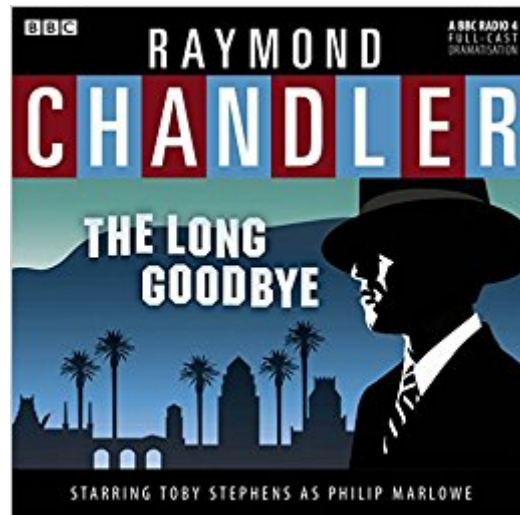




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# The Long Goodbye



## Synopsis

Fast-talking, trouble-seeking private eye Philip Marlowe is a different kind of detective: a moral man in an amoral world. California in the 1940s and 1950s is as beautiful as a ripe fruit and rotten to the core, and Marlowe must struggle to retain his integrity amidst the corruption he encounters daily. In *The Long Goodbye*, Marlowe forms an uneasy friendship with a drunk named Terry Lennox. So when Lennox shows up late one night, looking guilty and asking for a ride to Tijuana airport, Marlowe agrees—though he suspects he's going to regret it. He's right. First Lennox's rich, adulterous wife is found murdered, then Marlowe is arrested, then Lennox himself turns up dead in Mexico: an apparent suicide with a signed confession by his side. And if that wasn't enough, Marlowe also finds himself babysitting an author to make sure he delivers his next book. Trying to juggle two increasingly tricky cases, Marlowe knows that if he takes his eye off the ball, he could end up dead. . . . Starring Toby Stephens, this powerful dramatization by Stephen Wyatt cannot fail to draw you into Raymond Chandler's darkly attractive world of deceit, decadence and death. 2 CDs. 1 hr 27 mins.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Anything Chandler writes about grips the mind from the first sentence' Daily Telegraph 'One of the greatest crime writers, who set the standards others still try to attain' Sunday Times 'Chandler wrote like a slumming angel and invested the sun-blinded streets of Los Angeles with a romantic presence' - Ross Macdonald --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Raymond Chandler was born in Chicago in 1888. He was educated at Dulwich College, London and studied international law in France and Germany. He published a number of poems and essays in local papers and worked as a reporter, essayist, and book reviewer. After serving for the Canadian Army during World War I he became a bookkeeper and auditor for Dabney Oil Syndicate. In 1939 he published *The Big Sleep* to instant acclaim in Britain and the US, introducing the world to his iconic private eye, Philip Marlowe. With *Farewell My Lovely* and *The Long Goodbye*, Chandler cemented his reputation as a giant of American popular culture and master of a style of detective fiction that would be widely admired and imitated. Chandler turned to screenwriting with *Double Indemnity*. He continued to write for Hollywood during the heyday of the Hollywood studio system, receiving an Oscar nomination for *The Blue Dahlia*. In 1946 Chandler received an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America for screenplay and in 1954 for novel writing. During the last year of his life he was made President of the Mystery Writers of America. He died from pneumonia in 1959.

Raymond Chandler was a momma's boy. He was living with his mother when he fell in love with a woman eighteen years older than he. Mrs. Chandler refused to allow her 30-year-old son to marry, so he had to wait until Mommy #1 died before he could marry Mommy #2. No wonder he created Phillip Marlowe - the ultimate loner. Marlowe's women are beautiful and alluring, but also intelligent, gutsy, and potentially very dangerous. Chandler may have resented women, but he never underestimated them. This is Chandler's best because it examines the issues that shaped and complicated his life. Terry Lennox and his two gangster friends are bound by ties forged in a WWII foxhole. Chandler himself served in the trenches in France during WWI and knew that combat experiences (and the men who shared them) could never be erased. Then there's alcoholism. Best-selling author Roger Wade has a lovely home and a gorgeous wife and a publisher who wonders why he's drinking himself to death. Chandler knew all about the lure of the bottle. Starting as a bookkeeper, he worked his way up to Vice-President of an L.A. oil company by 1931. The following year he was fired because of his alcoholism and the problems it created at home and at work. And there are suicides. A suicide that was a murder. A suicide that was a suicide. And a suicide that haunts Marlowe until he finally solves the puzzle. Chandler claimed that it was the suicide of a talented writer friend that made him turn from reporting to bookkeeping. The collapse of his business career sent him back into writing and his own threats to commit suicide played a big role in that collapse. *THE LONG GOODBYE* was published in 1954 and marked the end of Chandler's productivity. His beloved Cissy was dying and he himself was suffering from years of

overwork and hard drinking. The book is filled with Chandler's trademark sardonic humor (the essay on blondes and the description of the photogenic, empty-headed sheriff are particularly fine) but it's a dark book. Although he grew up in England, Chandler loved the American West and its eccentricities and excesses. He just didn't have any illusions about it. This is a classic. If you haven't read it, you should.

I've read most all of Raymond Chandler's books, including this one many years ago. It's a great book, so I'd suggest you buy it and read it. Just not this Kindle edition. There are so many typos and words that run together that it is almost impossible to read. I would hope they would proof-read their content prior to selling it, but apparently no one did with this edition.

The story is great, but this Kindle edition is absolutely, completely, unreservedly DREADFUL. The formatting is wildly inconsistent, with page breaks coming at peculiar places, and the width of the page suddenly jumping from full page to maybe 25 characters, and sometimes centered. There are often dozens of typos per page. The text was obviously scanned, and never proofread. For example, just about every instance of "cl" has gotten transcribed as "d", so "clear" comes out as "dear", "close" comes out as "dose", "club" comes out as "dub", etc. etc. etc. The bottom line is that the formatting problems and the typos are so thick and awful that it almost entirely distracts from being able to read the text. They should be ashamed of itself for publishing this defective a version of an otherwise classic hard-boiled detective story.

He was flip, he was glib, he invested more of his text in the description of his characters' clothes than in the plot or the action, but Raymond Chandler shares with Dashiell Hammett the creating of a style, a literary category, a journalistic roller coaster, built on their deathless detectives, on investigative strategies and sleuth integrity, and a tight-lipped personal life shared with few. The famous films inspired in their work have little to do with the original writing, but have a magic of their own. As for the legions of writers of "gripping suspense novels" who followed them over the years, some are better, most are worse, but a copy, regardless, has no bearing on the original work of art. This reader nonetheless has a serious weakness for Michael Connelly.

This is the second time I have read all of Chandler's series of novels and short stories featuring Raymond Marlowe. I believe I enjoyed "The Long Goodbye" and his other works just as much or more than when I read them the first time. Chandler is one of America's great writers and "The Long

Goodbye" is one of his best. In my estimation, the only one better is "The Big Sleep". One of the many things that sets Chandler's work apart is his wit. The dialog is some of the best written in American English. Paul Sullivan

Probably a sure-fired formula of what not to do when reading crime thriller fiction. Recently I finished Chris Carter's 'An Evil Mind'. Followed that up with 'The Long Goodbye' after watching Humphrey Bogart play Phillip Marlowe in 'The Big Sleep' again, and I still never get tired of it. Same genre, sixty odd years apart and Raymond Chandler's indelible characters, fast, witty dialogue, sharp plotting and brilliant procedurals leave many contemporary crime thriller authors plodding or treading water. I found the characters in An Evil Mind like cardboard cut-outs; evil abounded but it wasn't palpable or truly menacing, simply because the characters lacked depth. So do yourself a favour, grab a Raymond Chandler novel and learn from a master; it's worth the effort.

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