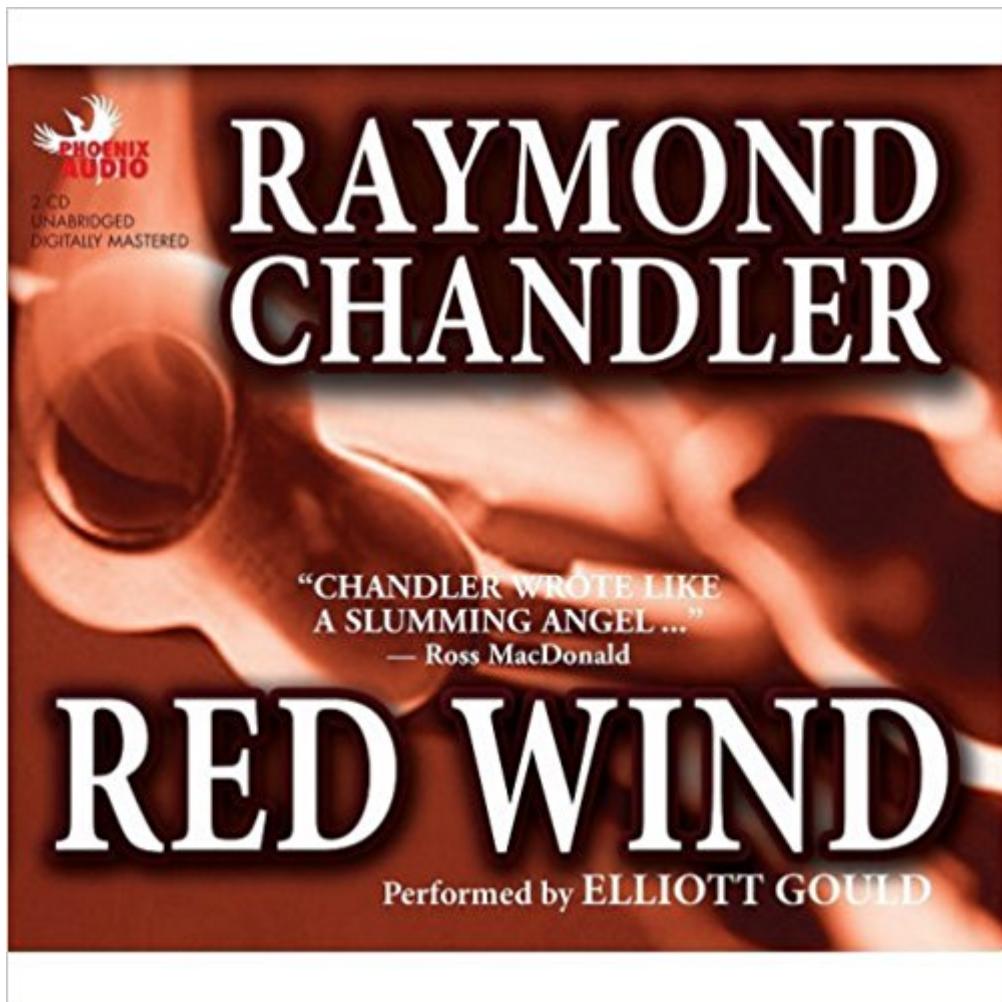


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Red Wind



Synopsis

Ramond Chandler's great gritty detective, Philip Marlow, is in Red Wind, and Elliott Gould portrays him perfectly. A mystery masterpiece by the master of mystery weaving.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Phoenix Books; Unabridged edition (March 31, 2006)

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #868,790 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (C) > Chandler, Raymond #77 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #1148 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

Raymond Thornton Chandler (1888 - 1959) was the master practitioner of American hard-boiled crime fiction. Although he was born in Chicago, Chandler spent most of his boyhood and youth in England where he attended Dulwich College and later worked as a freelance journalist for "The Westminster Gazette" and "The Spectator." During World War I, Chandler served in France with the First Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, transferring later to the Royal Flying Corps (R. A. F.). In 1919 he returned to the United States, settling in California, where he eventually became director of a number of independent oil companies. The Depression put an end to his career, and in 1933, at the age of forty-five, he turned to writing fiction, publishing his first stories in "Black Mask," Chandler's detective stories often starred the brash but honorable Philip Marlowe (introduced in 1939 in his first novel, *The Big Sleep*) and were noted for their literate presentation and dead-on critical eye. Never a prolific writer, Chandler published only one collection of stories and seven novels in his lifetime. Some of Chandler's novels, like *The Big Sleep*, were made into classic movies which helped define the film noir style. In the last year of his life he was elected president of the Mystery Writers of America. He died in La Jolla, California on March 26, 1959.

This is another great Raymond Chandler story, well performed by Elliott Gould. However, I can't

believe that on each CD there is one 50-minute track. In other words, there are no bookmarks (other books on CDs usually have bookmarks about every 5 minutes). This means that if you stop in the middle of a CD, you will have to fast-forward 25 minutes worth of reading when you want to continue the story, which is inconvenient, and almost impossible on many CD players (they skip around after a while). I have many of these Chandler stories on tapes (Dove Audio edition). Those start with a little "jazzy" tune, which puts you right in the mood of the story. This is a detail and a personal preference, but I regret that the Millennium Audio edition doesn't have that tune.

It doesn't matter if the private eye's name is John Dalmas, it's still Phillip Marlowe and Phillip Marlowe fans won't be disappointed. Dalmas' life is saved by a beautiful woman who he initially tried to save. I won't say anymore than that because the intrigue, the classic Chandler characters and the atmosphere is all there intact. Elliott Gould is the perfect reader for this type of literature, his reading is cool and crisp and just understated enough for the listeners to lose themselves in the escapist world that is Chandler's.

This short story was written about a year before Chandler started publishing his Phillip Marlowe novels, and the hero here (Dalmas) is the precursor to Marlowe. Chandler tells his story vividly. The Santa Ana "red wind" blows throughout the story, setting a gloomy mood to match Chandler's vision of a society sick with corruption. Dalmas is the hard bitten private eye with the street smarts and cynicism to get his way. Yet he has a softer spot than you'll see in Hammett's heros. It's a nice device and makes for an attractive hero. The plot twists are a bit much. But the story moves along well.

Mr. Elliot does a fabulous job of displaying why Chandler is as good as Chandler. They don't write 'em like this anymore even when they try. If they did they still could not find anyone to showcase the style as well as Gould does. Highly recommended for quick entertainment and to explore a classic genre.

He is back. Philop Marlowe the crime fighting gumshoe has returned to fight evil and champion the right and true. Raymond Chandler has written another spine tingling thriller that will surely blow your mind and emerse you in the ongoing plot and lead you to the exciting conclusion of this wonderful book.

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