cancer on 10 January 1961 in New York City. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.	Hemingway dies. Heller: Catch 22. Williams: Night of the Iguana.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Eisenhower elected US president. Gary Cooper stars in *High Noon*. China accuses US of waging germ warfare in Korea. Batista overthrows Cuban government. Accession of Elizabeth II. First contraceptive pill.

Experiments in colour television in the US. Stalin dies.

Communist Party outlawed in US. Marlon Brando stars in *On the Waterfront*. Hitchcock: *Dial M for Murder* and *Rear Window*. Vietnamese Communists defeat French at Dien Bien Phu.

Soviets invade Hungary. Suez Crisis. Eisenhower re-elected as US president. Transatlantic telephone service linking Britain and the US.

Civil Rights Act in US; race riots in southern US. Alaska becomes 49th state of US. Bernstein: West Side Story. Hitchcock: Vertigo. Beginning of space exploration.

Batista flees Cuba; Castro seizes power.

John F. Kennedy elected US president. Brezhnev becomes president of USSR. John Wayne stars in $\it The\ Alamo.$

Berlin Wall constructed. Yuri Gagarin becomes first man in space.