

The Dain Curse Dashiell Hammett

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"The Complete Work, Enriched with a Critical Introduction"

ABOUT THE BOOK

A CLASSIC OF AMERICAN NOIR • Dashiell Hammett's chilling tale of crime, cults, and corruption, from the master who redefined detective fiction.

The Continental Op is not glamorous. He is stocky, unromantic, and relentless. But when he is drawn into the world of the wealthy Dain family, he finds himself entangled in a mystery steeped in superstition. Whispers of a family curse follow Gabrielle Dain Leggett, a young woman torn between beauty, fragility, and addiction. As the body count rises, the Op must cut through lies, cult rituals, and violence to find the truth. In a world where nothing is what it seems, even clarity comes at a cost.

First published in 1929, The Dain Curse is one of Hammett's most unsettling works. Combining the grit of hard-boiled detection with a gothic sense of dread, it expanded the boundaries of crime fiction and paved the way for writers like Raymond Chandler. Its blend of stark realism and psychological tension remains strikingly modern. Few lines capture Hammett's world better than the Op's grim observation: "Everybody in this damned family's got a curse on them."

This Feel Classics edition makes Hammett's noir masterpiece accessible for today's readers. With a thoughtful introduction, explanatory notes, glossary, and a detailed chronology of his life, it is ideal for students, first-time readers, and literature enthusiasts alike.

A dark, unforgettable classic that still speaks to anyone fascinated by mystery, obsession, and the shadows of human nature.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dashiell Hammett (1894–1961) was an American writer who revolutionized detective fiction with his hard-boiled style and morally complex characters. Born in Maryland, he worked for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency before turning to writing in the 1920s. His experience as a private detective deeply influenced his fiction, which appeared in pulp magazines such as Black Mask.

Hammett's major novels include Red Harvest, The Dain Curse, The Maltese Falcon, The Glass Key, and The Thin Man. With the creation of iconic characters like Sam Spade and Nick Charles, he helped define the American crime novel and laid the groundwork for film noir.

He also contributed screenplays in Hollywood and was active politically during the 1930s and 1940s, which led to his blacklisting during the McCarthy era. He served in both World Wars, and his later years were marked by declining health and limited literary output. Hammett died in New York City in 1961. Today, he is celebrated not only as a master of detective fiction but also as a major figure in 20th-century American literature.

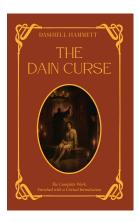
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