

THE GREAT DETECTIVES



ON SCREEN

Week Four

The Hard-Boiled Mr Marlowe

Welcome to *The Great Detectives*

Week Four

From the rooms at Baker Street to the hard scrabble streets of Los Angeles, California – this week, we'll be spending some time in the wisecracking, hard-drinking company of one Philip Marlowe, the creator of crime writer Raymond Chandler.

Alongside Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade, Marlowe is perhaps the most famous of the pulp private eyes and began life in a series of magazine stories, often for *Black Mask*. Marlowe wasn't quite Marlowe yet (he spent a fair amount of time in the stories as Mallory) but the character is still recognisable and indeed some of these early tales were repurposed as Marlowe novels later down the line.

Some of Marlowe's surface qualities – the tough, no-nonsense private eye – are shared with dozens of other fictional investigators, but Chandler imbues Marlowe with philosophy, a moral dimension, a love of chess and countless other humanising elements that have continued to make him a favourite gumshoe both for readers and those who have consumed his adventures on screens large and small.

Obviously, Humphrey Bogart in *The Big Sleep* makes a strong case for being the definitive Marlowe, but there are other contenders. Robert Montgomery. James Caan. Robert Mitchum. Elliot Gould. And, most recently, Liam Neeson.

In addition, the way in which his adventures have been adapted over the decades forms a fascinating look into our approach to and attitude towards masculinity, as various writers and directors have interrogated both the character and the world in which he lives.

FILMS WEEK FOUR

The Falcon Takes Over (1942)

Dir. Irving Reis

Time to Kill (1942)

Dir. Herbert I. Leeds

Murder My Sweet (1944)

Dir. Edward Dmytryk

The Big Sleep (1946)

Dir. Howard Hawks

Lady in the Lake (1947)

Dir. Robert Montgomery

The Brasher Doubloon (1947)

Dir. John Brahm

Philip Marlowe – “Murder is a Grave Affair” (1959/60)

Dir. Paul Stewart

Marlowe (1969)

Dir. Paul Bogart

The Long Goodbye (1973)

Dir. Robert Altman

Farewell, My Lovely (1975)

Dir. Dick Richards

The Big Sleep (1978)

Dir. Michael Winner

Fallen Angels - “Red Wind” (1995)

Dir. Agnieszka Holland

Poodle Springs (1998)
Dir. Bob Rafelson

Marlowe (2022)
Dir. Neil Jordan