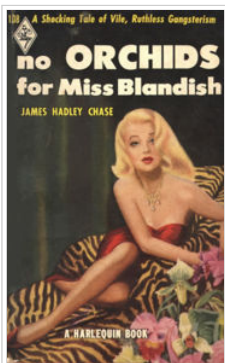


James Hadley Chase

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

James Hadley Chase is a pseudonym for British author **Rene Brabazon Raymond** (December 24, 1906 – February 6, 1985) who also wrote under the names **James L. Docherty**, **Ambrose Grant** and **Raymond Marshall**. Chase, a London-born son of a British colonel serving in the colonial

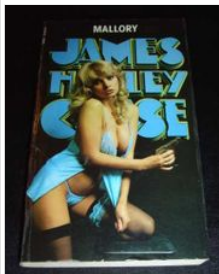
Indian Army who intended his son to have a scientific career, was initially raised at the King's School,



Book Cover: Chase's first novel *No Orchids for Miss Blandish* published 1939

Rochester, Kent and later studied in Calcutta. He left home at the age of 18 and became at different times a broker in a bookshop, a children's encyclopedia salesman and book wholesaler before capping it all with a writing career that

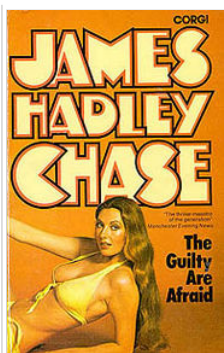
produced more than 80 mystery books. In 1933, Chase married Sylvia Ray, who gave him a son. Following the US Great Depression (1929-1939), the Prohibition, and the gangster culture during this period, and after reading James M. Cain's novel *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1934), he decided to try his own hand as a mystery writer. He had read about the American gangster Ma Barker and her sons, and with the help of maps and a slang dictionary, he composed in six weeks *No Orchids for Miss*



Book Cover: *Mallory*,
published 1950

Blandish. The book achieved remarkable popularity and became one of the best-sold books of the decade. It was a stage play in London's West End, was filmed in 1948 and in 1971 was remade by Robert Aldrich as *The Grissom Gang*.

During World War II he served as a pilot in the RAF, eventually achieving the rank of Squadron Leader. From this period dates Chase's unusual short story 'The Mirror in Room 22', in which he tried his hand outside the crime genre. It was set in an old house, occupied by officers of a squadron. The owner of the house had committed suicide in his bedroom and the last two occupants of the room have been found with a razor in their hands and their throats



Book Cover: *The Guilty Are Afraid*, published 1957

cut. The wing commander tells that when he started to shave before the mirror, he found another face in it. The apparition drew the razor across his throat. The wing commander says, "I use a safety razor, otherwise I might have met with a serious accident - especially if I used an old-fashioned cut-throat." The story was published under the author's real name in the anthology Slipstream in 1946.

Chase wrote most of his books using a dictionary of American slang, detailed maps, encyclopedias and reference books on the American underworld. Most of the books were based on events occurring in the United States, even though, he never really lived in the United States, save for two brief visits to Miami and New Orleans. In 1943 the Anglo-American crime author Raymond Chandler successfully claimed that Chase had lifted whole sections of his works in "Blonde's Requiem".^[1] Chase's London publisher Hamish Hamilton forced Chase to publish an apology in *The Bookseller*.

In several of Chase's stories the protagonist tries to find his place in the sun by committing a crime - an insurance fraud or a theft. But the scheme fails and leads to a murder and finally to a cul-de-sac, in which the hero realizes that he never had a chance to keep out of trouble. Women are often beautiful,

clever, and treacherous; they kill unhesitatingly if they have to cover a crime. His plots typically centre around dysfunctional families and the final denouement justifies the title!

He was wildly popular in Asia and Africa. He also enjoyed success in France and Italy where more than twenty of his books were made into movies. Joseph Losey's film version of Chase's thriller EVE (1945), made in 1962, was cut by the producers, the Hakim brothers. In the story Stanley Baker played by a British writer, Tyvian, who is obsessed by a cold-hearted femme fatale, Eve (Jeanne Moreau). "Do you know how much this weekend's going to cost me?" he asks Eve. "Two friends, thirty thousand dollars ...and a wife." He was also extremely popular in Soviet Union during and after the perestroika years around 1990-1993.

Chase moved to France in 1956 and over to Switzerland in 1961, living a secluded life in Corseaux-Sur-Vevey, north of Lake Geneva, from 1974. He eventually died there peacefully, on February 6, 1985.

Selected works

- 1939 - *No Orchids For Miss Blandish*
- 1939 - *The Dead Stay Dumb*
- 1939 - *He Won't Need It Now*

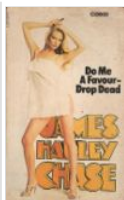
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- 1940 - *Twelve Chinks And A Woman*
 - 1940 - *Lady, Here's Your Wreath*
 - 1941 - *Get A Load Of This*
 - 1941 - *Miss Callaghan Comes To Grief*
 - 1944 - *Miss Shumway Waves a Wand*
 - 1944 - *Just The Way It Is*
 - 1945 - *Eve*
 - 1946 - *More Deadly Than The Male*
 - 1946 - *I'll Get You For This*
 - 1946 - *Make The Corpse Walk*
 - 1946 - *Blonde's Requiem*
 - 1946 - *Last Page*
 - 1947 - *No Business Of Mine*
 - 1948 - *The Flesh Of The Orchid*
 - 1948 - *Trusted Like The Fox*
 - 1949 - *You're Lonely When You're Dead*
 - 1949 - *The Paw In The Bottle*
 - 1949 - *You Never Know With Women*

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- 1950 - *Figure It Out for Yourself*

- 1950 - *Lay Her Among The Lilies*
- 1950 - *Mallory*
- 1951 - *Why Pick On Me*
- 1951 - *Strictly For Cash*
- 1951 - *But A Short Time To Live*
- 1951 - *In A Vain Shadow*
- 1952 - *The Double Shuffle*
- 1952 - *The Wary Transgressor*
- 1952 - *The Fast Buck*
- 1953 - *This Way for a Shroud*
- 1953 - *I'll Bury My Dead*
- 1953 - *The Things Men Do*
- 1953 - *This Way For A Shroud*
- 1954 - *Mission To Venice*
- 1954 - *Safer Dead*
- 1954 - *The Sucker Punch*
- 1954 - *Tiger By The Tail*



Safer Dead.



*Do Me A
Favour - Drop
Dead - 1976
Corgi edition.*

- 1955 - *You've Got It Coming*
 - 1955 - *Mission To Siena*
 - 1955 - *The Pickup*
 - 1955 - *Ruthless*
 - 1956 - *There's Always A Price Tag*
 - 1956 - *You Find Him, I'll Fix Him*
 - 1957 - *The Guilty Are Afraid*
 - 1957 - *Never Trust A Woman*
 - 1958 - *Not Safe To Be Free*
 - 1958 - *Hit And Run*
 - 1959 - *Shock Treatment*
 - 1959 - *The World In My Pocket*
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- 1960 - *Come Easy, Go Easy*
- 1960 - *What's Better Than Money*
- 1961 - *A Lotus For Miss Quon*
- 1961 - *Just Another Sucker*
- 1962 - *I Would Rather Stay Poor*
- 1962 - *A Coffin From Hong Kong*
- 1963 - *Tell It To The Birds*
- 1963 - *One Bright Summer Morning*
- 1964 - *The Soft Centre*
- 1965 - *The Way the Cookie Crumbles*
- 1965 - *This Is For Real*
- 1966 - *You Have Yourself A Deal*
- 1966 - *Cade*
- 1967 - *Well Now, My Pretty*

- 1967 - *Have This One On Me*
 - 1968 - *An Ear To The Ground*
 - 1968 - *Believed Violent*
 - 1969 - *The Whiff Of Money*
 - 1969 - *The Vulture Is A Patient Bird*
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- 1970 - *There's A Hippie On The Highway*
- 1970 - *Like A Hole In The Head*
- 1971 - *An Ace Up My Sleeve*
- 1971 - *Want To Stay Alive*
- 1972 - *Just A Matter Of Time*
- 1972 - *You're Dead Without Money*
- 1973 - *Have A Change Of Scene*
- 1973 - *Knock, Knock! Who's There*
- 1974 - *So What Happens To Me*
- 1974 - *Goldfish Have No Hiding Place*
- 1974 - *Three Of Spades*
- 1975 - *The Joker In The Pack*
- 1975 - *Believe This, You'll Believe Anything*
- 1976 - *Do Me A Favour, Drop Dead*
- 1977 - *I Hold The Four Aces*
- 1977 - *Meet Mark Girland*
- 1977 - *My Laugh Comes Last*
- 1978 - *Consider Yourself Dead*
- 1979 - *You Must Be Kidding*
- 1979 - *A Can Of Worms*

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- 1980 - *You Can Say That Again*
 - 1980 - *Try This One For Size*
 - 1981 - *Hand Me A Fig Leaf*
 - 1982 - *Have A Nice Night*
 - 1982 - *We'll Share A Double Funeral*
 - 1983 - *Not My Thing*
 - 1984 - *Meet Helga Rolfe*
 - 1984 - *Hit Them Where It Hurts*

References

1. ^ Raymond Chandler, a biography. Tom Hiney 1997 [ISBN 0-7011-6310-0]
 - *Novel Reviews*

External links

- James Hadley Chase at the Internet Movie Database
- *Raffles and Miss Blandish*, review of *No Orchids for Miss Blandish* by George Orwell
- *James Hadley Chase, Life and work*
- *Biography of James Hadley Chase*
- *Author - James Hadley Chase*, brief on James Hadley Chase by his literary

- representatives David Higham Associates
- *James Hadley Chase Interviews*, Excerpts from Robert Deleuse's on James Hadley Chase
- *Brief Bio on selected British Authors*
- *Mohamed Watfa's site*

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