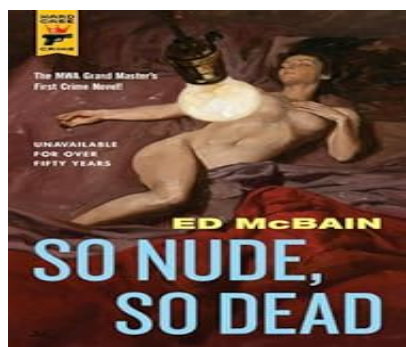


So Nude, So Dead By Ed McBain How can you NOT read this early Ed McBain novel and what's with the pseudonym anyway? Good grief at about the same time James Baldwin published Giovanni's Room under his own name and it was a far more controversial novel (but Giovanni wasn't naked on the cover). This is a title to conjure with what on Earth is it about? As this is a "Hard Case" title it is likely to be hardboiled and not adverse to a little violence and titillation. However consider that the book was once call "The Evil Sleep!" and has since been renamed; is this more a case of the title selling the book rather than accurately portraying its content?When Ray Stone wakes up he has two major problems; where is he going to get his next hit of heroin and who is to blame for the women's dead body next to him? Stone may be a junkie but he is no killer but that does not stop the cops from chasing the once talented Jazz singer around the city. Can he find out who really killed the nightclub singer and get himself a fix as well? It's a hard life ...Crime as a genre often has an addict at its centre usually this is for alcohol and is more of a character trait that main plot element. Kudos must go then to one of the masters of the genre Ed McBain because he puts Stone's addiction front and centre in this book and uses it as a driving force for the story. There are plenty of twists and Femme Fatales for our 'hero' to meet along the way and the bumbling style of Stone's investigation works well as he is only trying to find the killer so that he can get off and return back to his life of debauchery. uk 223 An addict wakes up next to a beautiful lounge singer he'd met the night before only to discover two bullet holes in her stomach and the 16 ounces of heroin she showed him missing. The prose is fast and the action tense throughout but it sags a bit in the middle when Stone makes second visits to people he already visited during the course of his ad hoc investigation. 223 This is a great book that stacks the deck so high against one person that despite Ray Stone's history of addiction to heroin and all the heartbreak he caused the people in his life you cheer for him to not only clear his name but to also beat his addiction. It's while indulging in this deadly habit that he finds himself chief suspect in the murder of young nightclub singer Eileen; the naked blonde who was dead his dead with two bullet holes in her belly. From Wikipedia: Evan Hunter (October 15 1926 - July 6 2005) was an American author and screenwriter who also wrote under a number of pen names most notably Ed McBain used for most of his crime fiction. Born Salvatore Albert Lombino he legally adopted the name Evan Hunter in 1952; he also used the pen names John Abbott Curt Cannon Hunt Collins Ezra Hannon and Richard Marsten amongst others. But the H is missing Ray is hurting and needing a shot So Dead was the first crime novel by the writer most famously known as Ed McBain and was originally published in 1952 as The Evil Sleep! (under the name of Evan Hunter) and again in 1956 as So Nude So Dead under the pen name of Richard Marsten. As a lifelong fan of McBain the re-emergence of a 'lost' book by him has been an absolute treat and if like me you love your American crime with an enhanced sense of 'pulp' this will be as much of a treat for you. With his central protagonist the mercurial dope fiend Ray Stone on the hunt for those that would frame him for murder and larceny supported by a cast of increasingly unlikeable and grasping characters this is vintage McBain. As Stone traverses the seedy underbelly of New York nightclubs avoiding the police and the bad guys McBain steadily sets up each possible culprit male and female for Stone to interrogate using a number of guises but all underpinned by Stone's increasing tension caused by his need for one more fix to see him through his quest. His desperation for dope is succinctly and colourfully portrayed and we get a real sense of how such a promising individual has found his life gone to the dogs by his addiction and the effects of his addiction on those closest to him. McBain also trains a cool eye on the depths of deviousness Stone has employed to fund this addiction which makes for some harsh reading and carefully manipulates our feelings towards Stone even as his reliance on his habit waxes and wanes as the book progresses. McBain's supporting cast is terrific too as he builds up a picture of Eileen Chalmers' life as a nightclub singer and the host of unsavoury connections she has made behind the surface glitz and glamour of her chosen profession. As I've said before it was this style of book that got me hooked on crime fiction with the deceit and failings of some of the most despicable members of society unflinchingly portrayed through the pared down rhythmic simplicity of manner and speech. 223 This pulp novel from the early 1950s is of interest mainly because it was the first crime novel ever published by Ed McBain who would go on to become

one of the masters of crime fiction best known for his 87th Precinct series. (In 1952 either just before or just after this book was published the author legally changed his name from Salvatore Lombino to Evan Hunter after writing some short stories as Evan Hunter. That's a fairly lousy way for a guy to start his day but even worse at least as far as Stone is concerned is the fact that sixteen ounces of pure heroine which had been in the apartment earlier is now missing and Stone is in desperate need of his next fix. For that reason I'm glad I read it but if you're looking for a good pulp novel from the Fifties there are better books out there and McBain would go on to write a lot of them. McBain does pretty well at maintain the breakneck pace from the get-go in which Stone wakes up from a drug-induced stupor so deep he didn't even hear the girl get shot in bed next to him sometime during the night. So Nude So Dead Ed McBain is one of the pen names of American author and screenwriter Salvatore Albert Lombino (1926 2005) who legally adopted the name [{site_link}](#) Evan Hunter in 1952:

Ray conducts his own drug addled investigation to prove his innocence and find the murderer, As his dependency for his drug of choice dissipates his clarity increases. The pieces of the puzzle form to display a portrait of an unsuspecting murderer: The different take on the PI theme is refreshing (despite being originally published well over 50yrs ago) and Ray is a likable protagonist despite his addiction: The pacing is quick and straight to the point and the characters leap off the page, 223 This is the first crime novel ever written by Ed McBain (aka Evan Hunter).

And the girl is dead, So who killed her and why? The cops think Ray did it and his picture is plastered on the front of the newspapers with the caption Killer Addict. But can he survive without a fix and will he be able to find the killer? This was a good early effort by McBain. I'm a fan of his 87th Precinct novels and consider him one of the best in the crime genre, The book was however quite dated and included some terms that are somewhat politically incorrect today like junkie and hophead: But McBain is a master storyteller and his descriptions of the drug scene during the fifties appears pretty accurate, This reprint also contains a short story called Die Hard featuring PI Matt Cordell which also dealt with heroin addiction and its prices. Cordell was also featured in another Hard Case Crime novel called THE GUTTER AND THE GRAVE, I think I have a copy of it that I'll have to read soon. 223 So Nude.



So Nude So Dead and Unavailable for over 50 Years screams the cover. Darn these double standards! 223 What's in a name? A lot if you decide to call your book "So Nude So Dead": You would think that a title like "So Nude So Dead" would have sex or violence at its core but in fact these are peripheral elements to Stone's constant craving: Written back in 1956 this book has one of the keenest portrayals of addiction that I have read as it plagues Stone's every thought, With addiction playing such a major role in the book the crime noir elements could have been lost but McBain was not known as a talented writer for nothing: The lust for drugs just adds flavour to an otherwise classic feeling noir. Most fans of the genre will be able to work out what is happening before the end but you will have fun along the way. One element that does sit a little uneasily is the 50s attitude towards drug addicts. Stone himself is treated quite sympathetically by McBain and his internal monologues hint at a man who knows that he is falling and cannot stop: What is coarse is

how the other characters react to Stone - the cops are happy to shoot on sight at any hophead, This is of the era and is in keeping with the context of the day but readers should be aware. "So Nude So Dead" is an excellent piece of exploitation fiction of the 50s let down slightly by the crass title: This is not a book about nudity or death but about one man's addiction and the attempt to clear his name. The portrayal of Stone and his drug abuse is one of the best that I have read and the story was originally penned 60 years ago. Chased by the police Ray Stone must find the killer and attempt to clear his name while fighting off the effects of withdrawal, This book is a fast-paced tour of the underbelly of the city bouncing back and forth from seedy hotels bars disreputable clubs and the apartments of various temptresses. Overall this is a solid crime story with a driving plot but the characters felt pretty stock. A decent read but perhaps not worth going to great lengths to seek out.

223 There's a monkey on my back a fifteen-pound monkey and his name is Horse. His 87th Precinct novels have become staples of the police procedural genre: SO NUDE SO DEAD was originally published in 1952 as THE EVIL SLEEP! by Evan Hunter. It was reprinted in 1956 as So Nude So Dead under the name Richard Marsten: The novel delves into the sordid world of a heroin addict, The protagonist Ray Stone wakes up craving his next fix but finds that the beautiful woman next to him had been killed by gunshots to her stomach. The woman had provided the H to him from a large supply of 16 ounces she had in a candy tin. Thanks to those wonderful people at Hard Case Crime the book* has been re-published over 50 years later to mark the tenth anniversary of McBain's passing: We feel every moment of confusion every wrenching stomach pain and cold sweat as he tries to balance his body's cry for a fix with his search for a killer. As Stone encounters each exploitative impressario slimy musician or jealous female acquaintance of Chalmers' you could put your money on any of them stitching him up..., Shooting straight from the hip the dialogue is razor sharp and as Chalmers' teasingly refers to her and Stone's repartee on their first encounter "Sparkling dialogue. The dialogue is spare frank and uncompromising and delivered in a style that by which what is unsaid lingers in the air like plumes of exhaled tobacco smoke: It's mesmerising darkly witty and brutally truthful and that is why I have always adored Ed McBain: So Nude So Dead only compounds my adoration and it was a joy to discover anew a fledgling work by this most missed of crime authors. This book first appeared in 1952 as The Evil Sleep! under the name Evan Hunter:) The book was then reissued in 1956 as So Nude So Dead by Richard Marsten. It was then revived in 2015 by Hard Case Crime with the authorship finally credited to Ed McBain: As the book opens a hophead named Ray Stone wakes up next to a nightclub singer who is lying next to him in bed nude and dead having been shot sometime during the night, The story follows Stone as he orders his priorities and sets about his day: First he needs to score some H and then he somehow needs to get out from under the murder rap that is hanging over his head: The cops have tagged him as the killer and his face is on the front page of every paper in the city, The dealers are avoiding him like the plague and he's running out of places to hide let alone score. This is a fairly typical pulp novel from this era and it's really not all that special save for the fact that it was McBain's first effort. As such it will appeal principally to McBain's fans who would like to see how he got started.

223 Evan Hunter writing under the pseudonym of Ed McBain penned this book 60 years ago, It was his first of many and he shows some surprisingly mature chops as a young writer in this one. Former pianist Ray Stone is a heroin addict in the midst of severe withdrawal and on the run as the primary suspect in the murder of a jazz club singer: Pretty standard pulpish noir fare and a plot that is very common in this genre, Over the course of the first few chapters he decides in his heroin-addled mind to kind the real killer avoid the police and arrest and find his next hit of the Big H, Even still it's an interesting read especially considering how well the author grew with his 87th Precinct series later on. Now he was just an addict scraping to get by letting his hunger for drugs consume him, But a man's life can always get worse - as Ray Stone discovers when he wakes up beside a beautiful nightclub singer only to find her dead, On the run from the law desperate to prove his innocence and find a killer Ray also faces another foe merciless and unforgiving: his growing craving for a fix, While successful and well known as Evan Hunter he was even better known as Ed McBain a name he used for most of his crime fiction beginning in 1956, He also used the pen names John Abbott Curt Cannon Hunt Collins

Ezra Hannon Dean Hudson Evan Hunter and Richard Marsten. Ed McBain is one of the pen names of American author and screenwriter Salvatore Albert Lombino (1926-2005) who legally adopted the name {site_link} Evan Hunter in 1952. While successful and well known as Evan Hunter he was even better known as Ed McBain a name he used for most of his crime fiction beginning in 1956. He also used the pen names John Abbott Curt Cannon Hunt Collins Ezra Hannon Dean Hudson Evan Hunter and Richard Marsten. I really liked this book. <http://justaguythatlikes2read.blogspot>. So Ray must try to find out who really did it. This an impressive feat and makes for an impressive book. Original review on bookbag.co. Brilliant. Awesome book. 223 Ed McBain's debut novel is a fun quasi PI read. Ray Stone is an addict. A former pianist who has succumbed to his vice. In order to clear his name aka Richard Marsten). Refuges from a Grade-B stinkeroo". See he's got me at it now. Neither will be easy. Not a bad read overall. The book like many books of this time is very dated. 223 He'd been a promising piano prodigy once. and 16 ounces of pure heroin missing. {site_link}.