



# Hard-Boiled Sentimentality: The Secret History of American Crime Fiction

*Leonard Cassuto*

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## Hard-Boiled Sentimentality: The Secret History of American Crime Fiction Leonard Cassuto

Leonard Cassuto's cultural history links the testosterone-saturated heroes of American crime stories to the sensitive women of the nineteenth-century sentimental novel. From classics like *The Big Sleep* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley* to neglected paperback gems, Cassuto chronicles the dialogue—centered on the power of sympathy—between these popular genres and the sweeping social changes of the twentieth century, ending with a surprising connection between today's serial killers and the domestic fictions of long ago.



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