

An illustration of a man in a dark blue suit falling on an orange tennis court. He is lying on his back with his arms outstretched. To his left, a tennis racket and a yellow tennis ball are on the court. A tennis net is visible in the background. The background is a solid orange color with white lines representing the court's boundaries. A large white circle is positioned in the upper right quadrant, containing the title text.

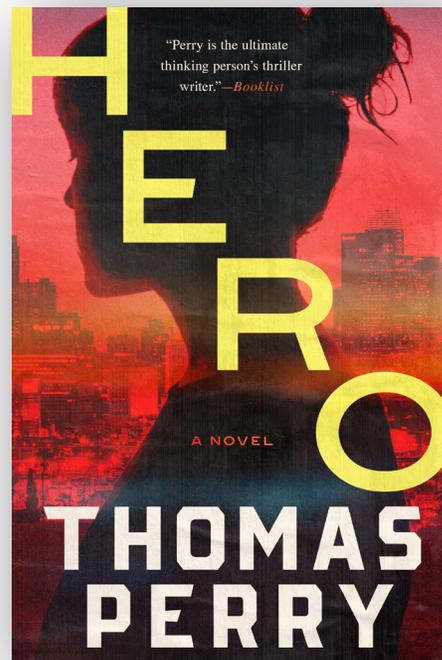
**Penzler  
Publishers  
Winter 2024  
Catalog**

A private security agent finds that being branded as the City of Angels' latest hero could also make her its next victim in this new novel of suspense from bestseller Thomas Perry, "the ultimate thinking person's thriller writer" (*Booklist*).

## Hero

A Novel

Thomas Perry



### MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National Print and Online Publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including Shelf Awareness, CrimeReads, and more

Virtual events with author

Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets

Justine Poole takes her job seriously providing security for wealthy and high-profile Hollywood stars. When she prevents a brazen robbery at the Beverly Hills home of two of her clients—killing two of the five armed robbers in the process—she is initially lauded in the media as a local hero. But the spotlight soon puts her in the crosshairs of the crime kingpin behind the burglaries.

Unable to stand the embarrassment of his lackeys having been defeated by a lone woman, Mr. Conger puts in a call to the one man who can make his problems disappear. Known for his swiftness and subtlety, Leo Sealy will kill anyone for a price. All he needs is a name and a face, any starting point to pick up his victim's trail. Luckily for him, the local news is as eager as he is for any information about the heroic bodyguard—and quick to broadcast their findings, regardless of what it might mean for her safety.

But Sealy isn't prepared for just how quick and resourceful Justine can be. So begins a game of cat and mouse between these two professionals—from an author celebrated for his well-crafted chase stories.



**THOMAS PERRY** is the author of over twenty novels including the critically acclaimed Jane Whitefield series, *The Old Man*, and *The Butcher's Boy*, which won the Edgar Award. He lives in Southern California.



SUBJECT: THRILLER  
 PRICE: \$27.95  
 SPECS: 6 X 9  
 ISBN: 978-1-61316-477-8  
 PUB DATE: JANUARY 16, 2024

ALSO AVAILABLE:  
 Murder Book (new in paperback 1/24)  
 \$17.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-508-9  
 The Left Handed Twin  
 \$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-6131-6366-5

**This new installment of the "delightfully entertaining" (*Booklist*) and Edgar Award-winning Stewart Hoag mystery series finds the ghostwriter-sleuth facing threats against his editor that put both his career and her life in jeopardy.**

## The Woman Who Lowered the Boom

A Stuart Hoag Mystery  
David Handler

### MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National Print and Online Publicity

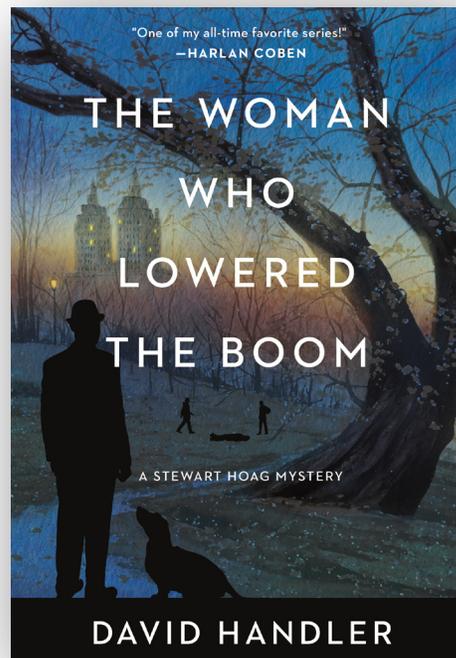
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Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets



Stewart “Hoagy” Hoag is walking on cloud nine after a meeting with his editor, Norma Fives, where she predicts his new book is sure to establish him as the next great American author. It has been years since he has even dreamed of such success after a crippling case of writer’s block limited his literary aspirations to ghostwriting celebrity memoirs. But his happiness is short-lived when at his next meeting with Norma she asks for his help in discovering who is behind a series of increasingly threatening letters sent to her attention.

Norma herself is not overly concerned about the letters but her boyfriend, Detective Lieutenant Romaine Very of the NYPD, thinks the threat of violence against Norma should not be so easily dismissed. Very feels the combination of Hoagy’s detective skills and knowledge of the underbelly of the publishing world make him the perfect person to investigate the matter. But as Hoagy and Lulu investigate, the threats move beyond the written word, making it clear that someone out there is determined to write a vicious ending to Norma’s life.

This is not the return to the literary world that Hoagy dreamed of, but he is determined to unravel the mystery before the author of these crimes gets the last word.



**DAVID HANDLER** is the Edgar Award-winning, critically acclaimed author of several bestselling mystery series. He began his career as a New York City reporter, and wrote his first two novels—*Kiddo* (1987) and *Boss* (1988)—about his Los Angeles childhood. His longest-running series of mysteries stars ghostwriter Stuart Hoag and his faithful basset hound Lulu.



SUBJECT: MYSTERY  
PRICE: \$26.95  
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25  
ISBN: 978-1-61316-513-3  
PUB DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2024

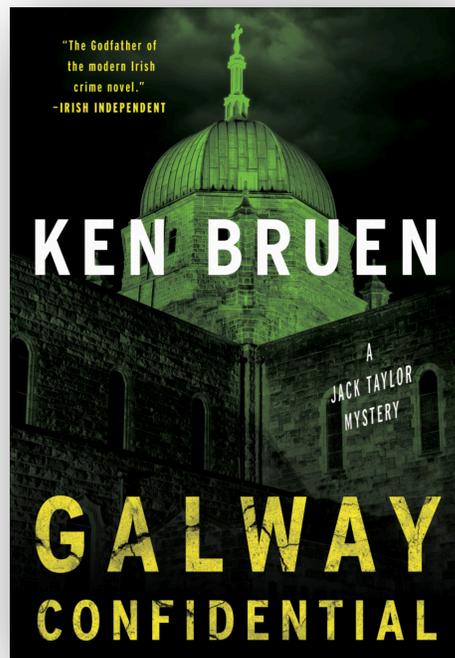
ALSO AVAILABLE:  
The Girl Who Took What She Wanted  
(new in paperback 2/16)  
\$16.95 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-509-6  
THE LADY IN THE SILVER CLOUD  
\$16.96 / ISBN: 978-1-61316-400-6

In the long awaited return of “the Godfather of the modern Irish crime novel” (*Irish Independent*), Ken Bruen's iconically cursed detective, Jack Taylor, investigates a series of violent attacks on the local convent's nuns.

## Galway Confidential

A Jack Taylor Mystery

Ken Bruen



### MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National Print and Online Publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including Shelf Awareness, CrimeReads, and more

Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets

Jack Taylor wakes up from a coma to discover that much of the world has changed since he last walked the streets of Galway. The pandemic had hit while he was under, devastating the lives of many in his beloved city and beyond.

Now, as Jack tries to recover from the attack that put him in the hospital and absorb the incredible changes in the world around him, a woman approaches him with a distressing case: two local nuns have been bludgeoned by a mysterious man wielding a hammer, and more are sure to follow. As the police fail to act while the violence against the Sisters escalates, Jack seems like their only hope.

Initially wary of becoming involved in the investigation, Jack finds he cannot stay away from the mystery surrounding these vicious attacks. He also cannot shake a feeling of darkness that has haunted him since he awoke from his coma—a darkness that is far too close for comfort. Luckily an old friend is there to help see him through and there is always Jack's dark wit and a drink to help shore up his mood.

Gritty, atmospheric, and shot-through with pitch-black humor, *Galway Confidential* is stylish hardboiled tale of coastal Ireland as only Ken Bruen can write it.



**KEN BRUEN** received a doctorate in metaphysics, taught English in South Africa, and then became a crime novelist. The critically acclaimed author of the Jack Taylor novels and The White Trilogy, he is the recipient of two Barry Awards, two Shamus Awards, and has twice been an Edgar Award finalist. He lives in Galway, Ireland.



SUBJECT: MYSTERY  
PRICE: \$ 26.95  
SPECS: 5.5 X 8.25  
ISBN: 978-1-61316-479-2  
PUB DATE: MARCH 5, 2024

Legendary Pittsburgh crime writer K.C. Constantine returns with the final chapter in the saga of Rocksburg, PA, completed just before the author's unexpected death in early 2023

## Another Day's Pain A Rocksburg Novel K.C. Constantine

### MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National Print and Online Publicity

Pre-publication trade and library advertising

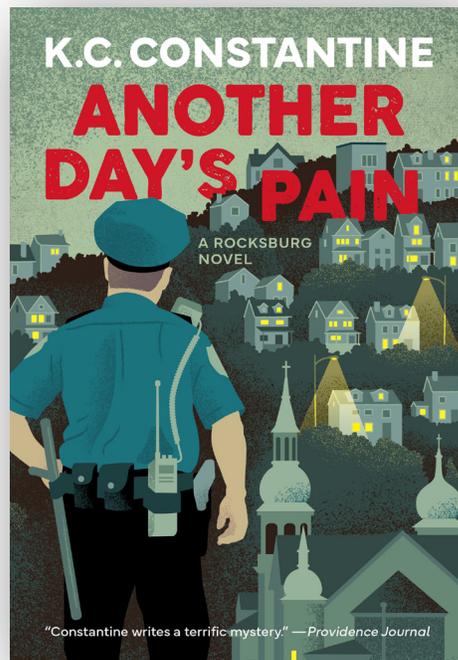
Staged print galley mailings and giveaways

Extensive early reader review campaigns targeting Instagram, Twitter, and Goodreads influencers

Pre-order and on-sale advertising campaigns focused on literary and popular culture outlets, including Shelf Awareness, CrimeReads, and more

Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets

Outreach to regional booksellers and influencers in the midwest



The police force of Rocksburg, Pennsylvania, doesn't see a ton of action. With jobs and industry moving away from the small city outside Pittsburgh, Detective Ruggiero "Rugs" Carlucci's greatest adversaries are his negligent vacation-prone fellow officers and an older divorcee who has a habit of dancing naked on her back porch when she stops taking her medication. Retirement is on the horizon for Rugs, and the Vietnam vet is counting the days until he can move on from the job.

But Rocksburg isn't going to let Rugs drift off to retirement without a fight. Before he can neatly wrap up his career, Rugs will face a mad shooter, a vengeful city councilman, and, most perilously, his own mother.

With a supporting cast of characters painted through uproarious profanity and heart-wrenching confessions, *Another Day's Pain* is a bold and darkly funny novel about crime and the damaged souls it leaves behind.



**K.C. CONSTANTINE** chronicled the fictional city of Rocksburg for fifty years, delighting readers with tales of Mario Balzic and the hapless Rocksburg Police Department. *Another Day's Pain*, completed shortly before the author's death, is the final chapter in that saga.



SUBJECT: NOIR  
PRICE: \$26.95  
SPECS: 6 X 9  
ISBN: 978-1-61316-483-9  
PUB DATE: APRIL 2, 2024

**This new investigation into Houston's deadliest murderer examines of the blurred line between victim and accomplice—and offers a chilling psychological study of the creation of a killer**

## The Serial Killer's Apprentice

Katherine Ramsland & Tracy Ullman

### MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

National Print and Online Publicity

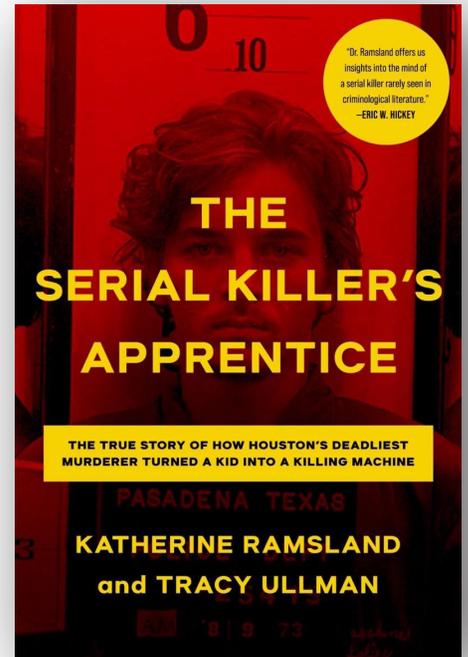
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Targeted promotions with mystery reader online outlets



**E**lmer Wayne Henley, Jr. was only fourteen when he first became entangled with serial rapist and murderer Dean Corll in 1971. Fellow Houston, Texas, teenager David Brooks had already been ensnared by the charming older man, bribed with cash to help lure boys to Corll's home. When Henley unwittingly entered the trap, Corll evidently sensed he'd be of more use as a second accomplice than another victim. He baited Henley with the same deal he'd given Brooks: \$200 for each boy they could bring him.

*The Serial Killer's Apprentice* tells the story of Corll and his accomplices in its fullest form to date. Drawn from extensive interviews with Henley from his prison cell, this book is his warning for others, revealing just how easy it is to be taken in by a sociopath at an impressionable age. Beyond that, though, it is the story of the unspeakable evil and sorrow that befell Houston in the early 1970s.

**DR. KATHERINE RAMSLAND** teaches forensic psychology at DeSales University in Pennsylvania, where she is the Assistant Provost. She has appeared as an expert in criminal psychology on more than 200 crime documentaries, podcasts and magazine shows and is the author of more than 1,500 articles and 69 books.

**TRACY ULLMAN** is a documentary producer, director, and writer in New York City. She has produced dozens of non-fiction television programs for Discovery Networks, Oxygen, AETN Networks, and PBS. Her most recent production is a six-part limited documentary series about serial murderer John Wayne Gacy and the new discoveries made in his case for NBC's Peacock streaming service.

One of puzzle mystery master John Dickson Carr's most iconic plots, accompanied by a brand new introduction and appreciation of the author by *Knives Out* director Rian Johnson.

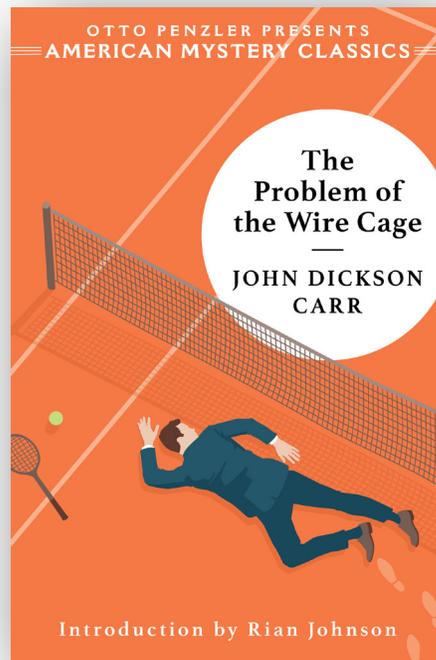
## The Problem of the Wire Cage

*A Gideon Fell Mystery*

John Dickson Carr

### MORE TITLES FROM JOHN DICKSON CARR

- *The Crooked Hinge*
- *The Mad Hatter Mystery*
- *The Red Widow Murders*
- *The Eight of Swords*



John Dickson Carr is famous for his puzzling “impossible crime” plots, in which corpses are discovered in scenarios that seem to lack any logical explanation, concealing clues as to how the murder was committed and how the body arrived in its current setting.

Among all of Carr’s ingenious crime scenes, the present case is one of his best known: a dead man is found strangled in the middle of a clay tennis court, just after a storm. In the damp dirt, there is one set of footsteps—his own—leading back to the grass; the court is otherwise untouched. There are no trees above from which the body may have fallen and no other visible means by which it may have been transported to its final resting place. Before determining the perpetrator of the strangulation, the local authorities are first confronted by the utter implausibility of the location—two interlocking questions puzzling enough to stump even the most seasoned inspector.

Reissued for the first time this century, *The Problem of the Wire Cage* is an atmospheric and amusing Golden Age mystery with a memorable puzzle at its center. Our edition features a brand new introduction by *Knives Out*-creator Rian Johnson.



**JOHN DICKSON CARR** (1906-1977) was one of the greatest writers of the American Golden Age mystery, and one of the only American authors to be included in England’s legendary Detection Club. Under his own name and various pseudonyms, he wrote more than seventy novels and numerous short stories, and is best known today for his locked-room mysteries.

AMERICAN  
MYSTERY  
CLASSICS

IMPOSSIBLE CRIME / TRADITIONAL

PAPERBACK ISBN 978-1-61316-487-7  
\$15.95

5.5 X 8.25

HARDCOVER ISBN 978-1-61316-486-0  
\$25.95

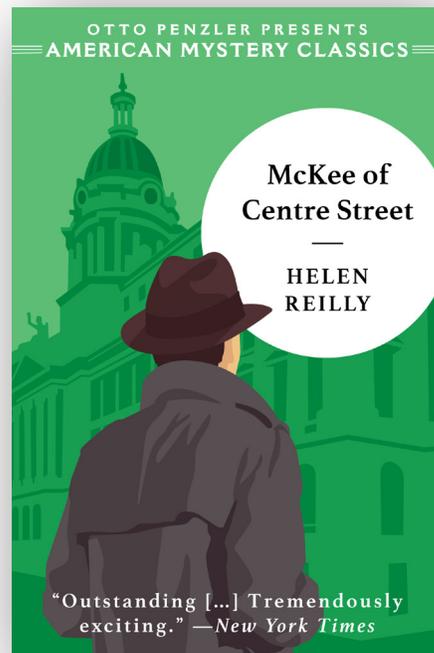
A speakeasy performer is murdered in this pioneering mystery from the mother of the police procedural, praised by *The New York Times* as "one of the most outstanding mystery stories of the year" when first published in 1934.

## McKee of Centre Street

Helen Reilly

### MORE TALES OF OLD NEW YORK FROM AMERICAN MYSTERY CLASSICS

- Cornell Woolrich, *Deadline at Dawn*
- Dorothy B. Hughes, *The So-Blue Marble*
- Clayton Rawson, *Death from a Top Hat*
- Stuart Palmer, *The Penguin Pool Murder*
- Baynard Kendrick, *The Odor of Violets*
- Ellery Queen, *The American Gun Mystery*



Stewart “Hoagy” Hoag is walking on cloud nine after a meeting with his editor, Norma Fives, where she predicts his new book is sure to establish him as the next great American author. It has been years since he has even dreamed of such success after a crippling case of writer’s block limited his literary aspirations to ghostwriting celebrity memoirs. But his happiness is short-lived when at his next meeting with Norma she asks for his help in discovering who is behind a series of increasingly threatening letters sent to her attention.

Norma herself is not overly concerned about the letters but her boyfriend, Detective Lieutenant Romaine Very of the NYPD, thinks the threat of violence against Norma should not be so easily dismissed. Very feels the combination of Hoagy’s detective skills and knowledge of the underbelly of the publishing world make him the perfect person to investigate the matter. But as Hoagy and Lulu investigate, the threats move beyond the written word, making it clear that someone out there is determined to write a vicious ending to Norma’s life.

This is not the return to the literary world that Hoagy dreamed of, but he is determined to unravel the mystery before the author of these crimes gets the last word.



**HELEN REILLY** (1891–1962) is considered to be one of the first women to write in the police procedural subgenre. She wrote over thirty novels starring Inspector Christopher McKee, of the fictitious Manhattan Homicide Squad. A member of the Mystery Writers of America, she served as president of the organization in 1953.

A drunken man is shot dead on his doorstep in this classic mystery starring the “observant [and] appealing Jessica Fletcher antecedent” (*Publishers Weekly*), created by one of the pioneers of domestic suspense.

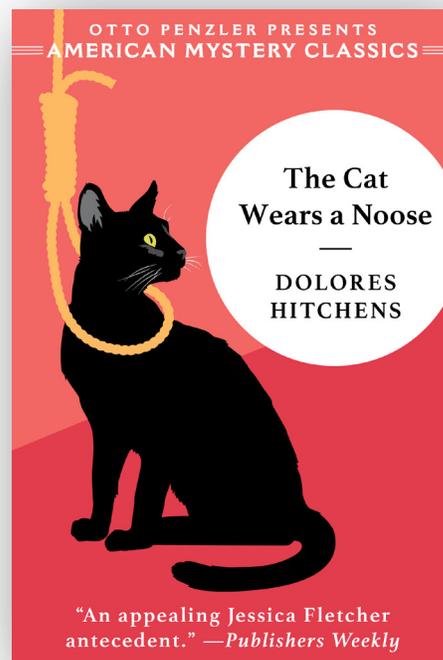
## The Cat Wears a Noose

A Rachel Murdoch Mystery

Dolores Hitchens

### MORE TITLES FROM DOLORES HITCHENS

- *The Cat Saw Murder*
- *The Alarm of the Black Cat*



Walking home wearily from an evening spent poring over the books of the Parchly Heights Methodist Ladies' Aid searching for a fifty-eight-cent error, Miss Jennifer Murdock becomes witness to a terrible scene: A man, stumbling drunk, arrives home—and just as he fumbles with his keys, gunfire erupts and kills him on the spot.

Jennifer is determined not to tell her sister, Rachel, anything about it. After all, Rachel considers herself a sleuth, or as Jennifer views it, a busybody who pokes her nose in places it doesn't belong. What she doesn't know is Rachel has just had a visit from a member of that same household, a meek eighteen-year-old taken in after she was orphaned and treated like a servant. Young Shirley has been alarmed by a series of nasty pranks—and now she's heartbroken, and even more frightened, after finding her pet bird dead. There's something awful going on in the house on Chestnut Street, and neither her prim and proper sister nor Det. Lt. Stephen Mayhew can stop Rachel from finding out what it is...

*The Cat Wears a Noose* was previously published under the pseudonym D.B. Olsen, and our reissue features a brand new introduction by Rhys Bowen.



**DOLORES HITCHENS** (1907–1973) was a prolific mystery author who wrote under multiple pseudonyms and in a range of styles. A large number of her books were published under the D. B. Olsen moniker (including her Rachel Murdoch series), but she is perhaps best remembered today for her later novel, *Fool's Gold*, which was adapted as *Band a part* by Jean-Luc Godard.

AMERICAN  
MYSTERY  
CLASSICS

COZY / TRADITIONAL

5.5 X 8.25

PAPERBACK ISBN 978-1-61316-491-4  
\$15.95

HARDCOVER ISBN 978-1-61316-490-7  
\$25.95

In this novel of "first class entertainment" (*The New York Times*), Asey Mayo, the Codfish Sherlock Holmes, investigates the murder of a traveling performer.

# The Mystery of the Cape Cod Players

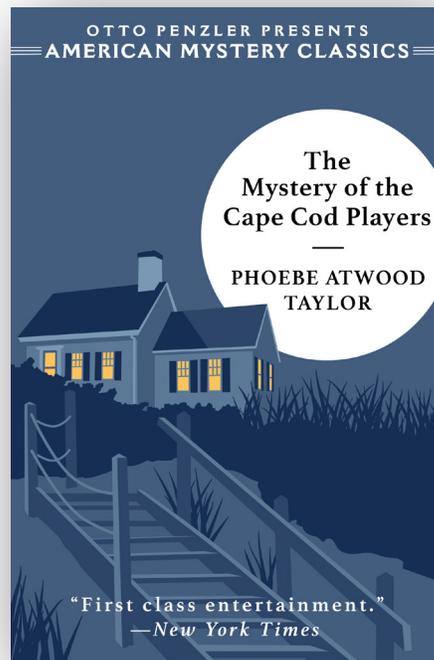
Phoebe Atwood Taylor

## MORE TITLES FROM PHOEBE ATWOOD TAYLOR

- *The Cape Cod Mystery*

## MORE CLASSIC TALES OF BEACHSIDE MURDER

- Ellery Queen, *The Spanish Cape Mystery*
- Mary Roberts Rinehart, *The Wall*
- Dolores Hitchens, *The Cat Saw Murder*



When the Cape Cod Players roll into towns along the lower Cape, the locals expect a great show, replete with games, magic, and merriment. Of course, they usually have an audience, too. When Boston widow Victoria Ballard, visiting the Cape to recover from a near-fatal bout with pneumonia, comes upon the troupe near her rural convalescent home, she ascertains that someone has played a nasty trick on the players, sending them to a remote destination in the wild backcountry in search of a paying gig. Sympathetic to the plight of the ragtag group, Vic invites them to stay the night with her, but when day breaks to find the lead magician with a bullet in his head, she realizes the cruel trick that brought the travelers to her home may have been part of a deadly plot and that she may have been an unwitting participant.

An amusing and atmospheric mystery set in early 1930s Cape Cod—a region still struggling to reemerge from the Great Depression and at the same time carefully guarding itself against the burgeoning tourism industry—*The Mystery of the Cape Cod Players* is delightful Golden Age fare that glimmers with period detail.



**PHOEBE ATWOOD TAYLOR** (1909-1976) was one of the most beloved and most successful mystery authors of the 1930s and 1940s, writing under her own name, Freeman Dana, and Alice Tilton. The Asey Mayo character, first introduced in *The Cape Cod Mystery*, went on to star in 24 novels in a series informed by the author's generations-long family history in Cape Cod.



AMATEUR SLEUTH / TRADITIONAL

5.5 X 8.25

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