



Women Crime Writers: Four Suspense Novels of the 1950s: Mischief / The Blunderer / Beast in View / Fools' Gold (Library of America)

Charlotte Armstrong, Patricia Highsmith, Margaret Millar, Dolores Hitchens

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The Library of America and editor Sarah Weinman redefine the classic era of American crime fiction with a landmark collection of four brilliant novels by the female pioneers of the genre, the women who paved the way for Gillian Flynn, Tana French, and Lisa Scottoline.

Though women crime and suspense writers dominate today's bestseller lists, the extraordinary work of the mid-century pioneers of the genre is largely unknown. Turning in many cases from the mean streets of the hardboiled school to explore the anxieties and terrors lurking in everyday life, these groundbreaking novelists found the roots of fear and violence in a quiet suburban neighborhood, on a college campus, or in a comfortable midtown hotel. Their work, influential in its day and still vibrant and extraordinarily riveting today, is long overdue for rediscovery. This volume, the second of a two-volume collector's set, gathers four classic works that together reveal the vital and unacknowledged lineage to today's leading crime writers. From the 1950s here are Charlotte Armstrong's *Mischief*, the nightmarish drama of a child entrusted to a psychotic babysitter, Patricia Highsmith's *The Blunderer*, brilliantly tracking the perverse parallel lives of two men driven toward murder, Margaret Millar's *Beast in View*, a relentless study in madness, and Dolores Hitchens's *Fools' Gold*, a hard-edged tale of robbery and redemption.

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