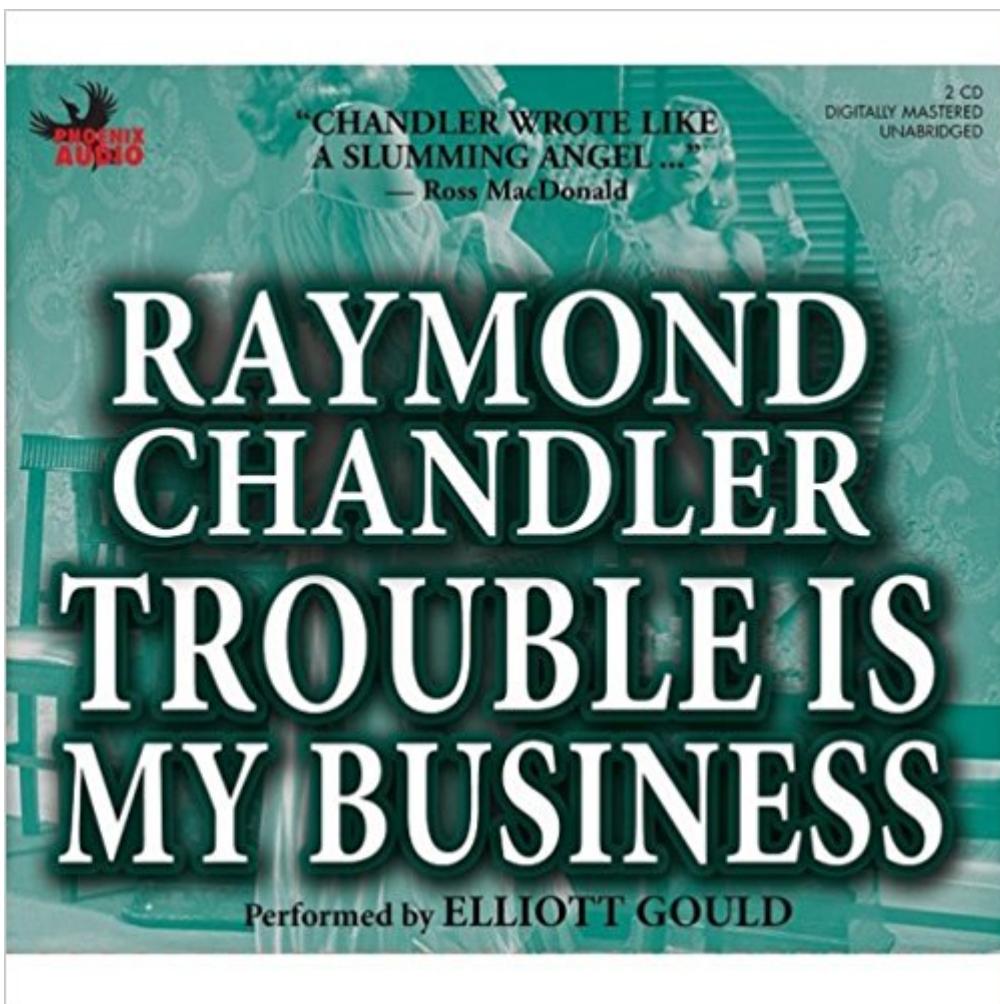


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# Trouble Is My Business



## **Synopsis**

In the four long stories in this collection, Marlowe is hired to protect a rich old guy from a gold digger, runs afoul of crooked politicos, gets a line on some stolen jewels with a reward attached, and stumbles across a murder victim who may have been an extortionist.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Chandler is not only the best writer of hardboiled PI stories, he's one of the 20th century's top scribes, period. His full canon of novels and short stories is reprinted in trade paper featuring uniform covers in Black Lizard's signature style. A handsome set for a reasonable price. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

"Raymond Chandler is a master." --The New York Times [Chandler] wrote as if pain hurt and life mattered. --The New Yorker Chandler seems to have created the culminating American hero: wised up, hopeful, thoughtful, adventurous, sentimental, cynical and rebellious. --Robert B. Parker, The New York Times Book Review Philip Marlowe remains the quintessential urban private eye. --Los Angeles Times Nobody can write like Chandler on his home turf, not even Faulkner. . . . An original. . . . A great artist. The Boston Book Review Raymond Chandler was one of the finest prose writers of the twentieth century. . . . Age does not wither Chandler's prose. . . . He wrote like an angel. --Literary Review [T]he prose rises to heights of unselfconscious eloquence, and we realize with a jolt of excitement that we are in the presence of not a mere action tale teller, but a stylist, a writer with a vision. --Joyce Carol Oates, The New York Review of Books Chandler wrote like a slumming

angel and invested the sun-blinded streets of Los Angeles with a romantic presence. Ross Macdonald Raymond Chandler is a star of the first magnitude. --Erle Stanley Gardner Raymond Chandler invented a new way of talking about America, and America has never looked the same to us since. --Paul Auster [Chandler] s the perfect novelist for our times. He takes us into a different world, a world that s like ours, but isn t. --Carolyn See

I've always enjoyed Raymond Chandler and some of his stories are better than others. This particular book is a collection of four short stories about Philip Marlowe. What is phenomenal about the stories is the use of slang. I thought I was up on all the usage for the period, but this just blew me away. The stories are fast paced simply because Chandler had to compress plots that otherwise would have stretched out into novel length. The other aspect of the tough detective that defies my ability to comprehend is the amount of booze this guy can consume without becoming woozy. In one episode, Marlowe gets beaten up in a stranger's apartment, and to provide himself relief from the pain, he drinks half a bottle of scotch; and while leaving the apartment, he puts the bottle in his pocket to consume on the drive home. These are fun tales. I read them in between full length books, and enjoyed every one.

Raymond Chandler is my favorite writer of all time. His stories are interesting, his hero is a bit too good to be true -- but his descriptions and the underlying human feelings that lie beneath the tough exterior of our detective Phillip Marlowe is excellent. There is one scene that gets me in this anthology of short stories: Marlowe is being held up at gun point by a bad guy and Marlowe says, "I wasn't scared. I was paralyzed." That is the kind of emotion most of us can relate to. Chandler writes in a somewhat noir fashion and uses the racist terms of the time (1940s/1950s) -- but Chandler was not racist himself I believe and uncovered the police corruption in this book of short stories as well as others. For instance showing how police related to both African Americans and Hispanics alike -- not nice at all during those times - not sure it's much better today. Look reading these books is a bit like reading Gone with the Wind - it's very feminist if you don't mind the racism -- and I do mind it so never read it again. Chandler tries hard not to make his Marlowe hero a racist and in some cases helps other cultures who could end up at the mercy of the police. This is a book of short stories but compelling ones (usual Damsel in distress - puhleese) and no one writes like Chandler -- reading him is like eating the best cake you ever had - utterly delicious and still relevant 70-plus years later. Now if Marlowe just had a cell phone or a an iPad -- do believe his life would have been easier but a lot less interesting!

If you are unfamiliar with Raymond Chandler, you are in for a treat (and I envy you the experience of reading him for the first time.) Having virtually invented the genre of the hard-boiled noir detective, *Trouble Is My Business* features four short stories featuring Philip Marlowe, the iconic private detective in all his glory. Each story is about 60 pages long - enough for a brief escape, but each tremendously entertaining. The plots vary from helping an old friend with crooked gambling winnings to accidentally getting caught up in a muder at a diner, readers are constantly kept on their toes, never quite sure of where Chandler will take them, what problems will preent themselves next or how Marlowe will manage to solve the case. While each story is a gem on their own, what keeps me coming back to Chandler is his writing style: short, staccato sentences, gritty settings and dialogue that is as unique and snappy as it is dated. For mystery fans as well as those who like a step back in time 80 (or so years), you simply can't beat Chandler. While his longer stories are excellent, these four short stories make an excellent introduction to the author and the genre. Highly recommended.

No one ever wrote like Chandler. No one ever will. We can only hope. Yet, I'd just as soon have his works continue to be the benchmark to which all authors of any genre aspire. Unfortunately, Raymond Chandler wrote far too few. I've read them all, many times. I might remember parts of the plots, though it's not the plots that makes anyone read any more after the first. It's the atmosphere, the language of the rich and the dialects of the poor, the seldom heard from, the wiseguys and those that think they are that brings me back over and over again. Try any of his work. You'll agree. Don't forget the little collections of small stories. I'll guaranty you'll be back for more.

If you read them in the order of 'Sleep', 'Farewell', 'Window', 'Lake' and 'Sister', by this point you're tired and so are Chandler and Marlowe. The Little Sister has a cynical (as opposed to snarky) sense and you can feel the weight of the grime and gun oil Marlowe has been building up over the past five books. That's when it's time to dial it back to the demos, to the sketches, and see the pieces that make up the finished wholes. I always think of this and "The Simple Art of Murder" as akin to that little museum in Paris that has Picasso's studies for Guernica. Much more interesting than the finished piece. After going back to these early sketches, then you'll be refreshed enough to take on "The Long Goodbye", which is indeed a classic and needs to be appreciated in context.

It's so easy to throw genres around today. Movies. Music. Books. If the term noir had never been invented then they probably call all of it chandler. Thought I had read everything Raymond Chandler

wrote with Philip Marlowe in it. This thin book contained four short stories and I read them way too fast. Don't make my mistake...savor each and every word. Chandler was and is an American original, and no one will be his equal.

Great pulp fiction mysteries with plenty of colorful Chandler dialogue. I highly recommend it for anyone with a taste for the genre. Red Wind is a particular favorite of mine.

I love reading a mystery. It does not matter if it is murder or something else. I read to get lost. I don't try to solve it before the main character.

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