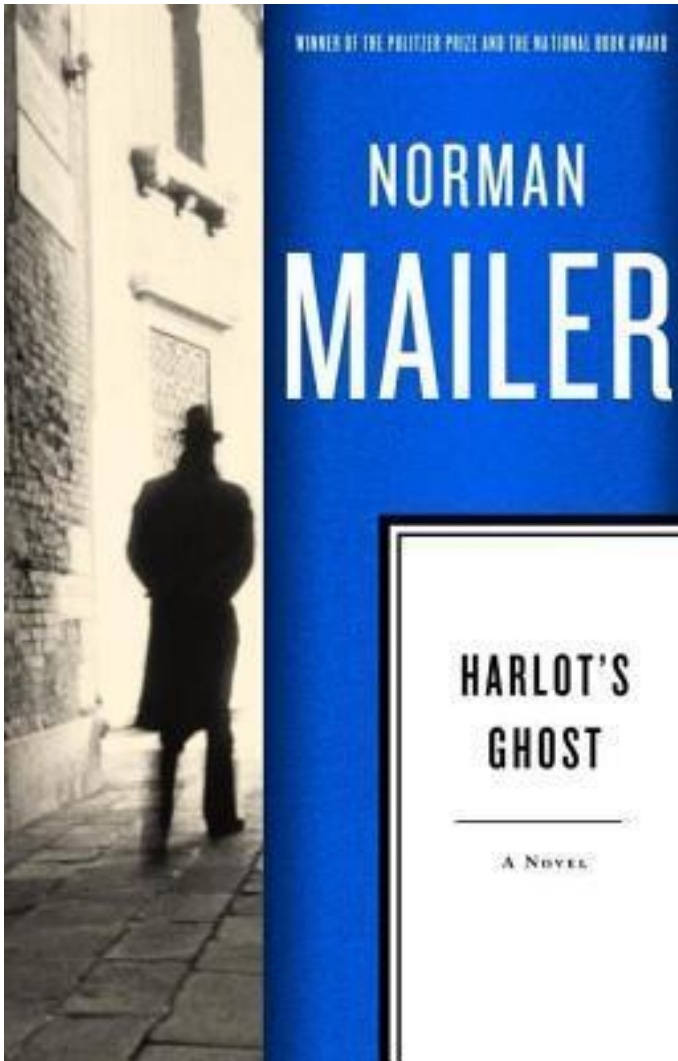


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**Norman Mailer**

**Harlot's Ghost**



Title: Harlot's Ghost

Author: Norman Mailer

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 1168

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Paperbacks, 715305600

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## Description

With unprecedented scope and consummate skill, Norman Mailer unfolds a rich and riveting epic of an American spy. Harry Hubbard is the son and godson of CIA legends. His journey to learn the secrets of his society—and his own past—takes him through the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the “momentous catastrophe” of the Kennedy assassination. All the while, Hubbard is haunted by women who were loved by both his godfather and President Kennedy. Featuring a tapestry of unforgettable characters both real and imagined, *Harlot's Ghost* is a panoramic achievement in the tradition of Tolstoy, Melville, and Balzac, a triumph of Mailer's literary prowess.

### Praise for *Harlot's Ghost*

“[Norman Mailer is] the right man to exalt the history of the CIA into something better than history.”—**Anthony Burgess**, *The Washington Post Book World*

“Elegantly written and filled with almost electric tension . . . When I returned from the world of *Harlot's Ghost* to the present I wished to be enveloped again by Mailer's imagination.”—**Robert Wilson**, *USA Today*

“Immense, fascinating, and in large part brilliant.”—**Salman Rushdie**, *The Independent on Sunday*

“A towering creation . . . a fiction as real and as possible as actual history.”—*The New York Times*

### Praise for Norman Mailer

“[Norman Mailer] loomed over American letters longer and larger than any other writer of his generation.”—*The New York Times*

“A writer of the greatest and most reckless talent.”—*The New Yorker*

“Mailer is indispensable, an American treasure.”—*The Washington Post*

“A devastatingly alive and original creative mind.”—*Life*

“Mailer is fierce, courageous, and reckless and nearly everything he writes has sections of headlong brilliance.”—*The New York Review of Books*

“The largest mind and imagination [in modern] American literature . . . Unlike just about every American writer since Henry James, Mailer has managed to grow and become richer in wisdom with each new book.”—*Chicago Tribune*

“Mailer is a master of his craft. His language carries you through the story like a leaf on a

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stream.”—*The Cincinnati Post*

## Insightful reviews

Arthur Sperry: I am a fan of Mailer's writing, and I consider this to be his masterpiece. There is a lot of psychological complexity to the characters without ever seeming contrived or unrealistic!

Anna: This novel is wide-ranging story of Cold War CIA activity in which historical facts rest upon a foundation of imagined interpersonal and organizational dynamics. I so enjoyed Mailer's keen insight into human relations (and the subject matter is itself intriguing) that I absolutely couldn't put it down. For instance (on p. 971!), his protagonist observes: "If I had commenced my work in liaison on the assumption that I was a connective principle, a conjunction, so to speak, I had by now decided that I was but a semicolon, installed to keep the elements in some kind of relation, well apart." These are the words of Herrick Hubbard, a fair-to-middling CIA agent who spends the story cast about on the waves made by agents (in every sense of the word) more sophisticated, ambitious, and interesting than he. I found myself turning the pages not so much to find out what would happen to him but to learn what new revelation of the human condition (in the context of espionage) I would see through his eyes. To serve this purpose, an inert character like Hubbard seems a perfect choice. It was occasionally jarring when Mailer's voice rang so clearly from Hubbard's mouth (could someone as shallow as Hubbard really be so attuned?), but this is a quibble. More of a complaint was that the main female character, Kittredge, was a specter. Her feminine foibles seemed grounded enough in reality, but of all the nutty things everyone else in the story was up to, she was the only person who was out of her mind. I got over it, but it bothered me. This is not recommended reading for people with a short attention span or who don't like to work a little (e.g., to read a few sentences over a couple of times), but it is a fascinating read.

Myra: Not an easy book to read. At 1282 pages it took me way too long. I'm a slow reader anyway. I read every word rather than groups of words. Don't know why, except that I have always loved reading aloud, because I love the sound and feel of words. I guess maybe I do the same thing when I'm reading to myself.

At any rate, back to *Harlot's Ghost*. The book covers the period of the late 1950s and early 1960s, and much of it focuses on the CIA involvement in Cuba, and how much the CIA disliked the Kennedy brothers. The culture of the CIA at that time was fascinating. The agency was still in DC. The facility at Langley, VA, wasn't built until late in the period covered by the book.

I was out of the country during the Cuban Missile Crisis, so much of the national climate of fear in the portion covering that period was totally new to me. I knew about it, but had never really thought about how people really felt that their whole world was in danger of being destroyed in a nuclear war.

But, all that being said, I didn't really care for the book and wouldn't recommend it. If you're looking for a good spy novel, look somewhere else.

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Nick Black: relatively magnificent; there have been certainly a few swaths most likely most sensible cut, yet particularly few of them for 1300 pages spanning 5 continents. at its most sensible it learn just like the saner components of Gravity's Rainbow, yet with a Mailer touch. it strikes highly speedy for the standard of the prose. humans complaining approximately "mailer's psychobabble" as though it is a severe idea he is advancing are particularly lacking the purpose at the back of Kittredge and her entire development. certainly urged for someone who cherished Ellroy's American Tabloid and The Chilly Six Thousand, because it makes use of the various comparable historic figures (the Kennedys, Sam Giancana, Hoover, etc.) and motifs, yet is more commonly even more a significant and coherent piece of fiction. i am shocked it did not get extra Pulitzer flair.

Glen: Oh, i'll be indignant correct now, extraordinarily angry, having simply complete a nearly 1300-page fictional tome that ends with the phrases "To Be Continued", yet i select to not be in view that I selected to hold in there with this ebook lengthy after I had concluded that it can now not present in methods commensurate with its length. In that i used to be no longer mistaken. there's a lot approximately this novel of the CIA within the 50s and early 60s to like, and there's no query of Mailer's devotion to his craft and the extent of study that went into this huge thing, yet dealing as he's right here with country secrets, he couldn't betray his personal conclusions approximately ancient questions corresponding to "who quite killed JFK?" with no relocating the reader into the posture of assuming that he's supplying a historic account disguised as fiction, and that he explicitly didn't want to do. In short, learn this e-book when you are particularly drawn to the texture of what it'd be wish to be within the CIA, yet learn it in complete mild of the truth that it was once written by means of a guy with an ego of enormous proportions, that it truly is solely TOO LONG, and that it had to be edited by means of a woman. May I upload as a side-note that I now desire to dig up the is still of Herr Mailer, anywhere they're interred, assuming they are, and beat them with my condominium shoe.

Laura Cowan: It merely took me a number of pages to achieve this used to be a 5-star book. it really is virtually 15 kilos in hardcover, so i used to be form of hoping i'd hate it and will positioned it down, yet from the start it was once lyrical in its descriptions of nature with out waxing purple, a fascinatingly well-told and imaginative tale with significantly solid imagery. However, after the 1st chapter, the tale mostly will get taken up with the drama of the CIA and leaves the wildlife behind. The writing keeps to awe, however the ghosts turn into much less literal, and for my own taste, the tale turns into a section much less interesting.

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