

the big sleep novel analysis

The Big Sleep Novel Analysis: Unraveling Chandler's Masterpiece of Noir

Introduction:

Dive deep into the shadowy world of Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep*, a cornerstone of hard-boiled detective fiction. This comprehensive analysis will dissect the novel's intricate plot, explore its complex characters, examine its stylistic brilliance, and uncover the enduring themes that continue to captivate readers decades after its publication. We'll delve into the labyrinthine mystery, the morally ambiguous characters, and the evocative prose that solidified Chandler's place in literary history. Prepare to uncover the layers of deception and unravel the secrets hidden within this iconic noir masterpiece.

1. The Intricate Plot and its Narrative Structure:

The Big Sleep isn't your typical whodunit; its plot is a carefully constructed web of deceit and misdirection. Chandler masterfully employs nonlinear storytelling, shifting perspectives and timelines to keep the reader guessing. The initial seemingly straightforward investigation into the blackmail of General Sternwood quickly unravels into a tangled mess involving gambling debts, pornography, murder, and a cast of characters each with their own hidden agendas. The narrative structure itself contributes to the novel's ambiguity, forcing the reader to piece together the puzzle alongside Philip Marlowe, the cynical but ultimately heroic detective. The interconnectedness of the various crimes – the blackmail, the murder of Rusty Regan, the death of Carmen Sternwood – are deliberately obscured, mirroring the moral ambiguities at the heart of the story. This deliberate obfuscation is a key element of the novel's enduring appeal, forcing re-readings and prompting critical analysis.

1. Character Analysis: Exploring the Moral Ambiguity:

Chandler's characters are far from black and white. Philip Marlowe, the protagonist, is a morally complex figure, operating within a morally bankrupt world. His cynicism is a defense mechanism against the corruption and depravity he witnesses. He maintains a code of ethics, but it's tested constantly by the morally compromised individuals he encounters. The Sternwood sisters, Vivian and Carmen, are equally compelling and disturbing. Vivian, the manipulative elder sister, embodies the seductive danger of the femme fatale archetype, while Carmen, younger and more naive, represents vulnerability within a world of deceit. Even the seemingly minor characters, like Geiger and the various thugs and gangsters, are depicted with a level of complexity that elevates them beyond simple stereotypes. This moral ambiguity is a defining characteristic of the novel, reflecting the uncertain nature of justice and morality in the world Chandler depicts.

1. Chandler's Style and the Hard-Boiled Aesthetic:

Chandler's prose is as much a character as any of his creations. His sharp, witty dialogue, laced with cynicism and world-weariness, is instantly recognizable. The hard-boiled aesthetic, characterized by its stark realism, gritty descriptions, and unflinching portrayal of violence and corruption, permeates every page. His evocative imagery, particularly his descriptions of Los Angeles's seedy underbelly, creates a sense of atmosphere that is both alluring and repellent. The use of similes and metaphors, often darkly humorous, adds to the novel's unique style. Chandler's writing transcends the genre, becoming a study in elegant brutality, where beauty and decay exist in a delicate balance.

1. Themes of Corruption, Power, and Morality:

The *Big Sleep* explores several recurring themes that resonate with readers even today. The pervasive corruption within the upper echelons of society, represented by General Sternwood and his associates, is a central theme. The novel exposes the abuse of power and the lengths to which individuals will go to protect their wealth and influence. The struggle between justice and injustice, and the limitations of the legal system, is a constant undercurrent. The exploration of morality, or rather, the lack thereof, in the characters and their actions is a compelling element. Marlowe's own attempts to navigate this morally ambiguous world, attempting to uphold a personal code of ethics in a deeply corrupt environment, forms the emotional core of the narrative.

1. Enduring Legacy and Cultural Impact:

The *Big Sleep* has had a profound and lasting impact on literature and popular culture. It has been adapted numerous times for film and television, most notably the iconic 1946 film starring Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlowe. The novel's influence can be seen in countless subsequent works of detective fiction and noir literature. Its themes of corruption, moral ambiguity, and the seductive darkness of the city continue to resonate with readers and filmmakers alike. The novel's enduring appeal lies in its timeless exploration of human nature within a world defined by both beauty and depravity.

Outline: A Detailed Analysis of The Big Sleep

Name: Unraveling Chandler's Masterpiece: A Deep Dive into The Big Sleep

Contents:

Introduction: Briefly introducing Raymond Chandler and *The Big Sleep*, highlighting its significance in noir literature.

Chapter 1: Plot and Structure: Detailed examination of the complex and nonlinear plot, discussing its impact on the reader experience and overall mystery. Specific plot points will be analyzed, highlighting Chandler's masterful use of misdirection.

Chapter 2: Character Analysis: In-depth exploration of key characters, including Marlowe, the Sternwood sisters, and other significant players. Analyzing their motivations, relationships, and moral ambiguities.

Chapter 3: Style and Tone: Examining Chandler's unique writing style, his use of language, and the hard-boiled aesthetic, discussing the impact of his prose on the overall atmosphere and tone.

Chapter 4: Thematic Analysis: Discussing the major themes explored in the novel, such as corruption, power, morality, and justice. Exploring the novel's enduring relevance to contemporary society.

Chapter 5: Legacy and Cultural Impact: Analyzing the novel's influence on literature, film, and popular culture. Exploring its adaptations and subsequent imitations.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key findings and offering a final assessment of *The Big Sleep's* enduring power and relevance.

(The expanded content for each chapter would be developed based on the above section breakdowns.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central mystery in *The Big Sleep*? The central mystery initially involves blackmail, but quickly expands to encompass multiple murders and a complex web of deceit involving the Sternwood family and various underworld figures.
1. Who is Philip Marlowe, and what is his role in the novel? Philip Marlowe is the hard-boiled detective protagonist, hired to investigate the blackmail of General Sternwood. His investigation leads him down a rabbit hole of intrigue and violence.
1. What are the key themes explored in *The Big Sleep*? Key themes include corruption, moral ambiguity, the abuse of power, the limitations of justice, and the seductive nature of danger.
1. What makes Chandler's writing style unique? Chandler's style is characterized by its hard-boiled aesthetic, sharp wit, cynical tone, evocative imagery, and concise, impactful prose.
1. How does the novel's structure contribute to its overall effect? The nonlinear structure and frequent shifts in perspective contribute to the mystery and suspense, mirroring the complexities of the investigation.

1. What is the significance of the Sternwood sisters? Vivian and Carmen Sternwood represent contrasting aspects of female power and vulnerability within the novel's morally ambiguous world.
1. How has *The Big Sleep* impacted popular culture? The novel has been adapted numerous times for film and television, significantly influencing the genres of detective fiction and film noir.
1. What is the overall tone of *The Big Sleep*? The overall tone is cynical, darkly humorous, and suspenseful, reflecting the gritty reality of the world depicted.
1. Is *The Big Sleep* suitable for all readers? Due to its mature themes and violence, it's more appropriate for adult readers.

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9. Adapting The Big Sleep to the Screen: A Comparative Study of Film Versions: Examining and comparing different film adaptations of the novel.

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the big sleep novel analysis: The Big Sleep David Thomson, 2020-10-15 *The Big Sleep*: Marlowe and Vivian practising kissing; General Sternwood shivering in a hothouse full of orchids; a screenplay, co-written by Faulkner, famously mysterious and difficult to solve. Released in 1946, Howard Hawks' adaptation of Raymond Chandler reunited Bogart and Bacall and gave them two of their most famous roles. The mercurial but ever-manipulative Hawks dredged humour and happiness out of film noir. 'Give him a story about more murders than anyone can keep up with, or explain,' David Thomson writes in his compelling study of the film, 'and somehow he made a paradise.' When it was first shown to a military audience *The Big Sleep* was coldly received. So, as Thomson reveals, Hawks shot extra scenes, 'fun' scenes, to replace one in which the film's murders had been explained, and in so doing left the plot unresolved. Thomson argues that, if this was accidental, it also signalled a change in the nature of Hollywood cinema: 'The *Big Sleep* inaugurates a post-modern, camp, satirical view of movies being about other movies that extends to the New Wave and Pulp Fiction.'

the big sleep novel analysis: Raymond Chandler Fredric Jameson, 2016-08-23 The master of literary theory takes on the master of the detective novel Raymond Chandler, a dazzling stylist and portrayer of American life, holds a unique place in literary history, straddling both pulp fiction and modernism. With *The Big Sleep*, published in 1939, he left an indelible imprint on the detective novel. Fredric Jameson offers an interpretation of Chandler's work that reconstructs both the context in which it was written and the social world or totality it projects. Chandler's invariable setting, Los Angeles, appears both as a microcosm of the United States and a prefiguration of its future: a megalopolis uniquely distributed by an unpromising nature into a variety of distinct neighborhoods and private worlds. But this essentially urban and spatial work seems also to be drawn towards a vacuum, an absence that is nothing other than death. With Chandler, the thriller genre becomes metaphysical.

the big sleep novel analysis: Farewell, My Lovely Raymond Chandler, 2002-06-11 The renowned novel from crime fiction master Raymond Chandler, with the quintessential urban private eye (Los Angeles Times), Philip Marlowe • Featuring the iconic character that inspired the film

Marlowe, starring Liam Neeson. Philip Marlowe's about to give up on a completely routine case when he finds himself in the wrong place at the right time to get caught up in a murder that leads to a ring of jewel thieves, another murder, a fortune-teller, a couple more murders, and more corruption than your average graveyard.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Long Goodbye* Raymond Chandler, 2013-11 When Philip Marlowe befriends down-on-his-luck veteran Terry Lennox he gets more than he bargained for. With Lennox's wife dead and Lennox himself on the lam, Marlowe becomes the target for the local cops and a crazy gangster, while getting mixed up with alcoholic writer Roger Wade and his wife Eileen. Nothing is what it seems as Marlowe unravels the Wades' scheme to expose the truth behind Lennox's facade. The most autobiographical of his novels, *The Long Goodbye* was considered by Chandler to be his best work. One of the preeminent examples of hard-boiled detective fiction, *The Long Goodbye* has been adapted for radio, film and television, and received the 1955 Edgar Award for Best Novel. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

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the big sleep novel analysis: The World of Raymond Chandler Raymond Chandler, 2015-11-10 *The World of Raymond Chandler* shows how Chandler precariously balanced the values of a classical English education against those of a fast-evolving America during the years before the Great War; how he adopted Los Angeles as his home after WWI, with Hollywood in turn adopting him (and adapting his works); how his detective hero and alter ego Philip Marlowe evolved over the years; and, above all, what it is to be a writer, and in particular one writing in the "other language" of hardboiled fiction. Acclaimed biographer and historian Barry Day deftly interweaves images and text, using quotations from Chandler's novels, short stories, letters, and interviews, to craft a unique portrait of the mystery writer's life and times.

the big sleep novel analysis: Why We Sleep Matthew Walker, 2017-10-03 Sleep is one of the most important but least understood aspects of our life, wellness, and longevity ... An explosion of scientific discoveries in the last twenty years has shed new light on this fundamental aspect of our lives. Now ... neuroscientist and sleep expert Matthew Walker gives us a new understanding of the vital importance of sleep and dreaming--Amazon.com.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Cardinal* Henry Morton Robinson, 1951

the big sleep novel analysis: The Big Nowhere James Ellroy, 2013-01-01 The D. A.'s brass, a sheriff's deputy, and a rough-and-tumble bagman are unknowingly chasing a nightmare in this thrilling novel from the author of some of the most powerful crime novels ever written (New York Times). Los Angeles, 1950 Red crosscurrents: the Commie Scare and a string of brutal mutilation killings. Gangland intrigue and Hollywood sleaze. Three cops caught in a hellish web of ambition, perversion, and deceit. Danny Upshaw is a Sheriff's deputy stuck with a bunch of snuffs nobody cares about; they're his chance to make his name as a cop...and to sate his darkest curiosities. Mal Considine is D.A.'s Bureau brass. He's climbing on the Red Scare bandwagon to advance his career and to gain custody of his adopted son, a child he saved from the horror of postwar Europe. Buzz Meeks-bagman, ex-Narco goon, and pimp for Howard Hughes-is fighting communism for the money. All three men have purchased tickets to a nightmare.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Second Sleep* Robert Harris, 2019-11-19 From the

internationally best-selling author of *Fatherland* and the Cicero Trilogy--a chilling and dark new thriller unlike anything Robert Harris has done before. 1468. A young priest, Christopher Fairfax, arrives in a remote Exmoor village to conduct the funeral of his predecessor. The land around is strewn with ancient artefacts--coins, fragments of glass, human bones--which the old parson used to collect. Did his obsession with the past lead to his death? Fairfax becomes determined to discover the truth. Over the course of the next six days, everything he believes--about himself, his faith, and the history of his world--will be tested to destruction.

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the big sleep novel analysis: The Buried Giant Kazuo Ishiguro, 2015-03-03 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of *Never Let Me Go* and the Booker Prize-winning novel *The Remains of the Day* comes a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory. In post-Arthurian Britain, the wars that once raged between the Saxons and the Britons have finally ceased. Axl and Beatrice, an elderly British couple, set off to visit their son, whom they haven't seen in years. And, because a strange mist has caused mass amnesia throughout the land, they can scarcely remember anything about him. As they are joined on their journey by a Saxon warrior, his orphan charge, and an illustrious knight, Axl and Beatrice slowly begin to remember the dark and troubled past they all share. By turns savage, suspenseful, and intensely moving, *The Buried Giant* is a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory.

the big sleep novel analysis: Asking For It Louise O'Neill, 2016-04-05 Emma O'Donovan is eighteen, beautiful, and fearless. It's the beginning of summer in a quiet Irish town and tonight she and her friends have dressed to impress. Everyone is at the party, and all eyes are on Emma. The

next morning Emma's parents discover her collapsed on the doorstep of their home, unconscious. She is disheveled, bleeding, and disoriented, looking as if she had been dumped there. To her distress, Emma can't remember what happened the night before. All she knows is that none of her friends will respond to her texts. At school, people turn away from her and whisper under their breath. Her mind may be a blank as far as the events of the previous evening, but someone has posted photos of it on Facebook under a fake account, Easy Emma--photos she will never be able to forget. As the photos go viral and a criminal investigation is launched, the community is thrown into tumult. The media descends, neighbors chose sides, and people from all over the world want to talk about her story. Everyone has something to say about Emma. *Asking For It* is a powerful story about the devastating effects of rape and public shaming, told through the awful experience of a young woman whose life is changed forever by an act of violence.

the big sleep novel analysis: *After Dark* Haruki Murakami, 2010-07-07 A short, sleek novel of encounters set in the witching hours of Tokyo between midnight and dawn, and every bit as gripping as Haruki Murakami's masterworks *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* and *Kafka on the Shore*. At its center are two sisters: Yuri, a fashion model sleeping her way into oblivion; and Mari, a young student soon led from solitary reading at an anonymous Denny's into lives radically alien to her own: those of a jazz trombonist who claims they've met before; a burly female "love hotel" manager and her maidstaff; and a Chinese prostitute savagely brutalized by a businessman. These "night people" are haunted by secrets and needs that draw them together more powerfully than the differing circumstances that might keep them apart, and it soon becomes clear that Yuri's slumber—mysteriously tied to the businessman plagued by the mark of his crime—will either restore or annihilate her. *After Dark* moves from mesmerizing drama to metaphysical speculation, interweaving time and space as well as memory and perspective into a seamless exploration of human agency—the interplay between self-expression and understanding, between the power of observation and the scope of compassion and love. Murakami's trademark humor, psychological insight and grasp of spirit and morality are here distilled with an extraordinary, harmonious mastery.

the big sleep novel analysis: My Year of Rest and Relaxation Ottessa Moshfegh, 2018-07-10 From one of our boldest, most celebrated new literary voices, a novel about a young woman's efforts to duck the ills of the world by embarking on an extended hibernation with the help of one of the worst psychiatrists in the annals of literature and the battery of medicines she prescribes. Our narrator should be happy, shouldn't she? She's young, thin, pretty, a recent Columbia graduate, works an easy job at a hip art gallery, lives in an apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan paid for, like the rest of her needs, by her inheritance. But there is a dark and vacuous hole in her heart, and it isn't just the loss of her parents, or the way her Wall Street boyfriend treats her, or her sadomasochistic relationship with her best friend, Reva. It's the year 2000 in a city aglitter with wealth and possibility; what could be so terribly wrong? *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* is a powerful answer to that question. Through the story of a year spent under the influence of a truly mad combination of drugs designed to heal our heroine from her alienation from this world, Moshfegh shows us how reasonable, even necessary, alienation can be. Both tender and blackly funny, merciless and compassionate, it is a showcase for the gifts of one of our major writers working at the height of her powers.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Only to Sleep* Lawrence Osborne, 2018-09-06 Wealthy dead American. Beautiful young widow. This case has PI Philip Marlowe's name written all over it. Is it enough to bring him back for one last adventure? The year is 1988. The place, Baja California. Private Investigator Philip Marlowe is living out his retirement sipping margaritas and playing cards when in saunter two men dressed like undertakers with a case that has his name written all over it. His mission is to investigate Donald Zinn – supposedly drowned off his yacht, leaving a much younger and now very rich wife. Marlowe's speciality. But is Zinn actually alive? And are the pair living off the spoils? 'Osborne and Chandler are a perfect match' William Boyd Discover the rest of the inimitable Philip Marlowe series – nine classic Chandler adventures, from *The Big Sleep* to *The*

Long Goodbye, available now in paperback and ebook from Penguin Books.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Dark Matter* Blake Crouch, 2016-07-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • COMING SOON TO APPLE TV+ • A “mind-blowing” (Entertainment Weekly) speculative thriller about an ordinary man who awakens in a world inexplicably different from the reality he thought he knew—from the author of *Upgrade*, *Recursion*, and the *Wayward Pines* trilogy “Are you happy with your life?” Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before the kidnapper knocks him unconscious. Before he awakens to find himself strapped to a gurney, surrounded by strangers in hazmat suits. Before a man he’s never met smiles down at him and says, “Welcome back, my friend.” In this world he’s woken up to, Jason’s life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college professor but a celebrated genius who has achieved something remarkable. Something impossible. Is it this life or the other that’s the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how will Jason make it back to the family he loves? From the bestselling author Blake Crouch, *Dark Matter* is a mind-bending thriller about choices, paths not taken, and how far we’ll go to claim the lives we dream of.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys, 1992 A considerable tour de force by any standard. ?New York Times Book Review

the big sleep novel analysis: *Love in the Big City* Sang Young Park, 2021-11-16 A funny, transporting, surprising, and poignant novel that was one of the highest-selling debuts of recent years in Korea, *Love in the Big City* tells the story of a young gay man searching for happiness in the lonely city of Seoul *Love in the Big City* is the English-language debut of Sang Young Park, one of Korea’s most exciting young writers. A runaway bestseller, the novel hit the top five lists of all the major bookstores, went into twenty-six printings, and was praised for its unique literary voice and perspective. It is now poised to capture a worldwide readership. Young is a cynical yet fun-loving Korean student who pinballs from home to class to the beds of recent Tinder matches. He and Jaehee, his female best friend and roommate, frequent nearby bars where they push away their anxieties about their love lives, families, and money with rounds of soju and ice-cold Marlboro Reds that they keep in their freezer. Yet over time, even Jaehee leaves Young to settle down, leaving him alone to care for his ailing mother and to find companionship in his relationships with a series of men, including one whose handsomeness is matched by his coldness, and another who might end up being the great love of his life. A brilliantly written novel that takes us into the glittering nighttime of Seoul and the bleary-eyed morning after with both humor and emotion, *Love in the Big City* is a wry portrait of millennial loneliness as well as the abundant joys of queer life.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Raymond Chandler's Los Angeles* Alain Silver, ElizabethM Ward, 1989-03-02 Re-issued for the 50th anniversary of the film of Chandler's novel 'The Big Sleep', this homage to film noir is a visionary journey across a landscape of darkened bungalows, decaying office blocks and sinister nightspots - an atmospheric tribute to both the writer and his city. Contains over 150 photographs and extracts from Chandler's classic detective fiction.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Blood Grove* Walter Mosley, 2021-02-02 Master of craft and narrative Walter Mosley returns with this crowning achievement in the Easy Rawlins saga, in which the iconic detective's loyalties are tested on the sun-soaked streets of Southern California (National Book Foundation) It is 1969, and flames can be seen on the horizon, protest wafts like smoke though the thick air, and Easy Rawlins, the Black private detective whose small agency finally has its own office, gets a visit from a white Vietnam veteran. The young man comes to Easy with a story that makes little sense. He and his lover, a beautiful young woman, were attacked in a citrus grove at the city’s outskirts. He may have killed a man, and the woman and his dog are now missing. Inclined to turn down what sounds like nothing but trouble, Easy takes the case when he realizes how damaged the young vet is from his war experiences—the bond between veterans superseding all other considerations. The veteran is not Easy’s only unlooked-for trouble. Easy’s adopted daughter Feather’s white uncle shows up uninvited, raising questions and unsettling the life Easy has long forged for the now young woman. Where Feather sees a family reunion, Easy suspects something else, something that will break his heart. *Blood Grove* is a crackling, moody, and thrilling race

through a California of hippies and tycoons, radicals and sociopaths, cops and grifters, both men and women. Easy will need the help of his friends—from the genius Jackson Blue to the dangerous Mouse Alexander, Fearless Jones, and Christmas Black—to make sense of a case that reveals the darkest impulses humans harbor. *Blood Grove* is a novel of vast scope and intimate insight, and a soulful call for justice by any means necessary.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe, 1994-09-01 “A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world.” —Barack Obama “African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe.” —Toni Morrison Nominated as one of America’s best-loved novels by PBS’s *The Great American Read* *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Goodbye Coast* Joe Ide, 2022-02-01 In this colorful reinvention of a classic, Philip Marlowe finds himself tangled in two missing persons cases; “Ide has chiseled off the rust while keeping the soul of one of American fiction’s icons” (Dennis Lehane). The seductive and relentless figure of Raymond Chandler’s detective, Philip Marlowe, is vividly re-imagined in present-day Los Angeles. Here is a city of scheming Malibu actresses, ruthless gang members, virulent inequality, and washed-out police. Acclaimed and award-winning novelist Joe Ide imagines a Marlowe very much of our time: he’s a quiet, lonely, and remarkably capable and confident private detective, though he lives beneath the shadow of his father, a once-decorated LAPD homicide detective, famous throughout the city, who’s given in to drink after the death of Marlowe’s mother. Marlowe, against his better judgement, accepts two missing person cases, the first a daughter of a faded, tyrannical Hollywood starlet, and the second, a British child stolen from his mother by his father. At the center of *The Goodbye Coast* is Marlowe’s troubled and confounding relationship with his father, a son who despises yet respects his dad, and a dad who’s unable to hide his bitter disappointment with his grown boy. Steeped in the richly detailed ethnic neighborhoods of modern LA, Ide’s *The Goodbye Coast* is a bold recreation that is viciously funny, ingeniously plotted, and surprisingly tender.

the big sleep novel analysis: Arson Plus Illustrated Dashiell Hammett, 2021-05-03 *Arson Plus* is the story that introduced the world to the Continental Op, the nameless detective whom Dashiell Hammett described as a little man going forward day after day through mud and blood and death and deceit—as callous and brutal and cynical as necessary (William F. Nolan, Dashiell Hammett: *A Casebook*). Born in the pages of *Black Mask* in 1923, the Continental Op is ageless, a hardworking hero as much for our time as he is for his own. Rediscover the early stories of the original hardboiled detective in the first volume of the *Collected Case Files of the Continental Op*, featuring *Arson Plus*, *Slippery Fingers*, and *Crooked Souls*.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Kill My Mother: A Graphic Novel* Jules Feiffer, 2014-08-25 Winner of the Eisner Prize for Best New Graphic Album Winner of the National Cartoonist Society Reuben Award for Best Graphic Novel Named one of the Best Books of the Year by *Vanity Fair*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Library Journal* A *New York Times* Book Review Editors’ Choice Selection When three daunting dolls intersect with one hapless heroine and a hard-boiled private eye, deception, betrayal, and murder stalk every mean street in... *Kill My Mother*. Adding to a legendary career that includes a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award, Obie Awards, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the National Cartoonist Society and the Writers Guild of America, Jules Feiffer now presents his first

noir graphic novel. *Kill My Mother* is a loving homage to the pulp-inspired films and comic strips of his youth. Channeling Eisner's *The Spirit*, along with the likes of Hammett, Chandler, Cain, John Huston, and Billy Wilder, and spiced with the deft humor for which Feiffer is renowned, *Kill My Mother* centers on five formidable women from two unrelated families, linked fatefully and fatally by a has-been, hard-drinking private detective. As our story begins, we meet Annie Hannigan, an out-of-control teenager, jitterbugging in the 1930s. Annie dreams of offing her mother, Elsie, whom she blames for abandoning her for a job soon after her husband, a cop, is shot and killed. Now, employed by her husband's best friend—an over-the-hill and perpetually soused private eye—Elsie finds herself covering up his missteps as she is drawn into a case of a mysterious client, who leads her into a decade-long drama of deception and dual identities sprawling from the Depression era to World War II Hollywood and the jungles of the South Pacific. Along with three femme fatales, an obsessed daughter, and a loner heroine, *Kill My Mother* features a fighter turned tap dancer, a small-time thug who dreams of being a hit man, a name-dropping cab driver, a communist liquor store owner, and a hunky movie star with a mind-boggling secret. Culminating in a U.S.O. tour on a war-torn Pacific island, this disparate band of old enemies congregate to settle scores. In a drawing style derived from *Steve Canyon* and *The Spirit*, Feiffer combines his long-honed skills as cartoonist, playwright, and screenwriter to draw us into this seductively menacing world where streets are black with soot and rain, and base motives and betrayal are served on the rocks in bars unsafe to enter. Bluesy, fast-moving, and funny, *Kill My Mother* is a trip to Hammett-Chandler-Cain Land: a noir-graphic novel like the movies they don't make anymore.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Orchid* Jim Endersby, 2016-11-07 The prize-winning history of the orchid: "an engaging and enlightening account of one of the Earth's most mythologized botanical wonders" (Richard Conniff, author of *House of Lost Worlds*). At once delicate, exotic, and elegant, orchids are beloved for their singular, instantly recognizable beauty. Found in nearly every climate, the many species of orchid have had varying forms of significance in countless cultures over time. Following the orchid's journey from Ancient Greek medicine to twentieth century detective novels, science historian Jim Endersby explores the flower's four recurring themes: science, empire, sex, and death. Orchids were a symbol of the exotic riches sought by 19th century Europeans in their plans for colonization. They became subjects of scientific scrutiny for Charles Darwin, who investigated their methods of cross-pollination. As Endersby shows, orchids—perhaps because of their extraordinarily diverse colors, shapes, and sizes—have also bloomed repeatedly in films, novels, plays, and poems, from Shakespeare to science fiction. Featuring many gorgeous illustrations from the collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, *Orchid: A Cultural History* was awarded the Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize by the History of Science Society. It is an enchanting tale not only for gardeners and plant collectors, but anyone curious about the flower's obsessive hold on the imagination in history, cinema, literature, and more.

the big sleep novel analysis: *New Teeth* Simon Rich, 2021-07-27 Laugh till you cry in this new collection of stories from the award-winning "Serena Williams of humor writing" (New York Times Book Review) about raising babies and trying not to be one. Called a "comedic Godsend" by Conan O'Brien and "the Stephen King of comedy writing" by John Mulaney, Simon Rich is back with *New Teeth*, his funniest and most personal collection yet. Two murderous pirates find a child stowaway on board and attempt to balance pillaging with co-parenting. A woman raised by wolves prepares for her parents' annual Thanksgiving visit. An aging mutant superhero is forced to learn humility when the mayor kicks him upstairs to a desk job. And in the hard-boiled caper "The Big Nap," a weary two-year-old detective struggles to make sense of "a world gone mad." Equal parts silly and sincere, *New Teeth* is an ode to growing up, growing older, and what it means to make a family.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Why We Can't Sleep* Ada Calhoun, 2020-01-07 The acclaimed author explores the hidden crises of Gen X women in this "engaging hybrid of first-person confession, reportage [and] pop culture analysis" (The New Republic). Ada Calhoun was married with children and a good career—and yet she was miserable. She thought she had no right to

complain until she realized how many other Generation X women felt the same way. What could be behind this troubling trend? To find out, Calhoun delved into housing costs, HR trends, credit card debt averages, and divorce data. At every turn, she saw that Gen X women were facing new problems as they entered middle age—problems that were being largely overlooked. Calhoun spoke with women across America who were part of the generation raised to “have it all.” She found that most were exhausted, terrified about money, under-employed, and overwhelmed. And instead of being heard, they were being told to lean in, take “me-time,” or make a chore chart to get their lives and homes in order. In *Why We Can't Sleep*, Calhoun opens up the cultural and political contexts of Gen X's predicament. She offers practical advice on how to ourselves out of the abyss—and keep the next generation of women from falling in. The result is reassuring, empowering, and essential reading for all middle-aged women, and anyone who hopes to understand them.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Big Rich* Bryan Burrough, 2010-03-30 “Full of schadenfreude and speculation—and solid, timely history too.” —Kirkus Reviews “This is a portrait of capitalism as white-knuckle risk taking, yielding fruitful discoveries for the fathers, but only sterile speculation for the sons—a story that resonates with today's economic upheaval.” —Publishers Weekly “What's not to enjoy about a book full of monstrous egos, unimaginable sums of money, and the punishment of greed and shortsightedness?” —The Economist Phenomenal reviews and sales greeted the hardcover publication of *The Big Rich*, New York Times bestselling author Bryan Burrough's spellbinding chronicle of Texas oil. Weaving together the multigenerational sagas of the industry's four wealthiest families, Burrough brings to life the men known in their day as the Big Four: Roy Cullen, H. L. Hunt, Clint Murchison, and Sid Richardson, all swaggering Texas oil tycoons who owned sprawling ranches and mingled with presidents and Hollywood stars. Seamlessly charting their collective rise and fall, *The Big Rich* is a hugely entertaining account that only a writer with Burrough's abilities-and Texas upbringing-could have written.

the big sleep novel analysis: *Monogamy* Sue Miller, 2020-09-08 NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2020! NPR BEST BOOK OF 2020 PEOPLE MAGAZINE TOP TEN BOOKS OF THE YEAR BOOKPAGE BEST BOOK OF 2020 GOOD HOUSEKEEPING BEST BOOK OF 2020 “A sensual and perceptive novel. . . . With humor and humanity, Miller resists the simple scorned-wife story and instead crafts a revelatory tale of the complexities—and the absurdities—of love, infidelity, and grief.” —O, the Oprah Magazine A brilliantly insightful novel, engrossing and haunting, about marriage, love, family, happiness and sorrow, from New York Times bestselling author Sue Miller. Graham and Annie have been married for nearly thirty years. Their seemingly effortless devotion has long been the envy of their circle of friends and acquaintances. By all appearances, they are a golden couple. Graham is a bookseller, a big, gregarious man with large appetites—curious, eager to please, a lover of life, and the convivial host of frequent, lively parties at his and Annie's comfortable house in Cambridge. Annie, more reserved and introspective, is a photographer. She is about to have her first gallery show after a six-year lull and is worried that the best years of her career may be behind her. They have two adult children; Lucas, Graham's son with his first wife, Frieda, works in New York. Annie and Graham's daughter, Sarah, lives in San Francisco. Though Frieda is an integral part of this far-flung, loving family, Annie feels confident in the knowledge that she is Graham's last and greatest love. When Graham suddenly dies—this man whose enormous presence has seemed to dominate their lives together—Annie is lost. What is the point of going on, she wonders, without him? Then, while she is still mourning Graham intensely, she discovers a ruinous secret, one that will spiral her into darkness and force her to question whether she ever truly knew the man who loved her.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Tenth Clew* Dashiell Hammett, 2013-08-27 In a tip of the hat to Sherlock Holmes, the Continental Op finds nine seemingly innocuous and unconnected items left as clues in a murder case. But this is San Francisco, not London, and the Op knows that the only thing he needs to crack a case is his own gut. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Life of Raymond Chandler* Frank MacShane, 1986-01-01

the big sleep novel analysis: *Pearls are a Nuisance* Raymond Chandler, 1964

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Simple Art of Murder* Raymond Chandler, 1972 Prefaced by the famous Atlantic Monthly essay of the same name, in which he argues the virtues of the hard-boiled detective novel, this collection mostly drawn from stories he wrote for the pulps demonstrates Chandler's imaginative, entertaining facility with the form.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Little Sister* Raymond Chandler, 1955 Her name is Orfamay Quest and she comes all the way from Manhattan, Kansas, to find her missing brother Orrin. Or least ways that's what she tells PI Philip Marlowe, offering him a measly twenty bucks for the privilege. But Marlowe's feeling charitable though it's not long before he wishes he wasn't so sweet. You see, Orrin's trail leads Marlowe to luscious movie starlets, uppity gangsters, suspicious cops and corpses with ice picks jammed in their necks. When trouble comes calling, sometimes it's best to pretend to be out.

the big sleep novel analysis: *The Simple Art of Murder* Raymond Chandler, Raymond, 2018-01-17 This is a collection of early short stories and an essay which gave the book its name. The latter is fairly short and its main idea is an argument for the virtues of a noir mystery as opposed to a traditional British one. Considering the fact that this comes from a guy who became a classic of the former even before his death and that he picked up some below the average examples of the latter, I agree. The stories themselves left me out cold for the most part. I can actually describe the plot in practically all of them at once. A trouble starts involving a damsel in distress. A tough guy emerges (usually a PI or a good cop) who gets involved, gets knocked out, and shot at. It turns out the damsel in distress is a minor culprit which makes her a femme fatale. Everybody and their brother meet at the main villain place, a big shootout is insured. Everybody dies except for the tough guy with a heart of gold and the femme fatale who emerges unscratched; the latter escapes. The end

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