



The Raymond Chandler Papers: Selected Letters and Nonfiction 1909-1959

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The Raymond Chandler Papers brings together the correspondence and other previously uncollected writing of America's undisputed master of crime fiction and creator of the iconic private eye Phillip Marlowe, revealing all aspects of the great artist's powerful personality and broad intellectual curiosity. Featuring a selection of Chandler's previously unpublished early writings - including a gripping piece about his combat experiences in World War I - and an abandoned profile of the infamous mobster "Lucky" Luciano, *The Raymond Chandler Papers* is a must-have for all true fans and an important contribution toward understanding the life and work of the enigmatic man Evelyn Waugh called "the greatest living American novelist."

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Hilary Kelly says

Amazing.

Scott says

Chandler had a gift for sarcasm and phrasing that I enjoy... But what a miserable guy he seems to have been.

Norman Isaacson says

Dissatisfaction seemed to be a major element of his life. Maybe it was due to his classic European education and how that background hit hard against the American way of life or the American system. His observations about this country were extremely perceptive, but they were no more than a tiny wave in an ocean of difference.

Gabriel says

A decent selection of Chandler's letters, with occasional prose interspersed. Not much else to say, really. This is essentially the earlier MacShane selection, but mercifully better curated/selected. If you've already looked through the MacShane, there's nothing (really) new here. Chandler goes on and on about cats and books.

Brent Legault says

I don't how he managed to drink so much and remain clear-headed enough to write these cared-for and insight-heavy letters. I don't know how, but it doesn't matter. They exist and that's enough for me. Here's a thing he wrote that I thought stood out among an outstanding collection of literary wisdom and aphorism:

. . .it doesn't matter a damn what a novel is about, that the only fiction of any moment in any age is that which does magic with words, and the the subject matter is merley the springboard for the writer's imagination.

Fraterno Saccis says

Una de las mejores lecturas que tenido este año.

Catherine Clinch says

Chandler made me fall in love with Los Angeles, with detective noir and - ultimately - with his heart. When he writes about the death of his wife, I cried as if hearing about the death of someone I actually knew. THAT is the level of mastery that every writer should aspire to reach.

Alicia says

This was a wonderful collection of writing, mostly personal letters. Chandler had such a dry wit and was a self-described intellectual snob. He could also be incredibly humble and self-effacing. One can see which parts of him shine through in Marlowe.

I loved reading his thoughts on language, American and British culture, the writing process, the publishing business, and his contemporaries--namely Hammet and Cain. The end of the book is kind of sad; Chandler's wife of 30 years had a protracted illness and death, he attempts suicide. Although he seemed lost and terribly lonely late in life, you could see a glimmer of inspiration on the thought of writing another Marlowe novel in the last letters before his death.

I'd recommend this to Chandler devotees, fans of hardboiled fiction--heck, fans of the English language.

Ben says

Maybe I should have given this 5 stars, but I was a little disappointed by how many of the letters in this volume were also in Raymond Chandler Speaking. It's been a while since I read The Collected Letters but I think there's also some overlap with that. A bit of a let down since the book doesn't include more of Chandler's essays, especially The Simple Art of Murder. But there's great writing throughout and I'm glad I read it.
