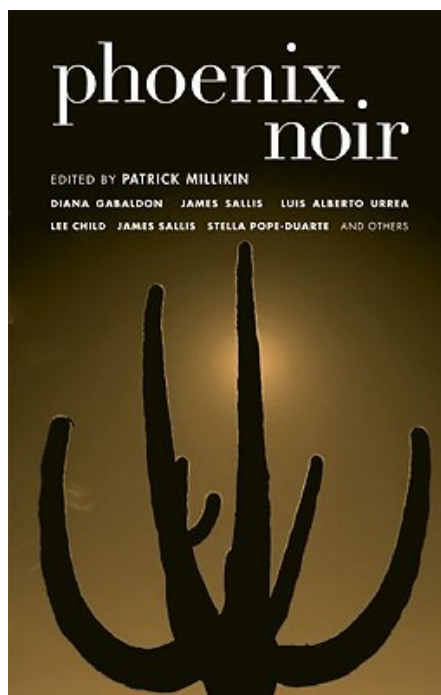




Phoenix Noir

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Brand-new stories by: Diana Gabaldon, Lee Child, James Sallis, Luis Alberto Urrea, Jon Talton, Megan Abbott, Charles Kelly, Robert Anglen, Patrick Millikin, Laura Tohe, Kurt Reichenbaugh, Gary Phillips, David Corbett, Don Winslow, Dogo Barry Graham, and Stella Pope Duarte.

Patrick Millikin is a bookseller at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale. As a freelance writer, his articles, interviews, and reviews have appeared in *Publishers Weekly*, *Firsts Magazine*, *Paradoxa*, *Yourflesh Quarterly*, and other publications. Millikin currently lives in central Phoenix.

Phoenix Noir Details

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From Reader Review Phoenix Noir for online ebook

Linda Wallis says

Finally read this collection of stories, having had it a while (thanks Pat!)

Interesting collection.....not really my scene but the best one was definitely by Diana Gabaldon, which is why we had the book in the first place.

James Thane says

As the opening titles fade in Alfred Hitchcock's immortal film "Psycho," the camera begins to pan slowly across the gray urban landscape of Phoenix, Arizona in the late 1950s. Finally the camera selects a building and slowly zooms in through the open window of a seedy hotel room. Janet Leigh lies on the bed, wearing only a white slip and bra, and before her lover can even deliver the first line of dialogue, you know damn well that nothing good can possibly come of this.

Now, nearly fifty years later, Patrick Millikin's "Phoenix Noir" captures perfectly that same sense of dread, suggesting that something may be terribly wrong at the core of this city. Millikin has recruited an impressive array of crime fiction writers who have contributed stories to this book, including Lee Child, Don Winslow, Jon Talton and James Sallis. The stories are uniformly good and cut a broad swath through the Valley of the Sun, both in time and in space, showing readers a side of Phoenix that the Convention and Visitors Bureau would never dare feature in its glossy brochures. The stories are gritty, sexy and violent, revealing the sordid underbelly of a city much better known these days for its sunshine and superficiality.

Millikin's own story, "Devil Doll," is among the best in the book, and the editor more than holds his own in the company of the better-known writers. Fans of noir fiction anywhere, but especially those who know the Phoenix area, will enjoy this collection immensely. As a footnote, one of the stories from the book, "Amapola," by Luis Alberto Urrea has just won the 2010 Edgar Award for Best Short Story.

Paul says

After reading a description of Phoenix Noir (edited by Patrick Millikin), I was really looking forward to the book. It's a collection of murder mystery short stories set in the Phoenix Metro area. Being a resident of the Phoenix area and enjoying the works of Tony Hillerman and JA Jance whose mysteries are also set in the Southwest, I expected comparable writing. I was sorely disappointed.

Half of the stories in this anthology were, in my opinion, at the level of a community college creative writing course. They lacked polish and a sense of completion. Murder mysteries provide authors the chance to use numerous literary devices through intricate plots, interesting characters and engaging dialogue. There were plenty of missed opportunities in this collection.

"Dead by Christmas" by David Corbett was an exception and stood above the rest in its detail and craftsmanship. Done in the style of a police procedural, it kept my interest. "Public Transportation" by Lee Child deserves to be mentioned for its twist ending within the last few sentences of the story. This quick read

is worthy of attention just to enjoy its use of an unreliable narrator. This implement was popular with Agatha Christie and it was refreshing to see its use in a modern tale.

I haven't read any other anthologies in the Noir series offered by Akashic Books. It would be interesting to learn how the Phoenix edition compares to others in the line.

Brian says

Like all Short Story anthologies, this entry had a couple of great stories, a few good stories, and a few uninteresting (at least to me) stories. Jon Talton does his usual great job with "BULL" about the declining days of passenger rail service in and out of Phoenix. If you want to read a good detective series, you should try his DAVID MAPSTONE series. Lee Child's "PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION" is short and very good, well worth reading. The outcome is predictable, but getting there is a pleasure. But I think the gem of book is the James Sallis entry, "OTHERS OF MY KIND". It left me wanting more. I just found out he has written a novel of the same name, so I will be sure to read it.

Terese says

Scary, weird, interesting. This is the first noir book I have read. Some excellent stories.

These are dark stories and if I had not been to Phoenix. I'm not sure I would go after reading these short stories.

Every city has a dark side and most of us have never seen it, if we are lucky.

I will read Chicago Noir at some point.

Kathy says

Do I begin at the very beginning? It's a very good place to start. Hmmmm.... Or, perhaps I will skip directly to Diana's short story, with Tom. I've been wanting to meet him for several years now.

Decisions, decisions.

Sarah says

I read this while visiting AZ, and enjoyed being able to picture where the stories took place. (Otherwise, I probably would have given it one star). Like most short story collections, it's very uneven, some stories are very well written, and then just end. I have a feeling some of the novelists who contributed have a hard time with the form...Also, this collection is not just dark, some of the stories are fairly gruesome. My favorites were Blazin' on Broadway (Gary Phillips), Dirty Scottsdale (Diana Gabaldon), Public Transportation (Lee Child). If you like noir and have been or are planning to go to Phoenix, I'd definitely recommend it.

Joey Robert says

The first story is so quickly less than average than I have no desire to persist. I bought it because I know the editor and I love Phoenix, but this book leads, supposedly, with it's best work and I find that downright depressing. I know the first author, too, somewhat, and truth be told, I wish I'd stick with reading his commentary type blogs, which I find far more interesting than this.

Tatiana says

Read and rated only Diana Gabaldon's story - *Dirty Scottsdale*. Nothing particularly exciting - nice AZ atmosphere, a couple of memorable characters, but Gabaldon needed another probably hundred pages to make this short mystery worthwhile (we all know how wordy she is). The ending of the story was choppy, easy, and unimpressive, as if wrapped up too early.

Chris says

Phoenix, a good place to be from, especially in August when the heat is triple digit. Not as many stories as you would think that elevate the heat as a character, but just as many dark and surprising endings as you would find in New Orleans and the other places of this series.

Stefanie says

A collection of noir short stories set in Phoenix. I loved recognizing streets and peculiarities and comments on the weather. Some of the stories were a little hipster and weird, but most of them were great, and one actually made me say "Oh My God" out loud.

Karen says

I actually had to return this to the library before I got to read all the stories, but I hope to finish them all in good time. I hopped around through the anthology picking out the tales of various authors, some familiar, some brand new. There's some great stuff in here, and it was fun to recognize so many of the settings since I live in Phoenix. Dark stories about crime, murder and betrayal in the desert

Jennifer says

Read the Diana Gabaldon story. :)

Tuxlie says

'**Patrick Millikin**...as if to prove his witty claim that 'sunshine is the new noir,' offers one superb specimen, 'Whiteout on Van Buren,' in which [author] Don Winslow makes skillful use of a city street at high noon to provide the perfect metaphor for life and death.' - *New York Times Book Review*

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Stacy says

Definitely a fast read. It reminded me of the writing classes I took at community college - every now and then there's an amazing line or bit of writing, but otherwise necessary details and character development may be lacking.
