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It's All One Case: The Illustrated Ross Macdonald Archives



Synopsis

This is a prose series of unpublished interviews with, and a visual retrospective of, the seminal mid-to late-20th century literary crime writer. In 1976, the critic Paul Nelson spent several weeks interviewing his literary hero, legendary detective writer Ross Macdonald. Beginning in the late 1940s with his shadowy creation, ruminating private eye Lew Archer, Macdonald had followed in the footsteps of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, but ultimately elevated the form to a new level. "We talked about everything imaginable," Nelson wrote "including Macdonald's often meager beginnings; his dual citizenship; writers, painters, music, books, and movies he admired; how he used symbolism to change detective writing; his own novels and why Archer was not the most important character—my God, everything." It's All One Case provides an open door to Macdonald at his most unguarded. The book is far more than a collection of never-before-published interviews, though. Published in a handsome, oversized format, it is a visual history of Macdonald's professional career, illustrated with rare and select items from one of the world's largest private archives of Macdonald collectibles. Featuring in full color the covers of the various editions of Macdonald's more than two dozen books, facsimile reproductions of pages from his manuscripts, magazine spreads, and many never before seen photos of Macdonald and his friends (such as Kurt Vonnegut), including those by celebrated photojournalist Jill Krentz. It's All One Case is an intellectual delight and a visual feast, a fitting tribute to Macdonald's distinguished career. Full-color illustrations throughout

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

• A book that any devotee of American detective fiction would kill for. For fans of Ross Macdonald, the finest American detective novelist of the 1950s and '60s, it's an absolute essential.

- - Washington Post "A lush coffee table book filled with a dizzying array of graphic materials: countless images of various covers of Macdonald's novels, clips of his magazine articles, reproductions of parts of his personal letters, pictures of some of the books from his collection, posters advertising the films made from his novels, and on and on."
- - Criminal Element "Insightful and engaging, the book is also lovely to look at: It's filled with rare-edition covers of Macdonald's books as well as reproductions of photos of the author with celebrity friends."
- - Village Voice "Macdonald's razor-sharp prose elevated the detective novel to a new level, and the interviews and illustrations add to this icon's luster."
- - Shelf Awareness

Kevin Avery has published over 300 articles and short stories. His books include *Everything Is an Afterthought: The Life and Writings of Paul Nelson* and *Conversations with Clint: Paul Nelson's Lost Interviews with Clint Eastwood, 1979 - 1983*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY. Paul Nelson is best known as a music critic and executive who championed performers such as Rod Stewart and the New York Dolls. He passed away in 2006. Ross Macdonald is the pen name of crime fiction author Kenneth Millar. He is best known for his Lew Archer series of novels and was awarded the Grand Masters Award from the Mystery Writers of America. After being raised in Ontario, Canada, he passed away in 1983 after spending the majority of his life in Santa Barbara, California. Jerome Charyn's stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Paris Review*, *American Scholar*, *Epoch*, *Narrative*, *Ellery Queen*, and other magazines. His most recent novel is *I Am Abraham*. He lived for many years in Paris and currently resides in Manhattan.

The book just arrived and browsing it assures me of a 5 star rating! This is a resource that I shall enjoy for as long as I have eyesight. The layout is very fresh to my mind... with sections on Mr MacDonald's early years, his influences and his own work divided up into smaller chapters. The chapters are profusely illustrated courtesy of collector Jeff Wong, and there is a Q&A with Mr MacDonald running through the entire book. It is my understanding that the author Kevin Avery basically took the material that Paul Nelson had been developing through many conversations and crafted this edition. Whether you want to learn about Mr MacDonald's books, thoughts on his writing, other writers, or life itself, you will find it here.

-- but for whatever reason the blurbs and advertising materials aren't stating what this is: Namely,

the transcripts of 39 hours worth of interviews that Kenneth Millar (aka Ross MacDonald) gave to a reporter for "Rolling Stone" magazine back in 1976. (And RS never did publish the interviews, by the way; nor have they appeared in print anywhere else -- until now). Don't misunderstand: The photos and illustrations that accompany the text are all beautiful. But they're just the garnish. The text is the main course. And it's fascinating.

My copy of this beautiful book arrived just yesterday. It illustrates Mr. Millar's early years, as well as his influences on his work. It describes in great detail the writing process, and it is fascinating. It shows the development of a writer, and one who cared a great deal about his craft. This is a book to be savored.

Having just received my copy and started reading and marveling at its wonderful design, I can only say that the care that was taken to make the story of Kenneth Millar's life in his own words is remarkable. Kevin Avery is to be congratulated for making this exceptional book both inviting and compelling. Anyone who read the great mystery novels of "Ross Macdonald" and wanted more should own and treasure "It's All One Case."

The photos are outstanding, and the interview with Ross MacDonald is worth reading.

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