

For Your Consideration...

Noir(-ish) – some books (alphabetical by author)

Queenpin by **Megan Abbott** – Abbott captures the hopelessly grim tone of noir without giving into every cliché. Won the Edgar, Barry and Anthony award for Best Paperback Original.

Bait (1994) by **Kenneth Abel** (pseud) – The protagonist starts low and goes lower because his archaic “code” requires he exacts revenge, and losing his life is a fair trade to see them suffer.

No Good From a Corpse (1944) by **Leigh Brackett** – best hard-boiled detective novel written by a woman. Very Chandleresque.

The Asphalt Jungle (1949) by **W. R. Burnett** – it draws, through characters, the clash between two powerful organizations running the City, the mob and the cops.

The Postman Always Rings Twice (1934); *Mildred Pierce* (1941); *Double Indemnity* (1943) by **James M. Cain** – tough gritty novels of sex and violence; all three made into movies.

Fast One (1933) by **Paul Cain** - When rival criminal and political cartels try to recruit him, he aims to stay out of it—but of course is sucked in after a series of double-crosses.

Laura; The Weeping and the Laughter; Bedelia by **Vera Caspary** - 18 published novels, 10 screen plays and 4 stage plays.

The Judas Cat (1949) by **Dorothy Salisbury Davis**. [Read more about her here](#).

Rotten Peaches (2018) by **Lisa de Nikolits** – neo-noir; all unlikable characters.

L.A. Confidential (1990) by **James Ellroy** – Third in the L.A. Quartet series; also movie

Blood on the Moon (1984) by **James Ellroy** – First in the Lloyd Hopkins trilogy. Ex-cop now PI has to get in the mind of a serial killer after 20 women are murdered.

Money Shot by **Christa Faust** (2008)– a tough female trying to get out from under her past. Follow it up with *Choke Hold* (2011).

Young Man, I Think You're Dying (1970) by **Joan Fleming** – UK criminal tries to stay one step ahead of criminal syndicate.

The Hours Before Dawn (1957) by **Celia Fremlin** – a great example of powerful psychological suspense; a page-turner.

Dark Passage (1946) by **David Goodis** – made into a movie

Dope (2006) by **Sara Gran** - a former junkie/prostitute is roped into looking for a missing rich girl in Hell's Kitchen. A brilliant subversion of noir tropes.

A Rage in Harlem (1957) by **Chester Himes**; Set in 1950s, a luckless man swindled out of borrowed money and reaching out to Harlem cops to help him get it back; the police are depicted almost as a criminal gang themselves. Part of a series. All his novels use the experiences of his life in prison and as a Black man in America.

The Blank Wall (1947) by **Elizabeth Sanxay Holding**

In a Lonely Place (1947) by **Dorothy B. Hughes** (made into a different film with Humphrey Bogart). [Read more about her here.](#)

Payback (2007) by **Russell James** – this UK author is the former chair of CWA (not the fashion photographer!) has written over 20 books. This is in the classic hard-boiled style of Chandler and Goodis.

Night and the City (1938) by **Gerald Kersh**– also movie (1950) by the consummate noir director Jules Dassin; and in 1992, with Robert DeNiro and Jessica Lange

A Drink Before the War (1994) by **Dennis Lehane** – editor of Akashic’s Boston Noir anthology.

Sweet Smell of Success (1957, novella) by **Ernest Lehman**, made into movie.

Jack’s Return Home (1970); *GBH* (1980); *Billy Rags* (1973) by **Ted Lewis** – the “godfather of Brit noir”. Books inspired by the high-profile trials of London gang figures such the Krays and the Richardsons. *Jack’s Return Home* was made into *Get Carter* (1971) starring Michael Caine.

Find a Victim (1954) by **Ross Macdonald**. Lew Archer #5, classic noir.

The Blue Hammer (1976) by **Ross Macdonald**; the last Lew Archer novel. Can see the whole story as an investigation of noir itself, a metafictional exercise that wonders out loud whether Archer, a prototypical noir antihero who helped define the genre, is the hero or the villain, and whether it matters.

The Necessary Death of Lewis Winter (2013) by **Malcolm Mackay** – told from the perspective of a hired gunman. Set in Glasgow. Riveting.

The Prone Gunman (2002); *The N’Gustro Affair* (1969); *3 to Kill / West Coast Blues* (1976) by **Jean-Patrick Manchette**. This author revitalized noir in France. Tightly plotted, corrosive parodies of “the success story”. Five of his novels have been translated into English.

A Swollen Red Sun by **Matthew McBride** - guns, corruption, immorality, all fused together in a blistering narratives about how meth has spread across the Midwestern states like the Bubonic plague. His first novel was *Frank Sinatra in a Blender*.

Beast in View (1955) by **Margaret Millar** – psychological suspense.

Midnight Sun (2015) by **Jo Nesbø** - a “modern master of Nordic Noir”.

Take a Breath (2014) by **S. K. Paisley** – set in Glasgow, it portrays organized crime through the lives of two drug dealers; razor-sharp pace and urban grit.

Yard Dog (2018) by **A.G. Pasquella** – neo-noir; excellent “noir style” voice, dark, dry, sharp.

The Jook (1999) by **Gary Phillips** – neo-noir in the Richard Stark/Jim Thompson vein.

The Ice Harvest (1999) by **Scott Phillips** – also movie

Every Shallow Cut (2010) by **Tom Piccirilli** – psychological suspense with an ambiguous ending

He Died With His Eyes Open (1984) by **Derek Raymond**. The “godfather of the British noir novel.” Set in London, we follow the narrator Detective as he tries to solve the murder of a man nobody cares about.

Drive (2005) by **James Sallis** - also movie (Ryan Gosling); has a sequel, *Driven*

On the Waterfront (1955) by **Budd Schulberg** – also movie

A Simple Plan (1993) by **Scott B. Smith** – also movie

The Hunter (1963) by **Richard Stark** (aka Donald E. Westlake) made into the movie *Point Blank* (1967) starring Lee Marvin and Angie Dickinson. Neo-noir thriller. Showing at TIFF June 3rd as part of Books to Film series.

The Crow Girl (2010) by **Erik Axl Sund** - An example of a modern take on the noir genre, a violent story with an unreliable narrator.

The Killer Inside Me (1952) by **Jim Thompson**, also *The Grifters* (movie stays true to the book) and *Pop. 1280*, claustrophobic, dark, relentless (being made into movie this year.)

Winter’s Bone (2006) by **Daniel Woodrell** – also movie

Devil in a Blue Dress (1990) by **Walter Mosley** - also movie

Small Crimes (2008) by **David Zeltserman** – also a movie

Noir – some authors

- **Gil Brewer** – wrote some 30 novels between 1951 and the late 60s – very often involving an ordinary man who becomes involved with, and is often corrupted and destroyed by, an evil or designing woman. His style is simple and direct, with sharp dialogue, often achieving considerable intensity.
- **Ken Bruen** – is marketed as a noted “noir author” (his latest is *Green Hell*, which is the 11th in the Jack Taylor series. *The Guards* is the first). However, *London Boulevard* (2002), a standalone, is absolutely in the line of a noir.
- **Max Allan Collins** – wrote a “YA noir”, *A Killing in Comics*. Light, flimsy, mimicking the “noir style”
- **David Goodis** – wrote short stories for the pulps, novels (*Dark Passage*, *The Burglar*, *Street of No Return*, *Down There*), screenplays that empathized with outsiders: the working poor, the unjustly accused, fugitives, criminals.

- **Graham Greene** – *A Gun for Sale* [republished in the US as *This Gun for Hire*] – a very stylized noir. Known mostly from dramas strongly rooted in the personal defects of the protagonist and the less than ideal circumstances that leads to.
- **Dolores Hitchens** – “Sleep With Slander”; (“best hard-boiled PI” -Bill Pronzini); five in her “railroad cop” series.
- **Elizabeth Sanxay Holding** – *The Death Wish* (a classic in the style of the slow build common in the early part of the 20th century, it is elevated to darkness by the twist in the last 10 pages), and *Net of Cobwebs* (excellent study of PTSD and mental disorder) You see situations from the protagonist’s point of view as he talks through what he thinks he knows and sees. But is it real?
- **Ken Harmon** – [Christmas hard-boiled] *The Fat Man*, with Gumdrop Coal as the PI. Written in the “noir style” – very well done, keeps the voice throughout, well written and a good mystery.
- **Patricia Highsmith** – so many! dark psychological suspense
- **Dashiell Hammett** (Sam Spade, Continental Op) – the book versions. The movie versions fall into the Traditional Hard-boiled category.
- **Laura Lippman** - If you like James M. Cain’s style, her books are inspired by the master of disorienting suspense.
- **Helen Nielsen** – engineer and screenwriter; suspense novels include *The Woman on the Roof* (1954), *A Killer in the Street* (1967), and *Sing Me a Murder* (1960).
- **Jim Thompson** – *The Killer Inside Me* (1952). Unrelentingly bleak, we see through the eyes of the protagonist his sociopathic disregard of the humans he encounters. Part of the tension is felt on behalf of the well-meaning or just innocent people who cross his path and may not survive the encounter. Also wrote *The Grifters*, and *Pop. 1280*, both pure noir masterpieces.

Nordic Noir

I have not read in this sub-category so have no opinions either way.

<https://crimefictionlover.com/2017/12/top-10-nordic-noir-novels-of-2017/>

<http://scandinaviaonmymind.com/five-nordic-noir-novels-read-die/>

Australian Noir

For a recent list of the **Women of Aussie Noir**, check out the CrimeReads website:

<https://crimereads.com/the-women-of-aussie-noir/>

- **Elizabeth Jolley**, *The Well*
- **Candice Fox**, *Crimson Lake*
- **Sarah Krasnostein**, *The Trauma Cleaner*
- **Charlotte Wood**, *The Natural Way of Things*
- **Emma Viskic**, *Resurrection Bay*
- **Helen Garner**, *Joe Cinque’s Consolation*
- **Cassandra Austin**, *All Fall Down*

- **Sarah Bailey**, *The Dark Lake and Into The Night*
- **Jane Harper**, *The Dry and Force of Nature*

The Broken Shore (2007) by **Peter Temple** - Big city cop Joe Cashin has fled to a Victorian coastal town after a traumatic case that left him physically and mentally damaged. Despite his efforts to lead a quiet life, he is drawn into the investigation of the brutal bashing of an old man, the suspects are three young Aboriginal men. It's a beautifully written book about male trauma and race relations.

The Darkest Little Room (2012) by **Patrick Holland** - Joseph is an Australian journalist living in Saigon with a sideline in blackmailing high profile philanderers who he photographs in compromising situations in brothels.

City of Light (1995) by **Dave Warner** - The main character, Snowy Lane, is a young police constable working in suburban Perth in the late-1970s, who gets swept into investigating a string of murders of young women by a serial killer dubbed Mr Gruesome. This not only changes his life, it ultimately entangles him in the corruption and excess that marked 80s Perth.

Line of Sight (2010) by **David Whish-Wilson** - The book is loosely based on the real life 1970s murder of the notorious Perth brothel madam, Shirley Finn. It's told from the point of view of Superintendent Frank Swan, a tough as nails old school cop turned whistle blower for the sham Royal Commission established to look into Finn's murder.

Peepshow (2004) by **Leigh Redhead** - The main character is a stripper called Simone Kirsh who is forced to go undercover at a men's club to find the killer of its seedy owner. The book is a great slice of Australian tart noir, a fast-paced read that perfectly balances grit with humour.

Wake in Fright (1961) by **Kenneth Cooke** - John Grant is a mild-mannered teacher working in a tiny speck of a town called Tiboonda. He has six weeks leave ahead of him and £140 in his pocket. All that stands between him and six weeks in Sydney is an overnight train stop in Bundanyabba. This story of drinking and violence in regional Australia is filled with menace.

New Zealand Noir ("Yeah Noir")

Red Herring by **Jonothan Cullinane** - Johnny Molloy is a PI, recently returned from active service in WW2 and with the ghosts of war still hanging over him.

Marshall's Law by **Ben Sanders** - second in the ex-undercover cop Marshall Grade series.

Fallout by **Paul Thomas** - features an anti-establishment heroic (and anti-heroic) lead character, along the lines of John Rebus.

A Killer Harvest by **Paul Cleave** - disturbing thriller from author of Trust No One.

The Hidden Room by **Stella Duffy** - psychological suspense.

See You in September by **Charity Norman** - a psychological thriller.

Traditional Hard-boiled

Works by:

- James Lee Burke (Dave Robicheaux)
- Howard Brown (Paul Pine)
- Raymond Chandler (Philip Marlowe) – most stories made into movies
- Lee Child (Jack Reacher)
- Michael Connolly (Harry Bosch)
- Robert Crais (Elvis Cole)
- Carroll John Day – “ the father of the private eye novel”
- G. G. Fickling (Honey West)
- William Campbell Gault (Brock Callahan)
- Ed Gorman
- Joe Gores (incl. *Spade and Archer* a “prequel” to *The Maltese Falcon*)
- Dashiell Hammett (Sam Spade, Continental Op), movie versions
- Ed McBain (87th Precinct series)
- Ross Macdonald (Lew Archer)
- John D. MacDonald (Travis McGee)
- Walter Mosely (Easy Rawlins)
- Gary Phillips (Ivan Monk)
- Ian Rankin (John Rebus)
- Mickey Spillane (Mike Hammer), esp. *I, the Jury*
- Richard Stark aka Donald E. Westlake (Parker series) esp. *The Hunter*
- Charles Willeford (Hoke Moseley)

Hard-boiled cross-genre

- *The Caves of Steel* by Isaac Asimov
- *Tea from an Empty Cup* by Pat Cadigan
- *When Gravity Fails* by George Alec Effinger
- *Pattern Recognition* by William Gibson
- *Ex-Kop* by Warren Hammond
- *Gun, with Occasional Music* by Jonathan Lethem
- *The Automatic Detective* by A. Lee Martinez
- *Breaking Strain (Venus Prime #1)* by Paul Preuss (female protagonist)
- *Red Planet Blues* by Robert J. Sawyer
- *To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis

Cross-genre Detective/PI series

- Lola Stark series by S. G. Wong (Canadian writer)
- Alex Versus series by Benedict Jacka
- Lord Darcy series by Randall Garrett
- Dave Brandsetter series by Joseph Hansen, winner of the 1992 Lifetime Achievement award from the Private Eye Writers of America.
- Garrett Files series by Glen Cook (first: Sweet Silver Blues)
- The Dresden Files by Jim Butcher

- Sandman Slim series by Richard Kadrey
- Anita Blake series by Laurell K. Hamilton – only the early few books
- Peter Grant series by Ben Aaronovich (though he is, in fact a London cop)

Cross-genre Noir/Grimdark

- “The Dreaming City” by Michael Moorcock
- Glen Cook’s The Black Company series
- *The Fifth Season* by N. K. Jemisin
- *Jade City* by Fonda Lee
- *A Crown for Cold Silver* by Alex Morgan
- *The Court of Broken Knives* by Anna Smith Spark
- Joe Abercrombie’s works
- *Noir* by K. W. Jeter
- *Weird Noir* edited by K. A. Laity – anthology of short stories.
- The Dark Tower series by Stephen King, features The Gunslinger (Idris Elba in the film)

Tough Female PI series – not cops!

- Anna Pigeon series by Nevada Barr
- Anna Lee series by Liza Cody
- Kate Shugak series by Dana Stabenow
- Antoinette Conway series by Tana French
- Kinsey Millhone series by Sue Grafton
- Elouise “Lou” Norton series by Rachel Howzell Hall
- Kate Martinelli series by Laurie R. King
- V. I. Warshawski series by Sara Paretsky
- Kate Brannigan series by Val McDermid
- Carlotta Carlyle series by Linda Barnes
- Delilah West series by Maxine O’Callaghan

Noir Anthologies

A Century of Noir: Thirty-two Classic Crime Stories (2002), edited by Mickey Spillane and Max Allan Collins. A strong collection of very dark, suspenseful stories by masters of the art.

The Dame Was Trouble (2018), edited by Sarah L. Johnson. An excellent collection Canadian crime fiction by women crime writers – from noir to hard-boiled to suspense. Includes stories by Kelley Armstrong, Gail Bowen, Meghan Victoria, and R. M. Greenaway.

The Best American Noir of the Century (2011), edited by James Ellroy and Otto Penzler. A range of hard-boiled, suspense, and dramatic stories.

Iced: The New Noir Anthology of Cold, Hard Fiction (2001), edited by Kerry J. Schooley and Peter Sellers. Sixteen short stories by Canadian authors such as Kevin Burton Smith, William Bankier, and Crad Kilodney.

The Exile Book of New Canadian Noir (2015), edited by Claude Lalumière and David Nickle. A sampling of the writing talent across Canada.

Exigencies (2015), edited by Richard Thomas. Twenty-two short stories of the dark, neo-noir, and suspense category.

The Black Lizard Anthology of Crime Fiction (1987) – edited by Ed Gorman. A collection of "roman noir" or the "black novel" stories; thrillers by masters of the American voice.

The Second Black Lizard Anthology of Crime Fiction (1988) – edited by Ed Gorman. A collection of 39 short stories by authors such as Joe Gores, Lawrence Block, Barry Gifford, Loren Estleman, and Robert Randisi.

Troubled Daughters, Twisted Wives (2013) - a collection of short stories compiled by Sarah Weinman. This compilation may be credited for the renewed interest in female suspense/noir writers of the early century. Dorothy B. Hughes, Vera Caspary, Nedra Tyre, Celia Fremlin, Dorothy Salisbury Davis, Marion Allan Davies, Elizabeth Sanxay Holding, Joyce Harrington, Barbara Callahan, Shirley Jackson, Margaret Millar, Patricia Highsmith, Charlotte Armstrong. A variety of stories that run the gamut from creepy and atmospheric to outright nasty.

Check out the excellent interview on [CBC's The Next Chapter](#)

The [Akashic City Noir Series](#) – currently over 80 entries in the series and growing. They are also available as ebooks from the publisher's website. The styles of the content range widely. Depending on the "City", perhaps few stories will be truly noir/grimdark vs suspense or drama.

Noir Collections

The Paul Cain Omnibus (2013), introduction by Boris Dralyuk

The Selected Stories of Patricia Highsmith (2005), forward by Graham Greene

Tales for a Stormy Night (1984). Short stories of Dorothy Salisbury Davis

Websites/Blogs to Investigate

[Noir at the Bar](#) – author reading event held several times a year. See their Facebook page for dates and details.

Stop You're Killing Me - an Anthony Award-winning website that compiles resources for lovers of mystery, crime, thriller, spy, and suspense books.

<http://www.stopyourekillingme.com/>

International Noir - <http://internationalnoir.blogspot.com/>

Shotgun Honey - crime, noir, or mystery in flash fiction form available free on the website. Plus anthologies, and books for sale. <https://www.shotgunhoney.com/>

Thrilling Detective – by Kevin Burton Smith <http://www.thrillingdetective.com/>

Detectives Beyond Borders – <http://detectivesbeyondborders.blogspot.com/>

Crimepieces - <https://crimepieces.com/blog/>

Crime Fiction Lover - <https://crimefictionlover.com/>

Mystery Scene Magazine - <https://mysteryscenemag.com/index.php>

Crimespree Magazine - <http://crimespreemag.com/>

Mystery Fanfare - <https://mysteryreadersinc.blogspot.com/>

CrimeReads - <https://crimereads.com/the-best-noir-fiction-of-2018/>

The Big Thrill – online magazine of international thriller writers.

<http://www.thebigthrill.org/>

Vintage Library - <https://www.vintagelibrary.com/> - to read stories online

Hard Case Crime is an American imprint of **hardboiled crime novels** founded in 2004 by **Charles Ardai**. The covers feature original illustrations done in a style familiar from the golden age of paperbacks (the 1950s and '60s). (Warning: lots of nearly naked women on the book covers in the lurid style of the pulps)

The collection includes both reprints of books from the pulp era (typically labeled *Complete and unabridged* on the cover), and new novels written for the collection (typically labeled *First publication anywhere*).

<http://www.hardcasecrime.com/>

REPRINTS – Stark House Press is reprinting many of the classic hard-boiled and noir novels. [See their website for details](#). Authors include: Gil Brewer, Elizabeth Sanxay Holding, Barry N. Malzberg, James O. Causey, and David Goodis.

Valancourt Books – reprints old novels that have gone out of print, in fresh new typesetting, covers. Available in print and ebook format.

<http://www.valancourtbooks.com/vintage-thrills-and-chills.html>

Criminal Element - <https://www.criminalelement.com>

Down and Out magazine – crime fiction digest available in both print and electronic form. <https://downandoutmagazine.com/>

Down and Out Books - <https://downandoutbooks.com/title-list/>

The Best Noir Fiction of 2018: <https://crimereads.com/the-best-noir-fiction-of-2018/>

Ten Neo-Noir Authors to Investigate: <http://flavorwire.com/388913/10-essential-neo-noir-authors> (3 out of 10 are female)

11 Forgotten Female Mystery Writers from the Golden Age and Beyond:

<https://murder-mayhem.com/female-mystery-writers-golden-age>

Links to a lot of mystery-related resources and entertainments:

<http://birtalan.ca/mystery/mysterious-links/>

Audio – Old Time Radio

Philip Marlow Radio episodes: <https://archive.org/details/PhilipMarlowe1947and1948>

Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar: (Dick Powell, Edward O'Brien)

https://archive.org/details/OTRR_YoursTrulyJohnnyDollar_Singles

Richard Diamond, Private Detective: (Dick Powell)

<https://archive.org/details/RichardDiamondPrivateDetective1949noWhistlingNoCommercialsTiny>

The Maltese Falcon (1943):

<https://archive.org/details/LuxRadioTheater430208TheMalteseFalcon>

The Thin Man (1936):

<https://archive.org/details/LuxRadioTheater360608TheThinMan>

Philo Vance: https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Phil_Vance_Singles

Ellery Queen (1947):

<https://archive.org/details/ElleryQueen470907NumberThirtyOne>

Broadway is my Beat (1949-54) – featuring “Detective Danny Clover, Times Square Detective”: https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Broadway_Is_My_Beat_Singles

Audible: a sample of a reading of the noir novel *Detour*. <https://bit.ly/2CE7FOJ>

Noir(-ish) Films from novels/short stories

Touch of Evil (1958) – Whit Masterson (*Badge of Evil*, 1956) – stars Orson Welles, Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh

The Asphalt Jungle (1950) – W. R. Burnett

Detour (1945) – Martin M. Goldsmith (1939) – a dark psychological suspense

Out of the Past (1947) – Daniel Mainwaring (aka Geoffrey Homes, *Build My Gallows High*) - stars Robert Mitchum

Nightmare Alley (1947) – William Lindsay Gresham

They Live by Night (1948) – Edward Anderson (*Thieves Like Us*, 1937) – stars Farley Granger

The Man from London (2007) – adapted from the original, *L'Homme de Londres* by Georges Simenon

Thieves Like Us (1974) – Edward Anderson (*Thieves Like Us*) – directed by Robert Altman

The Killers (1946) – Ernest Hemingway (short story) – stars Burt Lancaster, Ava Gardner

The Getaway (1972) – Jim Thompson – stars Steve McQueen

The Talented Mr. Ripley (1999) – Patricia Highsmith – stars Matt Damon, Jude Law

The Postman Always Rings Twice (1948, 1981) – James M. Cain – stars Lana Turner, John Garfield

Mildred Pierce (1945, 2011) – James M. Cain

Double Indemnity (1944) – James M. Cain – stars Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck

L. A. Confidential (1997) – James Ellroy – stars Guy Pierce, Kevin Spacey
Dark Passage (1947) – David Goodis – stars Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
In a Lonely Place (1950) – Dorothy B. Hughes – stars Humphrey Bogart, Gloria Grahame
The Reckless Moments (1949) – Elizabeth Sanxay Holding (*The Blank Wall*, 1947)
A Rage in Harlem (1991) – Chester Himes
Sweet Smell of Success (1957)– Ernest Lehman
Get Carter (1971) – Ted Lewis (*Jack's Return Home*, 1970) – stars Michael Caine
The Gunman (2015) – Jean-Patrick Manchette – stars Sean Penn
The Ice Harvest (2005) – Scott Phillips – dramedy (!) stars John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton
Drive (2011) – James Sallis
A Simple Plan (1998) – Scott B. Smith
Point Blank (1967) – Richard Stark – stars Lee Marvin
The Grifters (1990) – Jim Thompson – stars John Cusack, Anjelica Huston
Winter's Bone (2010) – Daniel Woodrell
Devil in a Blue Dress (1995) – Walter Mosley
This Gun for Hire (1942)– Graham Greene (from “A Gun for Sale”)

Adapted/Inspired by Dashiell Hammett

- Blood Simple, Miller's Crossing – Coen Brothers – employs many plot, style elements from Hammett's *Red Harvest*, *The Glass Key*, etc.
- The Maltese Falcon – stars Humphrey Bogart
- Red Harvest
- The Glass Key (1935; 1942) –stars George Raft; stars Alan Ladd. (Kurosawa says source for Yojimbo's plot)
- The Dane Curse

Adapted/Inspired by Raymond Chandler

- Murder, My Sweet (1944) – Raymond Chandler (*Farewell, My Lovely*) – stars Dick Powell, Claire Trevor
- The Big Sleep (1946; 1978) –stars Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall; Robert Mitchum, Sarah Miles, Oliver Reed
- Time to Kill (1942) – Raymond Chandler (*The High Window*) – stars Lloyd Nolan
- The Brasher Doubloon (1947) – Raymond Chandler (*The High Window*) – stars George Montgomery, Nancy Guild
- Lady in the Lake (1947) –stars Robert Montgomery, Audrey Totter
- The Long Goodbye (1973) –stars Elliot Gould; directed by Robert Altman, screenplay by Leigh Brackett. Deviates markedly from novel.
- Farewell, My Lovely (1975) –stars Robert Mitchum, Charlotte Rampling

Adapted/Inspired by Cornell Woolrich

- [Selected films based on Cornell Woolrich stories](#)

Adapted/Inspired by James M. Cain

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_M._Cain#Films

Hong Kong Noir Films

The Hong Kong Crime Film: Genre and Film Noir from the 1940s to the Present, by Kristof Van den Troost

Examples to view:

- *A Better Tomorrow* (1986) – directed by John Woo
- *Hard Boiled* (1992) – directed by John Woo
- *Full Contact* (1992) - directed by Ringo Lam, stars Chow Yun-Fat
- *SPL* (aka *Kill Zone*, 2005) – stars Donnie Yen
- *Gonin* (aka *The Five*, 1995) – directed by Takashi Ishii

More Noir Films worth seeing

- *Scarlet Street* (1945) – stars Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett, Dan Duryea
- *The Hitch-Hiker* (1953)– directed by Ida Lupino
- *D. O. A.* (1949) – a nice twist on the classic murder mystery
- *The Big Combo* (1955) – a searing look at political corruption
- *The Stranger* (1946) – directed and starring Orson Welles
- *The Third Man* (1949) – inspired the subsequent book by Graham Greene
- *Brick* (2005) – stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt
- *M* (1931, 1951) – directed by Fritz Lang, stars Peter Lorre; directed by Joseph Losey, stars David Wayne.
- *Body Heat* (1981) – stars Kathleen Turner, William Hurt
- *Red Rock West* (1993) – excellent neo-noir, stars Nicolas Cage
- *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) – ultra violent, completely amoral
- *The Hateful Eight* (2015) – neo-noir Western. Ultra-violent, completely amoral
- *Leon, The Professional* (1994) – directed by Luc Besson
- *Heat* (1995) – stars Al Pacino and Robert De Niro
- *Insomnia* (1997) – the original Scandi-Noir – stars Stellan Skarsgard
- *Twilight* (1998) – stars Paul Newman and Susan Sarandon