

Jonathan Latimer

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Jonathan Wyatt Latimer (October 23, 1906 – June 23, 1983) was an American crime writer.

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Life

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Latimer became a journalist for the *Chicago Tribune*, writing about crime and meeting Al Capone and Bugs Moran, among others. In the mid-1930s he turned to writing fiction, starting with a series of novels

featuring private eye William Crane, in which he introduced his typical blend of hardboiled crime fiction and elements of screwball comedy.

During the Second World War Latimer served in the United States Navy. After the war, he moved to California and continued his work as a Hollywood screenwriter.

He died of lung cancer in La Jolla, California.

Select bibliography

The William Crane series

- *Murder in the Madhouse* (1935)
- *Headed for a Hearse* (1935)
- *The Lady in the Morgue* (1936)
- *The Dead Don't Care* (1938)
- *Red Gardenias* (1939)

Non-series novels

- *Solomon's Vineyard* (1941)
- *Sinners and Shrouds* (1955)
- *Black Is the Fashion for Dying* (1959)

Non-crime novels

- *The Search for My Great Uncle's Head* (1937) (as Peter Coffin)
- *Dark Memory* (1940)

Screenplays

- *The Lone Wolf Spy Hunt* (1939) (based on a novel by Louis Joseph Vance)
- *Topper Returns* (1941) (original screenplay)
- *The Glass Key* (1942) (based on the Dashiell Hammett novel)
- *Nocturne* (1946)
- *They Won't Believe Me* (1947) (based on a story by Gordon McDonell)
- *The Big Clock* (1948) (based on the Kenneth Fearing novel)
- *Night Has a Thousand Eyes* (1948) (based on the Cornell Woolrich novel)
- *The Unholy Wife* (1957) (co-authored with William Durkee)
- several episodes of the *Perry Mason* television series
- *The Greenhouse Jungle* (from the second season of the *Columbo* television series,

1972)

See also

- Hard boiled American crime fiction for a discussion of *Solomon's Vineyard*, the publication of which was suppressed in the United States for a long time.

External links

- Biography and bibliography

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