

Introduction to Crime Fiction

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review

- ▶ it's like...a lot of similes
 - ▶ realism and excess
 - ▶ “I had to learn American like a foreign language”
 - ▶ “His [Brody's] voice was the elaborately casual voice of the tough guy in pictures. Pictures have made them all talk like that. (79)”
- ▶ the place of misogyny
 - ▶ sexuality as a test of autonomy
 - ▶ “I hate the rich”
- ▶ “to use a rather weathered phrase, a man of honor”
 - ▶ “twenty-five dollars a day”
 - ▶ regard for the General's pride (but why?)

language!

He said: “Go — yourself.” (97, 98, 99, 101, 102)

“You shot the wrong guy, Carol. Joe Brody didn’t kill your queen.” (99)

“Don’t kid me, son. The fag gave you one.... Think I can’t figure people like him and you out?” (100)

A pansy has no iron in his bones, whatever he looks like. (100)

panic

We seemed to hang there in the misty moonlight, two grotesque creatures whose feet scraped on the road and whose breath panted with effort. (101)

panic

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“Cute as a Filipino on a Saturday night.” (154)

I put my empty glass down and tore the bed to pieces savagely. (159)

You can have a hangover from other things than alcohol. I had one from women. Women made me sick. (159)

the end of the story, chap. 21

I counted it up on my fingers....

The smart thing for me to do was to take another drink and forget the whole mess.

That being the obviously smart thing to do, I called Eddie Mars and told him I was coming down to Las Olindas that evening to talk to him. That was how smart I was. (128–29)

Discussion

- So why isn't this the end?

“And for that amount of money you’re willing to get yourself in Dutch with half the law enforcement of this country?”

“I don’t like it,” I said. “But what the hell am I to do? I’m on a case. I’m selling what I have to sell to make a living. What little guts and intelligence the Lord gave me and a willingness to get pushed around in order to protect a client....As for the cover-up...They come a dime a dozen in any big city.” (114)

“I told you I was a detective. Get it through your lovely head. I work at it, lady. I don’t play at it.” (151)

in Dutch (US) in trouble, out of favor

Green’s Dictionary of Slang (2025), s.v. “Dutch, *n.*¹,” greensdictofslang.com.

Wilde smiled at me. He had the frank daring smile of an Irishman. "Let me tell you something, son. My father was a close friend of old Sternwood." (114)

"Maybe I can do you a real favor some day," he [Mars] said. "You got it all from Gregory this time."

"So you own a piece of him too." (134)

next

- ▶ finish! there will be a quiz
- ▶ read the short excerpt from McCann, *Gumshoe America* (Canvas)