



Learning to Kill: Stories

By Ed McBain

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Learning to Kill: Stories By Ed McBain

Ed McBain made his debut in 1956. In 2004, more than a hundred books later, he personally collected twenty-five of his stories written before that time. All but five of them were first published in the detective magazine *Manhunt* and none of them appeared under the Ed McBain byline.

Here are kids in trouble and women in jeopardy. Here are private eyes and gangs. Here are loose cannons and innocent bystanders. Here, too, are cops and robbers. These are the stories that prepared Ed McBain to write the beloved 87th Precinct novels. In individual introductions, McBain tells how and why he wrote these stories that were the start of his legendary career.

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Learning to Kill: Stories By Ed McBain Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The 25 crime stories the late MWA Grand Master (1926–2005) wrote between 1952 and 1957 and selected for this thematically arranged collection display in embryo the style and techniques that he would later hone into perhaps the finest police procedural series of all time: the 87th Precinct. Born Salvatore Lombino, McBain (*Fiddlers*) changed his name legally to Evan Hunter, one of three names these early stories were published under in magazines like *Manhunt* and *Argosy*. McBain's entertaining general introduction points to the wide range of his subject matter: "Here were the kids in trouble and the women in jeopardy, here were the private eyes and the gangs. Here were the loose cannons and the innocent bystanders. And here, too, were the cops and robbers." Equally illuminating are his introductions to individual tales like "See Him Die," which, greatly expanded, became the 13th book in the 87th Precinct series. This is an essential volume for McBain fans, an inspiration for aspiring authors and a treasure for both. (*July*)

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From [Booklist](#)

McBain oversaw the compilation of this anthology of his early crime fiction before his death in 2005. Long before McBain was the McBain of the 87th Precinct series and the winner of the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award and the British Crime Writers' Diamond Dagger Award, he wrote short fiction, paid by the word, for 1950s pulp magazines such as *Manhunt* and *Argosy* under the names of Richard Marsten, Hunt Collins, and Evan Hunter. This collection presents 25 of those crime stories, published between 1952 and 1957 (none of his science fiction, adventure, or western stories are republished here). Grouped thematically under such headings as "Women in Jeopardy," "Private Eyes," and "Cops and Robbers," the stories are definitely of the period, long on hard-boiled tone, short on subtlety. More interesting than the stories themselves are McBain's general introduction, which presents both comic details about his career and valuable insights into his writing, and the short prefaces he gives each section, which provide a window into the times and his own development as a writer. For McBain fans. *Connie Fletcher*
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Review

PRAISE FOR LEARNING TO KILL

"Gripping . . . a must for fans who want to see how the master honed his skills."?PEOPLE

"The amazing thing about these stories . . . is how strong and clear the voice is?as if the man himself were still in the room."?MARILYN STASIO, THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

"A treasure for McBain's legions of fans, letting us peek over his shoulder as he painstakingly studies and practices his craft . . . fascinating."

(Associated Press)

"The amazing thing about these stories . . . is how strong and clear the voice is?as if the man himself were still in the room."

(Marilyn Stasio, *New York Times Book Review*)

"Each tale anticipates McBain's wildly successful '87th Precinct' novels in a different way."
(*New York magazine*)

"Gripping . . . a must for fans who want to see how the master honed his skills."
(*People*)

"Demonstrates the evolution of a craftsman who became one of the most . . . admired crime writers of the past century."
(*Raleigh News & Observer*)

"A minor classic of its kind."
(*Village Voice*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Williams:

As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which you should start with. This Learning to Kill: Stories is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Michael Due:

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Ross Turner:

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