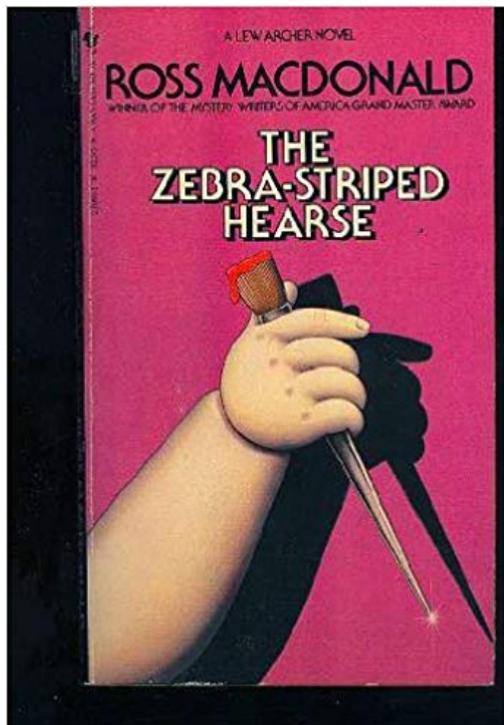


Zebra-Striped Hearse *by* Ross Macdonald



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ISBN: 0553273620

ISBN13: 978-0553273625

Author: Ross Macdonald

Book title: Zebra-Striped Hearse

Publisher: Bantam (October 1, 1984)

Language: English

Category: Mystery

Size PDF version: 1867 kb

Size ePUB version: 1483 kb

Size FB2 version: 1594 kb

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Strictly speaking, Lew Archer is only supposed to dig up the dirt on a rich man's suspicious soon-to-be son-in-law. But in no time at all Archer is following a trail of corpses from the citrus belt to Mazatlan. And then there is the zebra-striped hearse and its crew of beautiful, sunburned surfers, whose path seems to keep crossing the son-in-law's--and Archer's--in a powerful, fast-paced novel of murder on the California coast.



Reviews of the *Zebra-Striped Hearse* *by* Ross Macdonald

Meri

A later Lew Archer novel but still packs a mean punch. In this novel, MacDonald is looking for the cause of murder. The zebra-striped hearse is always in the background but it's an itch that can't be scratched. MacDonald goes in a different direction. It reads more like a commentary at the times. It is set in and published in the early 1960s. MacDonald does a great job of adding the surfing culture which was just starting to become mainstream. Archer, a WWII vet, pokes fun about the hairdos and doesn't exactly care for the happy-go lucky attitude of "kids today."

Archer must overturn several rocks along with dealing with stoner surfer kids to get to the bottom of the murder. It's a fun, fast paced ride, much like riding a wave in sunny California. Archer soon

learns that sometimes things aren't always what they seem.

Drelahuginn

Ross McDonald, the pen name of Kenneth Millar, is a fantastic detective novel writer. His protagonist, Lew Archer, is the classic private investigator based near Hollywood. His beat is California and his novels are based in the late 40's thru the 50's and into the early '60's. I decided to start with his first Archer novel and read the series in the sequence of publication. McDonald develops great mysteries with highly fleshed out characters. I've just finished the Zebra Stripped Hearse and am, as I've been doing, side-tracking to another author and genre between the Archer novels. Great fun!

Shan

I'm a fan of John Sandford's and his Prey series, all 15 or 20 of them. Ross Macdonald reminds me of Sandford, or, the other way around, chronologically speaking. Good plot, well developed, intriguing, a bit complicated, excellent character development. The twisting of things at the end was a nice touch.

Macill

...weaving three families and generations of mistakes into a complex tale of murder. Love his meandering style as Archer discovers the past and its ineradicable clues to the present.

Kazigrel

This was my second Ross MacDonald. They don't call him a great mystery writer for nothing. I am thankful that there are many novels left to read. -Like Raymond Chandler the book is chock-a-block full of old fashioned similes.

Arthunter

A slightly more modern Lew Archer novel. Does not disappoint fans looking for action, dark descriptions of characters and mood. Again, the past is not dead and has severe consequences in the present.

T.h.ê_Ĉ.õ.o.Ĺ

Mr MacDonald writes hard boiled P.I. stories from the late 40's to 50's. His main character is more deeply emotional and reflective than Chandler and Hammett's are. The way he writes, you can easily imagine the scenes he describes. I would recommend any of his works.

I am enjoying the Archer series, MacDonald, like other series writers, has better stories than others, but that is a matter of personal taste, of course. The title on this book hand me a little leary but it turned out to be thoroughly enjoyable. I think it would be a great movie to bring back Archer.

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