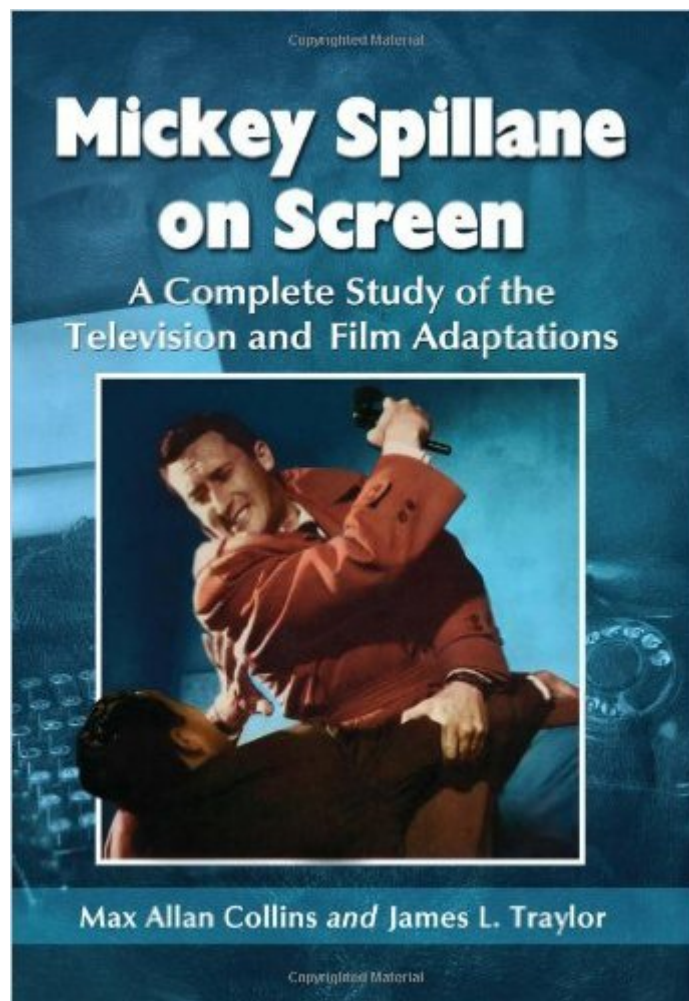


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# Mickey Spillane On Screen: A Complete Study Of The Television And Film Adaptations



## Synopsis

In the mid-20th century, Mickey Spillane was the sensation of not just mystery fiction but publishing itself. The level of sex and violence in his Mike Hammer thrillers (starting with *I, The Jury* in 1947) broke down long-held taboos and engendered a near hysterical critical backlash. Nonetheless, Spillane's influence has been felt--reflections of Hammer are visible in nearly every subsequent tough guy of fiction and film, including James Bond, Dirty Harry, Shaft, Billy Jack, and Jack Bauer. Spillane's fiction came to the screen in a series of films that include *Kiss Me Deadly* (1955) and *The Girl Hunters* (1963) with the author himself playing his private eye. These films, and television series starring Darren McGavin and Stacy Keach respectively, are examined in a lively, knowledgeable fashion by Spillane experts. Included are cast and crew listings, brief biographical entries on key persons, and a lengthy interview with Spillane.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An excellent survey of film and TV interpretations of Spillane's novels and his iconic private eye. I particularly enjoyed the chapters on the films. In addition to synopses of the individual stories, the authors give us their views on how faithful the films and actors are to the novels and to Spillane's noirish world; mini-bios of the cast, directors, writers, etc.; as well as interesting on and off-set stories about cast and crew. The chapters on the TV programs were also well done, but, necessarily did not cover individual episodes as fully as those on the films.

A thorough examination of the remarkable journey of the blood soaked novels of Mickey Spillane to

the screen by his champion/co-writer/number one fan Max Allan Collins. This is a must have if you are a Mickey Spillane fan. Many of these translations to the screen are hard to find (Margin for Murder, Come die with me, Tomorrow I Die, I, the jury (1982) and 3 of the 4 Stacey Keach series. Information on the sometimes troubled behind the scenes stories is even more scarce being a person who always watches the extras on dvds I found this to have a wealth of these. Also loaded with pictures of Spillane and the various actors who have played his characters over the decades. Taylor and Collins provide detailed synopsis, their review of each film, any behind the scenes stories of how the film got made, and usually Mickey Spillane's opinion of the film in question. True the \$45 dollar price tag is a bit high but buying this plus Collin's completions of Mickey's leftover manuscripts will insure a future for this godfather of the modern hero. If you like Hammer's adventures you should check out Collins's Nate Heller series they are awesome.

Terrific, well researched and compelling, MICKEY SPILLANE ON FILM covers the various movie and television adaptations of Spillane's works. Authors Max Allan Collins and James L. Traylor review such films as I, THE JURY (1951 and 1982 versions), the classic KISS ME DEADLY (1955), and THE GIRL HUNTERS (1963), as well as the various television incarnations of Spillane's "Mike Hammer" character. Along the way, the authors dig up little seen gems like the good 1954 thriller THE LONG WAIT, 1970's THE DELTA FACTOR, and the 1995 Showtime film TOMORROW I DIE. And yes, there were stinkers too: 1957's MY GUN IS QUICK and the even worse 1994 TV pilot COME DIE WITH ME get their critical chastisements. The authors offer as much background information on the making of these productions as they can, based on vintage articles and interviews with (many now deceased) participants of these productions. The book is divided in two sections, "Spillane At The Movies" and "Spillane On TV", followed by a set of "Appendices" which includes a "Who's Who" of actors, directors and other talents on these films, and a very warm and informative 1997 interview between Collins and Spillane. Well illustrated with stills from the movie and TV productions, MICKEY SPILLANE ON FILM is a must have for the Spillane fan!

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