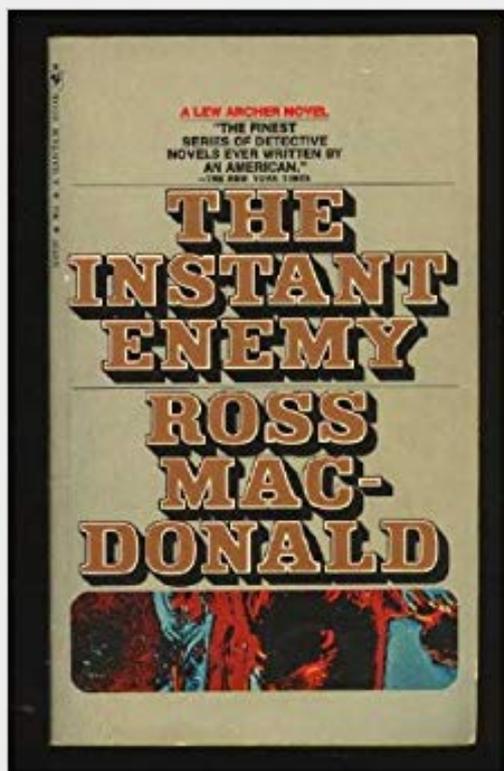


The Instant Enemy *by* Ross MacDonald



DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



ISBN: 0553247387

ISBN13: 978-0553247381

Author: Ross MacDonald

Book title: The Instant Enemy

Publisher: Bantam Books (February 1, 1985)

Language: English

Category: Mystery

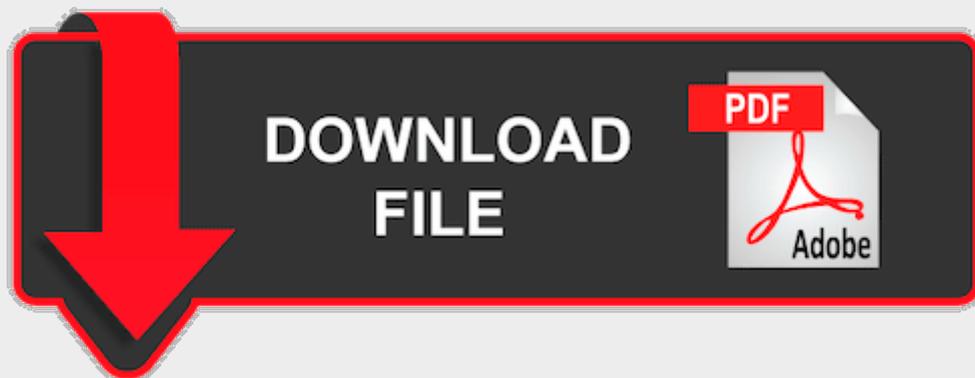
Size PDF version: 1713 kb

Size ePUB version: 1761 kb

Size FB2 version: 1787 kb

Other formats: lrf lrf lit mobi

Lew Archer's search for a pretty seventeen-year-old runaway leads into trouble, violence, and murder along the Sunset strip



Reviews of the *The Instant Enemy* *by* Ross MacDonald

1. Low_Skill_But_Happy_Deagle

Macdonald wrote, under the guise of the detective story, of how the buried secrets of the past distort our personal relationships, undermine our families, and alienate our children. He brought a keen appreciation of the role the past plays in the present, and of how we cannot escape who we were, what we did, or what was done to us, unless we bring the past

into the light of today through an examination of the truth, both factual and what Macdonald often called "moral truth." His protagonist, Lew Archer, precipitates action more by the questions he asks, sometimes by being a symbol of those questions, than by what he does. Macdonald's novels, which treat of these same themes over and over, can be seen as a type of representation of psychoanalysis: the detective, serving as the analyst, by questioning the various antagonists, brings out the truth of their past, enabling them to confront and overcome it. He often wrote of the clash between generations and the difficulties young people have growing up and finding their way in modern society, as in this book. These themes, which he explored with compassion and understanding for both sides of the divide, take on a poignancy from Macdonald's personal tragedy with his daughter. These must not have been easy books for him to write. Macdonald's rich style, sparking with metaphor and character observation, sweeps the story along. His titles, as in *The Instant Enemy*, usually touch on an important theme of the book. He is a first-rate novelist, a humane and compassionate man, a beautiful writer, who aimed always at the "moral truth" of individual lives. The man, and his work, can be perhaps summed up in an oft-quoted passage: When a woman in *The Goodbye Look* tells Archer that she believes he has a "secret passion for justice," Archer responds, "I have a secret passion for mercy. But justice is what keeps happening to people."

2. Andromakus

If Occam's Razor famously suggests the simplest explanation is most likely the correct one, Occam took the day off when Ross MacDonald sat down to write "*The Instant Enemy*," a deliciously convoluted tale of deceit, treachery, and murder featuring a baseball programs-worth of characters and more plot twists than a joy ride down Mulholland Drive in the LA foothills where the story begins.

Iconoclastic private eye Lew Archer is called by the parents to retrieve Sandy Sebastian, their seventeen year-old high school senior who as apparently run off with her nineteen-year-old punk boyfriend. Despite Archer's initial distrust of the Sebastians, he takes the case and before too many pages has turned has located the daughter and he wayward Davy Spanner. But the fun is just beginning as pair flip from young lovers to young felons, stealing dad's shotgun and kidnapping millionaire Stephen Hackett, ruler of the business empire in which dad Keith Sebastian is employed. As the plot thickens, so does Archer's expense account as he

drives up and down and over and across California at a frenetic pace as Archer seems to have little need for food and less for sleep as he gets beat-up, has guns pulled on him, and even gathers some clues in eventually getting to the bottom of an entire volume of perplexing decade-and-a-half old mysteries. Macdonald spins his tale with colorful prose rising a level above the more typical hardboiled noir scribbler.

Written in the sixties but highly relevant still, besides the thrills, action, and suspense, "Instant Enemy" is an interesting throw back to that tumultuous period in American history when the innocence and prudence of the fifties were giving way - tenuously - to an increasingly permissive society. Ross Macdonald and his smart-talking Lew Archer creation, while overshadowed by Hammetts, Chandler, or Thompson, is a master of American pulp fiction, brooding and complex against the lean, simple lines of his more famous genre-mates. In fact, Macdonald's first Lew Archer novel, "The Moving Target" in 1949, was brought to film in 1966 as Paul Newman's "Harpur."

Bottom line, a fast and frenzied tour through time and deception; an engaging and entertaining page-turner well worth a look.

3. the monster

Another entertaining read from Ross MacDonald, and paced so well I had a hard time putting it down. These are classic stories and much imitated. Take some advice and read these original detective novels, some which visit the fictional town of Santa Teresa, known to readers of Sue Grafton's alphabet mysteries.

4. Hunaya

Another great Lew Archer story. I can't imagine why someone doesn't do a period piece featuring several Lew Archer cases for the big screen or television. With all the nostalgic/retro shows, HBO, AMC, etc., ought to come up with one.

Now, about the book... As much as I love the books sometimes you can figure the plot resolution pretty quickly but this one had some nice twists in it.

5. Malaris

As with most of his books, complicated plot full of surprises, characters and Archer's tough but understanding view points and observations on people and life. Best to let the reader discover the story just want to say it is one of the best ones.

6. Mox

Why do all the reviews on here appear to be of the Stephen King novel "Thinner"? If I look under "Thinner" will I find "Instant Enemy" reviews?

7. Vjora

McDonald as the detective fiction novelist all others follow

8. Typically excellent Archer.

Related PDF to **The Instant Enemy** by Ross MacDonald

9. [No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row](#)
10. [Open Season](#)
11. [Sunset travel guide to New Zealand \(Sunset travel & recreation books\)](#)
12. [Ghosts, Witches and - Murder!](#)
13. [The Eleventh Commandment](#)
14. [The Ralph S. Mouse Complete Set: The Mouse and the Motorcycle, Runaway Ralph, and Ralph S. Mouse \(3-Book Set\)](#)
15. [Down Sunset Avenue and Other Poems](#)
16. [Strip Poker: A Novel](#)
17. [Wubi Instant Search \(paperback\)](#)
18. [Dennisisms Comic Strip Anthology Year 1: March 2009 - March 2010](#)