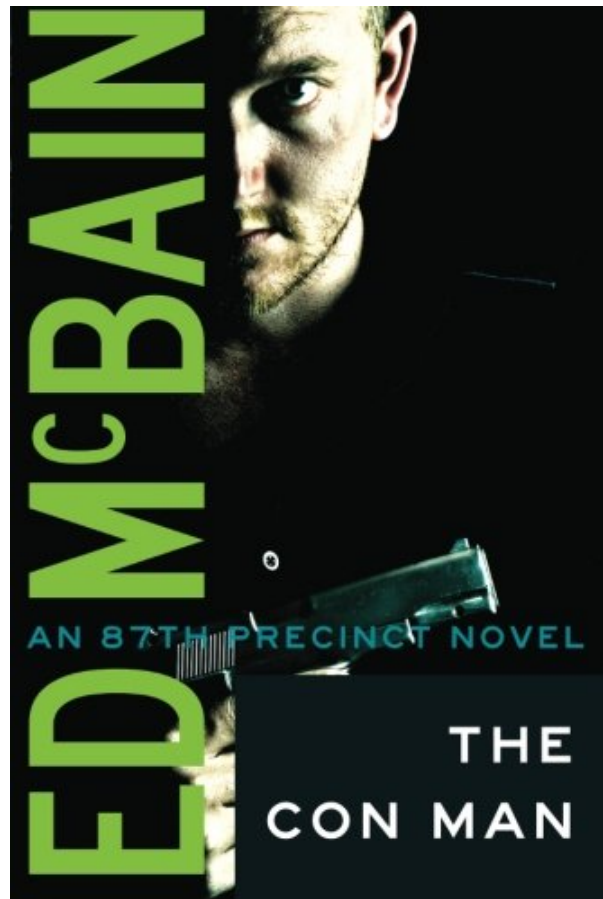
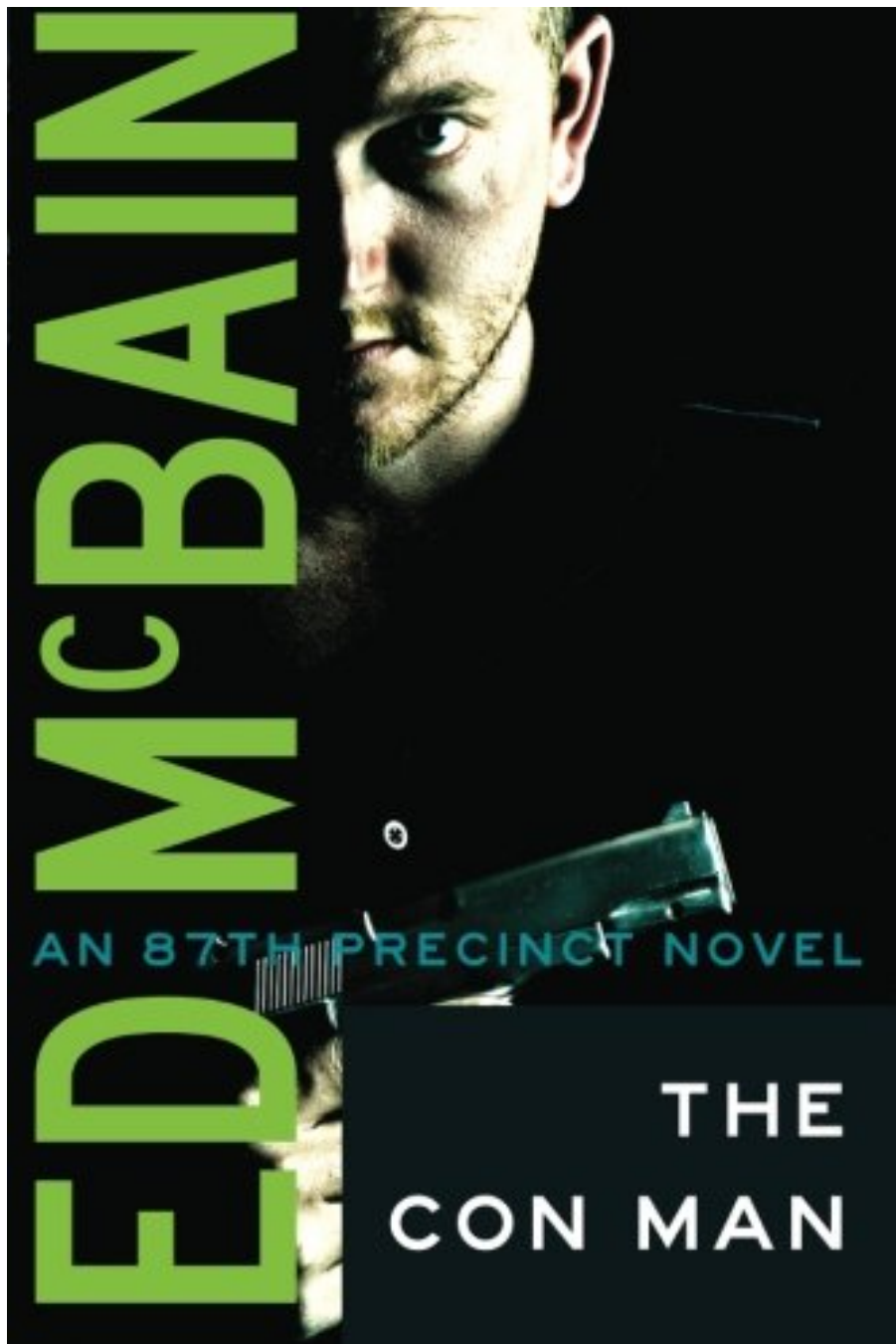


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I think Evan Hunter, known by that name or as Ed McBain, was one of the most influential writers of the postwar generation. He was the first writer to successfully merge realism with genre fiction, and by so doing I think he may actually have created the kind of popular fiction that drove the best-seller lists and lit up the American imagination in the years 1960 to 2000. Books as disparate as *The New Centurions*, *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*, *The Godfather*, *Black Sunday*, and *The Shining* all owe a debt to Evan Hunter, who taught a whole generation of baby boomers how to write stories that were not only entertaining but that truthfully reflected the times and the culture. He will be remembered for bringing the so-called "police procedural" into the modern age, but he did so much more than that. And he was one hell of a nice man. --Stephen King

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THE CON MAN (87TH PRECINCT) BY ED MCBAIN PDF

A con man is plying his trade on the streets of Isola: conning a domestic for pocket change, businessmen for thousands, and even ladies in exchange for a little bit of love. You can see the world, meet a lot of nice people, imbibe some unique drinks, and make a ton of money...all by conning them for their cash.

The question is: How far is he willing to go?

When a young woman's body washes up in the Harb River, the answer to that question becomes tragically clear. Now Detective Steve Carella races against time to find him before another con turns deadly. The only clue he has to go on is the mysterious tattoo on the young woman's hand--but it's enough. Carella takes to the streets, searching its darkest corners for a man who cons his victims out of their money...and their lives.

A crime fiction classic, *The Con Man* is the third book in the 87th Precinct series from Ed McBain, whom the *Daily Mirror* hails as "the undisputed master...there's nobody who does it better."

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Most helpful customer reviews

61 of 64 people found the following review helpful.

First 87th Precinct Book

By A Customer

I first caught on to Ed McBain by accident with his Matthew Hope novels, I liked them so much I decided to find other works of his. That's when I found the 87th Precinct Series. I thought I'd never find the original because it was over 40 years old. Fortunately I was wrong. The description of an imaginary city is phenomenal, each character is slowly developed and revealed to you. I loved this first novel and look forward to reading the remainder of the series.

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Life is a Con

By S. Michael Wilson

The fourth book in the 87th Precinct series, the title says it all as the members of the 87th attempt to track down con men preying on the weak and naive members of The City, as well as involving themselves in a few cons of their own.

Written in 1957, my favorite dated aspects of the narrative:

*When talking about pretty girls, it is noted that no one cares if you are smart "so long as you have a beautiful phizz."

*Pointing out the absurdity of something, it is stated that it "takes the brass bologna" and "wins the fur-lined bathtub."

Main man Steve Carella and his deaf/mute wife Teddy (who is yet again involved in a crime relating to Carella's investigations) track down a deadly Lonely Hearts killer, the impatient Brown attempts to stop a pair of street smart confidence men, and rookie Kling helps out while helping his college student fiancée Claire convince her school into granting her an early vacation with Kling. The mischievous Meyer Meyer and violent Havilland take to the background in this short entry into the series.

As always, McBain's characters are all three dimensional and compelling, and he manages to explore the emotional and philosophical aspects of crimes, victims of crimes, and their protectors in a way that few ever match. The theme of the *The Con* is throughout the novel, from the obvious and dangerous to the subtle and benign, and as his opening states and story demonstrates, life itself is a con, and to some degree we are all Con Men.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

ITS GREAT AND THATS NO CON!!!!

By Mac Blair

McBain has done it again. Another great book. Steve Carella is investigating the murders of young women who are floating to shore. Can Steve catch him before he strikes again???? There are several different cons going on at the same time. The others involve money and not murders. A tattoo artist gets in the middle along with Mrs. Carella. A good, short read that will make you want to read very fast. I nearly just scanned the last twenty or so pages because I wanted to find out what the ending was. I think you will enjoy this very much.

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