

Introduction to Crime Fiction

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 12–1 p.m. or by appointment

February 16, 2023. *Black Mask*: Daly.

review: Sayers, seriously

- ▶ Freke's confession as an irony: the narrative implies...
 - ▶ his excessive rationality is bad
 - ▶ "the game is yours" (129/321)
 - ▶ he is not as rational as he thinks he is
- ▶ what isn't a game?
 - ▶ Peter's epiphanic method: "*credo quia absurdum*"
 - ▶ Peter's shell shock
 - ▶ the treatment is **not** modern medicine
 - ▶ the restoration of order
 - ▶ in which our rulers are good aristocrats instead of bad ones
- ▶ contradiction
 - ▶ is it funny that Sir Reuben is dismembered?

Daly in periodical context

- ▶ 1920 *Black Mask* founded as genre mix: “A Magazine of Mystery, Romance, and Adventure
- ▶ 1923– *Black Mask* develops “hard-boiled” specialization, highly successful through the 1930s
- ▶ Daly’s Race Williams is one of the very first series detectives of this type
- ▶ (ugly stuff up ahead)



Black Mask 6, no. 5 (June 1923), www.philsp.com/homeville/CFI/k00122.htm#A8. The number featured pro- as well as anti-Klan texts (including “Knights of the Open Palm”).

The Klan slogan: “Native, white, Protestant supremacy.”...
In the National Government our interest is along the same lines, with special emphasis on anti-alien and pro-American legislation....

The most menacing and most difficult problem facing America today is this of the permanently unassimilable alien....We intend to see that the American stock remains supreme.

Hiram Wesley Evans, Imperial Wizard and Emperor, “The Klan’s Fight for Americanism,” *North American Review* 223, no. 830 (March–May 1926): 52, 56, 60, [jstor.org/stable/25113510](https://www.jstor.org/stable/25113510).

- ▶ Ku Klux Klan founded 1865 as terrorist group opposed to Reconstruction; lapses 1870s
- ▶ revived 1915, inspired by D.W. Griffith’s *Birth of a Nation*
- ▶ claims 3 million members by 1926, significant political influence (1924 Democratic presidential convention split)

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“There weren’t no harm in the old order,” Jabine opened up to me one evening. “My father was in the Klan back in the Sixties. But this modern Ku Klux Klan was a money-making graft bent on raising religious and racial hatred. Of course half the crime laid to their doors wasn’t true, but it gave others the opportunity to masquerade under their name. You can’t defy law and order and the rights of your fellow-man without the criminal element sneaking in.” (440)

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No, like to play the game alone. And that’s why I ain’t never fallen for the lure of being a joiner. (430)

After all that is said against the Klan, I sure got to admit that there times when it serves its purpose. (441)

Klan	Race
organization	lone PI
corruption	job for money
bullying	manliness
swearing	swearing
guns	guns
secrecy	openness
seriousness	wisecracking
county seat	the city
Protestants	Clancy's gin mill
racism	"Race"????

next

- ▶ focus on “Crooked Souls” (print out)
- ▶ read Todorov, “Typology of Detective Fiction” (Canvas)
- ▶ optional for now: Chandler, “Simple Art of Murder”
- ▶ motive exercise due Monday 10 p.m.