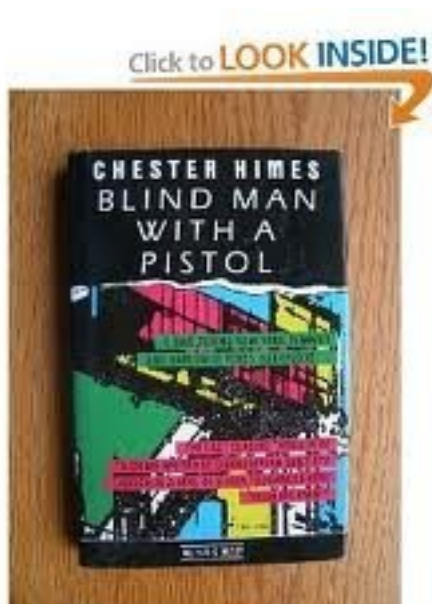


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## Chester Himes

### Blind Man with a Pistol (Harlem Cycle #8)



Title: Blind Man with a Pistol (Harlem Cycle #8)

Author: Chester Himes

Format: Paperback

Language: English

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## Description

New York is sweltering in the summer heat, and Harlem is close to the boiling point. To Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones, at times it seems as if the whole world has gone mad. Trying, as always, to keep some kind of peace-their legendary nickel-plated Colts very much in evidence-Coffin Ed and Grave Digger find themselves pursuing two completely different cases through a maze of knifings, beatings, and riots that threaten to tear Harlem apart.

"The word is out on the street, and the hopheads and whores and flimflam artists are running scared: Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones are back in print."— Newsweek

## Insightful reviews

Víctor Blanco: Tiene una estructura atípica. Me maravillaba y me desconcertaba a medida que iba pasando páginas y me daba cuenta de que todo lo sucedido seguía un ritmo errático. Entonces me di cuenta de que la novela era efectivamente tan imprevisible como un ciego con una pistola.

Loretta: A mealy one that begs you chew thoroughly before swallowing...

Darryl: Harlem, a summer in the late 1960s: temperatures are sweltering, and its residents are becoming more agitated and tense, fueled by a series of protests and violent murders that threaten to tear the neighborhood's fragile structure apart. Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones, two of NYC's finest detectives, are called upon to solve these crimes and help restore order. The two encounter a variety of odd and unsavory characters, including a preacher who claims to be 100 years old and the father of innumerable children by the "nuns" who share a squalid flat with him, and an inscrutable gay counterman at a restaurant on 125th Street who knows far more than he will admit to. Despite their efforts, the tension and violence progressively escalate, as former allies become hated enemies.

The title of this book refers to Himes' comment about unorganized violence in the black community, fueled by community leaders that urged black men to act, often recklessly. I found this novel to be disjointed and difficult to follow, which made for an unpleasant read. I understand that his earlier novels are better than this one, particularly [If He Hollers Let Him Go: A Novel](#), so I'll try Himes again in the near future.

La Stamberg dei Lettori: Chi sia il ciego con l. a. pistola rimane un mistero fino alla fine e onestamente anche dopo. In line with un aficionado del genere hard-boiled, sotto genere 'noir fiction', non sarebbe necessariamente un problema, ma se cercate un giallo classico, questo romanzo della serie di Himes ambientata a Harlem non c'azzecca granchè. I protagonisti sono due detective neri in una Harlem nera, dove tutte le vacche sono nere, Ed 'la bara' e John 'scavafosse'. E i nomi sono invece appropriatissimi: hanno un fare quasi da becchini, tra la rassegnazione alla violenza del ghetto e la disillusione di una superba carriera, la cui onestà non sarà - e lo sanno bene - ricompensata se non con un'indifferenza condita dalla

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reputazione di servi dell'ordine costituito e fascisti. Continua su  
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tENTATIVELY, cONVENIENCE: I shd particularly create a bkshelf known as "crime fiction" & put off "mysteries" due to the fact so much of what I name "mysteries" listed below are extra competently known as the former. that is the case here. Himes is yet-another writer i have identified approximately for a very long time w/o ever having gotten round to examining until eventually now. This bk is copyrighted 1969 & examining it falls with ease at the heels of my hearing a list of an Eldridge Cleaver speech at Syracuse Univ in 1968. Why convenient? B/c Cleaver was once a black radical in his top in 1968 & Himes' bk has as its major historical past black social unrest & rioting round the comparable time. The foreword: ""Motherfucking right, it is confusing; it is a gas, baby, you dig."A Harlem intellectual" Cleaver's list is termed "Dig" & in his speech he explains using "motherfucker". &, yes, i would name Cleaver an highbrow too. ANYWAY, i would nearly rank Himes w/ Hammett & Chandler as against the law fiction author yet i would like to learn extra via him ahead of i'm going that far. This used to be an excellent begin for me. Himes' preface explains the name of the bk: "A pal of mine, Phil Lomax, instructed me this tale a couple of blind guy with a pistol taking pictures at a guy who slapped him on a subway teach and killing an blameless bystander [...] and idea additional that every one unorganized violence is sort of a blind guy with a pistol." Himes' bk is a set of photos in Harlem, NYC. it is tied jointly by means of the two major characters, 2 black police detectives, attempting to resolve crimes that the reader is aware of the answer of yet that the detectives are avoided from studying a lot about. & Himes makes use of this context as a fashion of introducing social observation - esp from the detectives mouths after they speak w/ their lieutenant: ""All right, all right! I take it you recognize who begun the riot." "Some parents name him by means of one name, a few another," Coffin Ed said. "Some name him loss of admire for legislation and order, a few loss of opportunity, a few the lessons of the Bible, a few the sins in their fathers," Grave Digger expounded. "Some name him ignorance, a few poverty, a few rebellion. Me and Ed examine him with compassion. we are victims." "Victims of what?" Anderson requested foolishly. "Victims of your skin," Coffin Ed shouted brutally" At any rate, Himes is rarely an oversimplifier - he casts a cynical eye on just about all he sees - yet i might need to say it is in general a good one.

Eric Stone: Wacky, fun, hard-boiled Himes.

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