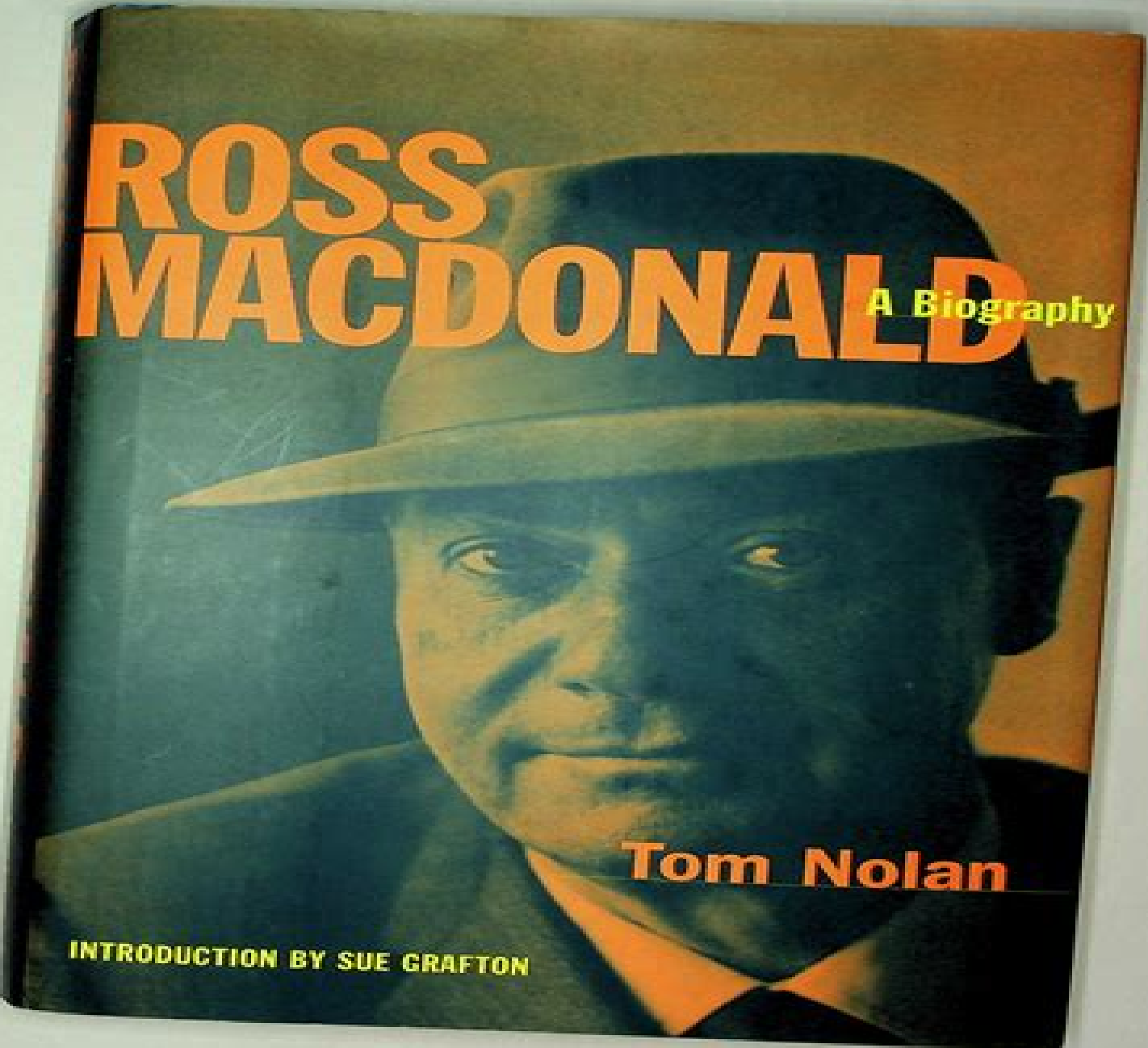




ROSS MACDONALD

A Biography

Tom Nolan

INTRODUCTION BY SUE GRAFTON

Ross Macdonald A Biography

Jerry Speir



Ross Macdonald A Biography:

Ross MacDonald Tom Nolan, 2015-07-07 When he died in 1983 Ross Macdonald was the best known and most highly regarded crime fiction writer in America Long considered the rightful successor to the mantles of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler Ross Macdonald and his Lew Archer novels were hailed by The New York Times as the finest series of detective novels ever written by an American Now in the first full length biography of this extraordinary and influential writer a much fuller picture emerges of a man to whom hiding things came as second nature While it was no secret that Ross Macdonald was the pseudonym of Kenneth Millar a Santa Barbara man married to another good mystery writer Margaret Millar his official biography was spare Drawing on unrestricted access to the Kenneth and Margaret Millar Archives on more than forty years of correspondence and on hundreds of interviews with those who knew Millar well author Tom Nolan has done a masterful job of filling in the blanks between the psychologically complex novels and the author's life both secret and overt Ross Macdonald came to crime writing honestly Born in northern California to Canadian parents Kenneth Millar grew up in Ontario virtually fatherless poor and with a mother whose mental stability was very much in question From the age of twelve young Millar was fighting stealing and breaking social and moral laws by his own admission he barely escaped being a criminal Years later Millar would come to see himself in his tales wrongdoers I don't have to be violent he said My books are How this troubled young man came to be one of the most brilliant graduate students in the history of the University of Michigan and how this writer who excelled in a genre all too often looked down upon by literary critics came to have a lifelong friendship with Eudora Welty are all examined in the pages of Tom Nolan's meticulous biography We come to a sympathetic understanding of the Millars long and sometimes rancorous marriage and of their life in Santa Barbara California with their only daughter Linda whose legal and emotional traumas lie at the very heart of the story But we also follow the trajectory of a literary career that began in the pages of *Manhunt* and ended with the great respect of such fellow writers as Marshall McLuhan Hugh Kenner Nelson Algren and Reynolds Price and the longtime distinguished publisher Alfred A Knopf As *Ross Macdonald A Biography* makes abundantly clear Ross Macdonald's greatest character above and beyond his famous Lew Archer was none other than his creator Kenneth Millar *Self-portrait, Ceaselessly Into the Past* Ross Macdonald, 1981 Macdonald fans and others interested in detective fiction will find this worthwhile browsing In a number of the essays Macdonald aka Kenneth Millar sketches in his basic life history his Scots Canadian newspapering ancestors meeting his wife Margaret and above all his absent loved hated father the source of the Oedipal trauma that led to his breakthrough novel *The Galton Case* Three essays are devoted to one of Macdonald's lifelong passions ecologic conservation The rest of the book is devoted to writers and writing The topics addressed include the history of the American crime novel starting with Poe the function crime fiction fulfills to society the autobiographical elements in his Lew Archer character an analysis of Hammett's Sam Spade as he appears in the *Maltese Falcon* and the critical importance of narrative

unity in crime novels He defends the literary place of the detective novel declaring his longtime passion for the Gothic tradition He pays homage to Hammett Chandler Greene Kenneth Fearing and others **Ross Macdonald** Matthew Joseph Bruccoli,1984 *It's All One Case* Paul Nelson,Kevin Avery,2016-09-13 This is a prose series of unpublished interviews with and a visual retrospective of the seminal mid to late 20th century literary crime writer In 1976 critic Paul Nelson spent several weeks interviewing legendary detective writer Ross Macdonald who elevated the form to a new literary level We talked about everything imaginable Nelson wrote including Macdonald s often meager beginnings his dual citizenship writers painters music and movies he admired The Great Gatsby his favorite book how he used symbolism to change detective writing and more This book published in a handsome oversized format collects these unpublished interviews and is a visual history of Macdonald s professional career It is illustrated with rare and select items from one of the world s largest private archives of Macdonald ephemera reproduces in full color the covers of the various editions of Macdonald s more than two dozen books collects facsimile reproductions of select pages from his manuscripts as well as magazine spreads and presents rare photos many never before seen **Private Eyes** Robert Allen Baker,Michael T. Nietzel,1985 Private Eyes is the complete map to what Raymond Chandler called the mean streets the exciting world of the fictional private eye It is intended to entertain current PI fans and to make new ones **The Goodbye Look** Ross Macdonald,2010-12-01 In The Goodbye Look Lew Archer is hired to investigate a burglary at the mission style mansion of Irene and Larry Chalmers The prime suspect their son Nick has a talent for disappearing and the Chalmerses are a family with money and memories to burn As Archer zeros in on Nick he discovers a troubled blonde a stash of wartime letters a mysterious hobo Then a stiff turns up in a car on an empty beach And Nick turns up with a Colt 45 In The Goodbye Look Ross Macdonald delves into the world of the rich and the troubled and reveals that the past has a deadly way of catching up to the present If any writer can be said to have inherited the mantle of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler it is Ross Macdonald Between the late 1940s and his death in 1983 he gave the American crime novel a psychological depth and moral complexity that his predecessors had only hinted at And in the character of Lew Archer Macdonald redefined the private eye as a roving conscience who walks the treacherous frontier between criminal guilt and human sin *Ross Macdonald/Kenneth Millar, a Descriptive Bibliography* Matthew Joseph Bruccoli,1983 Ross Macdonald Jerry Speir,1978 Presents an assessment of Ross Macdonald s works *Meanwhile There Are Letters* Suzanne Marrs,Tom Nolan,2015-07-14 2016 Edgar Award Finalist 2016 Anthony Award Finalist 2016 Macavity Award Finalist In 1970 Ross Macdonald wrote a letter to Eudora Welty beginning a thirteen year correspondence between fellow writers and kindred spirits Though separated by background geography genre and his marriage the two authors shared their lives in witty wry tender and at times profoundly romantic letters each drawing on the other for inspiration comfort and strength They brought their literary talents to bear on a wide range of topics discussing each others publications the process of translating life into fiction the nature of the writer s block each encountered books

they were reading and friends and colleagues they cherished They also discussed the world around them the Vietnam War the Nixon Carter and Reagan presidencies and the environmental threats facing the nation The letters reveal the impact each had on the other s work and they show the personal support Welty provided when Alzheimer s destroyed Macdonald s ability to communicate and write The editors of this collection who are the definitive biographers of these two literary figures have provided extensive commentary and an introduction They also include Welty s story fragment Henry which addresses Macdonald s disease With its mixture of correspondence and narrative Meanwhile There Are Letters provides a singular reading experience a prose portrait of two remarkable artists and one unforgettable relationship *The Mystery Fancier (Vol. 8 No. 1) January-February 1984* V. C. Clinton-Baddeley,2010-09-01 The Mystery Fancier Volume 8 Number 1 January February 1984 contains The Murder Cases of Pinklin West by Robert Sampson The Dr Davie Novels of V C Clinton Baddeley by Earl F Bargainnier and Can We Reach Agreement by J R Christopher

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