

REX STOUT (1886-1975)

FEATURING ALL THE NERO WOLFE TITLES



In 1959, at age 73, Rex Stout received the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award. At the time, he had published 32 books featuring Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin, his most enduring characters, including classics such as *THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN* (1935), *SOME BURIED CEASAR* (1939), and *AND BE A VILLAIN* (1948). Not surprisingly, given his outspoken left-wing political views, particularly on civil liberties, Stout had also created one of the earliest female private investigators, Theolinda "Dol" Bonner, in *THE HAND IN GLOVE* (1937), and a part-Native American farmer-turned-detective, Tecumseh Fox, in *DOUBLE FOR DEATH* (1939). Having been named a Grand Master, however, hardly meant Stout's career was done. Fifteen years of writing still lay ahead of him, including two of his most highly regarded Nero Wolfe novels, *DEATH OF A DOXY* (1966) and *A FAMILY AFFAIR* (1975). When Stout passed away at the age of 88, the Nero Wolfe series consisted of 77 titles, including novels, novellas, and short stories. Stout scholar and biographer John McAleer has described the Nero Wolfe mysteries as "an epic that ultimately would encompass more than ten thousand pages." No wonder, as the 20th century drew to a close, that mystery and detective writers and aficionados at Bouchercon XXXI in September of 2000 nominated Rex Stout for Writer of the Century and the Nero Wolfe mysteries as Series of the Century.

From the publication of *FER-DE-LANCE*, the first Nero Wolfe novel in 1934, the Wolfe mysteries have always been a unique blend of golden age whodunit and hardboiled crime. Stout's work marries plot elements from UK mystery writers such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers with the wisecracking verbal

sophistication and cynicism of American crime writers such as Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. Weighing a seventh of a ton and consuming 6 quarts of beer a day, as a character Nero Wolfe is a fascinating blend of personal quirks and idiosyncrasies have been the defining traits of the traditional detective



since Wilkie Collins introduced Sergeant Cuff and his penchant for roses in *THE MOONSTONE* in 1868. Montenegrin by birth and in his middle 50s, Wolfe suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder and adheres to a daily schedule that never varies. He battles bouts of depression and only takes cases when his bank account runs low. He is misogynistic, self-absorbed, and tyrannical, as well as being a devoted gourmand, voracious reader, and amateur orchid grower. A polymath who speaks eight languages, Wolfe is agoraphobic, refusing to leave his West 35th Street brownstone except when extreme circumstances dictate.

By contrast, Archie Goodwin, Wolfe's personal assistant and close friend, is a variation of the noir private investigator that first appeared in the pages of *Black Mask* in the 1920s. Tall, handsome, and in his early 30s, Goodwin was born in Ohio. A gregarious natural ladies' man, he is tough, witty, shrewd and resourceful. He prefers milk to alcohol, is an avid poker player and baseball fan, and in addition to performing all of Wolfe's legwork, acts as his employer's bookkeeper and financial manager. Stout's synthesis of classic whodunit and hardboiled elements is not confined, however, to his two protagonists. The plots of the Nero Wolfe mysteries are infused with both sensibilities, often in disconcerting ways that catch the reader wonderfully off guard. The murder weapon in *FER-DE-LANCE*, for instance, a golf club that shoots a needle poisoned with viper venom from its handle, hardly prepares the reader for Wolfe's somewhat cold-hearted manipulation of events to permit the novels' antagonists to kill themselves rather than be captured by the police.

Central to the success of Stout's Nero Wolfe series is the finely drawn relationship between Wolfe and Goodwin, a friendship rivaling even that of Holmes and Watson. Noted scholar and collector Otto Penzler has referred to Stout's main characters as "quintessentially American heroes." Likewise, Guy M. Townsend has asserted that the Nero Wolfe "stories are memorable for their ingenuity, their well-drawn, substantial characters, the wit and wisdom which

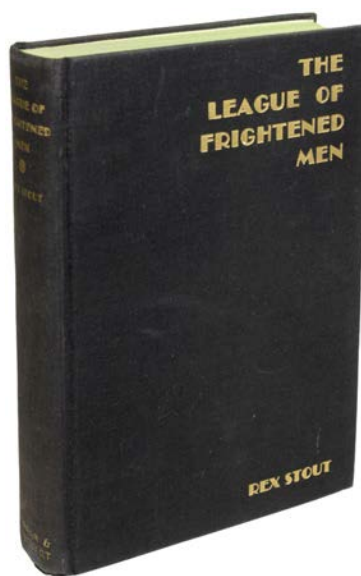
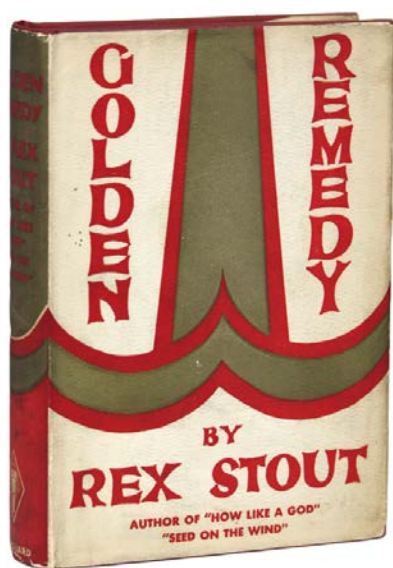
Stout sprinkles liberally throughout, and, to a very large degree, the relationship which exists between its two principle characters.” For all their antagonistic tendencies and banter, Wolfe and Goodwin’s relationship has long since moved beyond mere employer and employee. The two men are close friends with a deep, abiding love and respect for one another. They bring out the best in each other and function most effectively and efficiently when working in tandem to solve crimes. As Doyle does in his Sherlock Holmes stories, Stout engages his readers not just in the mysteries Wolfe and Goodwin undertake but also in the details of their daily lives and routine interactions with one another.

We welcome you to explore the works of Rex Stout and to immerse yourself in the remarkable adventures of Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin. Meet Fritz Brenner, Wolfe’s ingenious private chef; Saul Panzer, Wolfe’s disheveled but reliable top freelancer; and Lily Rowan, Goodwin’s resourceful socialite girlfriend. See what befalls Wolfe in TOO MANY COOKS (1938) when he ventures outside his beloved brownstone to speak at a gathering of the worlds’ greatest chefs at a West Virginia resort in hopes of learning Jerome Berin’s secret recipe for saucisse minuit. Follow Wolfe as he unexpectedly retires and mysteriously vanishes, losing weight and transforming his appearance, for one final confrontation with criminal mastermind Arnold Zeck, his own Moriarty, in IN THE BEST FAMILIES (1950). Grieve with Wolfe as he travels back to his native Montenegro in THE BLACK MOUNTAIN (1954) to avenge the death of Marko Vukcic, his oldest friend. After a while, Wolfe’s West 35th Street brownstone with its chef’s quarters, basement billiards room, and rooftop greenhouse will be as familiar to you as your own home. Discover the mystery series loved and admired by fans as diverse as Marlene Dietrich, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and William Faulkner, what Otto Penzler sums up as “a world as sure-handed and richly-textured a cosmos as the gas lit London of Sherlock Holmes or. . . Tolkein’s Middle Earth or the Oz of L. Frank Baum.” - Boyd White

Nothing is simpler than to kill a man; the difficulties arise in attempting to avoid the consequences. - Nero Wolf TOO MANY COOKS, Ch 3

I told him I was Archie Goodwin, the heart, liver, lungs, and gizzard of the private detective business of Nero Wolfe, Wolfe being merely the brains. He asked sarcastically if I was a genius too, and I told him no indeed, I was comparatively human. - Archie Goodwin converses with the prospective client in TOO MANY WOMEN, Ch 1

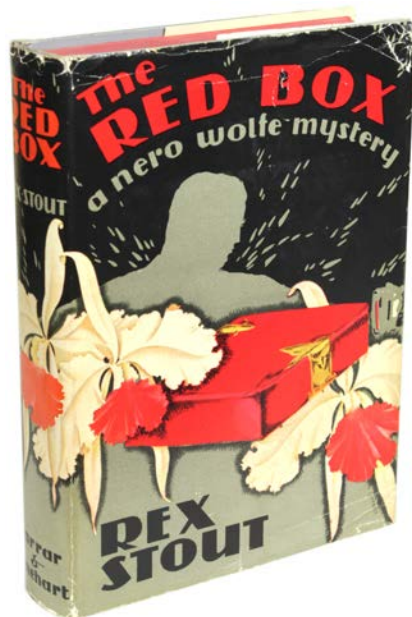
Stout, Rex. **GOLDEN REMEDY**. New York: Vanguard Press, 1931. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-294 [295-296: blank], original red cloth, spine stamped in gold, top edge stained red. First edition. The author's third novel to be published in book form and the last to be published by Vanguard Press (he would move to Farrar and Rinehart with his next book). A mainstream novel concerning a man trying to who is unable to establish a lasting relationship with women. Townsend (ed), *Rex Stout: An Annotated Primary and Secondary Bibliography*, A7. A nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with some age darkening to spine panel and a 4mm x 17 mm chip to lower spine panel, a small chip to upper left corner of spine and overall dust soiling. (15725) \$750.00



Stout, Rex. **THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN**. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1935]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-308, original black cloth, front and spine stamped in gold, top edge stained light green, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The second Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "To reveal more of the plot of this excellent yarn would be unfair to the reader. Let it suffice to say that the story has everything that a good detective story should have-mystery, suspense, action-and that the author's racy narrative style makes it a pleasure to read." - Isaac Anderson, *NY Times Book review*, 18 August, 1935. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A11b. Gold lettering of spine a little dull, a clean, nearly fine copy. A facsimile dust jacket is included with this copy. (23373) \$1250.00

Stout, Rex. **THE RUBBER BAND**. New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1936]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-302 [303-308: excerpt from first chapter of

THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN], original blue cloth, front and spine stamped in black, top edge stained yellow, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The third Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Beer, orchids and food are Nero Wolfe's major passions-and probably in that order." "Should he ever become so engrossed in solving a murder mystery that he forgets his beer, it will have to be an even more baffling affair than this one." "Rex Stout is setting a terrific pace for himself, but he show no sign of weakening, and there is every reason to believe that he will continue to connect crime puzzles for Nero Wolfe to solve for some time to come." - Isaac Anderson, NY Times Book review, 19 April, 1936. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A13b. Inked comments with signature and date and another inked names to front paste down, pencil marks to front free end paper, several pin holes to front and rear covers, wear to corner tips and spine ends, spine a bit color faded, a good copy. A facsimile dust jacket is included. (23374) \$350.00

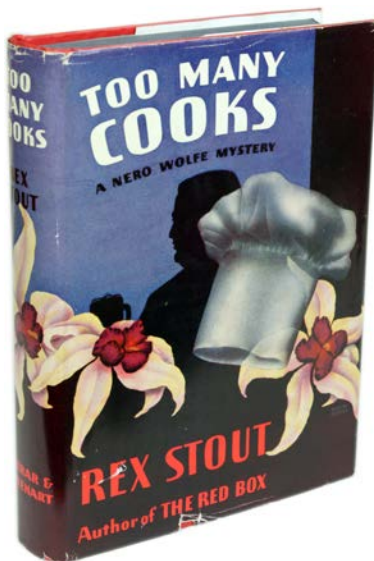


Stout, Rex. THE RED BOX. New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1937]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-398 [303-304: excerpt from first chapter of THE RUBBER BAND], [305-308: blank], original gray cloth, front and spine stamped in red, top edge stained red, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The fourth Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Stout rarely has Nero Wolfe lured away from home on a case, but in this one Archie does it with orchids. Poisoning at a fashion show is the crime that Wolfe's method of exhaustive interrogation mixed with bluff is involved to solve. Archie is thinner and less amusing here than elsewhere, but we learn more about Wolfe from himself." - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3085. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography,

A14b. A fine copy in a bright, very good dust jacket with a 12 mm closed tear to the upper right corner with creases, two small closed tears with mild crease to lower right front panel, mild shelf wear to spine ends, slight color fade to red inks of spine panel and a small closed tear with creases to upper rear panel. An attractive copy with no restoration. (23375) \$7500.00

Stout, Rex. THE HAND IN THE GLOVE. New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc. [1937]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-284, original red cloth, front and spine

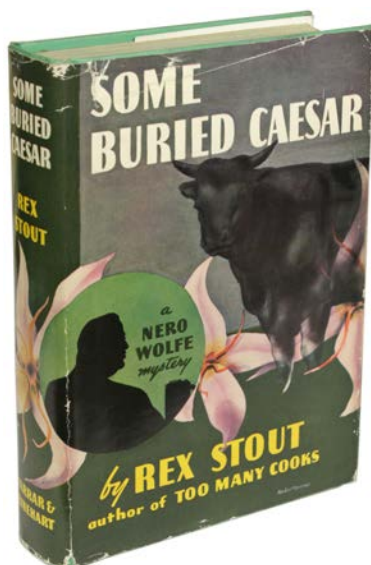
stamped in black, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. Mystery novel introducing the character Theodolinda "Dol" Bonner. The only novel to feature Stout's female detective, she did make appearances in several short stories. "Against a sophisticated modern background, where details irrelevant to the plot are allowed to take a normal place, with puzzles within puzzles, really interesting characters, and a logical and surprising solution at the end, "The Hand in the Glove" is as well rounded as it is ingenious. And Dol Bonner should be welcomed with cheers." - NY Times book review, 19 September, 1937. Filmed in 1992 as a made for television picture titled "Lady Against the Odds." Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A15a. Portion of front flap of dust jacket affixed to front free end paper, corner tips a bit bumped and rubbed, mild age darkening to spine a very good to nearly fine copy. A facsimile dust jacket is supplied. (23535) \$275.00



Stout, Rex. TOO MANY COOKS. New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated, [1938]. Octavo, pp. [1-6] [1-2] 3-278 [279] [280-282: blank] [281-304: printed on blue paper: Recipes...(note pagination correct)], original red cloth, front and spine stamped in dark blue. First edition. The fifth Nero Wolfe mystery novel. Nero leaves home to attend a meeting of great chefs hoping to obtain a secret recipe. Considered one of the best in the series. "The plotting in TOO MANY COOKS is tight, and the suspects interesting and varied..." and "Wolfe...delivers a superb talk on the subject of the elimination of racial prejudice...TOO MANY COOKS is at once a mystery of its age and a book ahead of its time." - Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, The

Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction, pp. 755-57. "The masterpiece among three or four by Stout that deserve that name." - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3093. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A16b. August Derleth's inked name to front free end paper, some bubbling to cloth lower front panel, a nearly fine copy in a bright about nearly fine dust jacket with a small chip to the lower front panel with stress crease, a touch of wear to spine ends and corner tips with a tiny nick to lower spine panel, small scratch to lower left front panel. Color wise the jacket is superb. (23376) \$6500.00

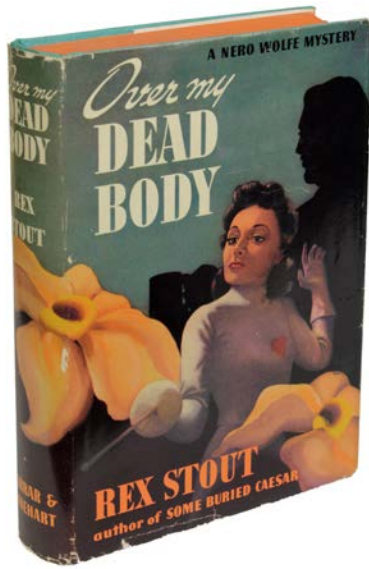
Stout, Rex. *SOME BURIED CAESAR*. New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated, [1939]. Octavo, pp. [1-6] [1-2] 3-296 [297-299: excerpt for *TOO MANY COOKS*] [300-304: blank], original light green cloth, front and spine stamped in black, top edge stained light green, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The sixth Nero Wolfe mystery novel. First published in



The American Magazine in a condensed version as "The Red Bull." "To a large extent, *CAESAR* is Archie's case, the type of book that inspired Howard Haycraft to call Archie 'the one example in history...of a Watson who steals the play from his Holmes, and a first-rate HOLMES to boot'" - Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, *The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction*, pp. 755-756. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A18b. A fine copy in a very good or somewhat better dust jacket with rubbing to front flap fold edge, 16 mm closed tear to the upper front panel with crease, mild shelf wear to spine ends and a small sliver chip at lower left front corner at spine fold. A bright copy. (23377) \$4500.00

Stout, Rex. *DOUBLE FOR DEATH: A TECUMSAH FOX MYSTERY*. New York and Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1939]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-284, original green cloth, front and spine stamped in dark green, top edge stained light green, fore and bottom edges rough cut. First edition. The first Tecumsah Fox mystery. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A20b. Last few leaves roughly opened, a nearly fine copy in a good Grosset & Dunlap dust jacket with edge wear, rubbing and patch-ins. (23380) \$100.00

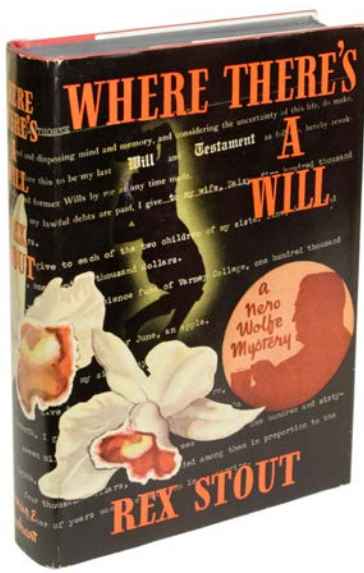
Stout, Rex. *OVER MY DEAD BODY*. New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated, [1940]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-293 [294: blank][295-297 excerpt for *SOME BURIED CAESAR*] [298-300: blank], original blue-green cloth, front and spine stamped in dark blue, top edge stained orange, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The seventh Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "There is more of Archie Goodwin than of Nero Wolfe in this book, and that is all to the good, for, although Wolfe is Archie's boss and the one who does the heavy thinking, Archie is, unless our guess is wide of the mark, the person whom readers of the Nero Wolfe stories take to their hearts. If Nero is the brains of the concern, Archie is its arms and hands and legs. When Nero wants



something done, he does not need to tell Archie how to do it. Archie will figure that out for himself, and the thing is as good as done, however difficult the assignment may be. In the murder case with which this story deals there are international complications which make things unusually difficult. The police and the G-men are in it too, but the best that they can do is to watch Nero Wolfe and wait for him to come through with the solution. The book is full of surprises for everybody concerned, including not only the reader but also the police, Archie and even Nero Wolfe himself. Read one chapter of this book and you will need no urging to go on with it." - Isaac Anderson, NY Time Book Review, 7 January, 1940. "This is the tale in which we learn that Nero has been married, has

adopted a daughter in his native Montenegro, and has become a U.S. citizen in order to enjoy peace and democracy. The plot hinges on international and domestic secrets but it is sober and sound. Archie, Cramer, and the rest of the cast are in top form, and Nero is noticeably more outspoken and impulsive than he subsequently became." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3080. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A21b. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with mild shelf wear to corner tips and spine ends, two tiny tears with crease to lower front panel, several rub marks to front spine fold. (23378) \$6500.00

Stout, Rex. *WHERE THERE'S A WILL*. New York and Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1940]. Octavo, pp. [1-6] [1-2] 3-272 [273-275: excerpt for *OVER MY DEAD BODY*] [276-282: blank], original red cloth front and spine stamped in black, top edge stained black, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The eighth Nero Wolfe mystery. Magazine publication abridged as "Sisters in Trouble." The last full length Nero Wolfe novel before WW II. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A23b. Tanned strip along upper front and rear paste-downs from glue degradation with some offsetting to facing free end paper, a fine copy in a fine dust jacket with a touch of shelf wear and several tiny tears to rear panel, slight fade to orange ink of lettering to spine panel. A lovely copy. (23379) \$6000.00



Stout, Rex. THE BLACK ORCHIDS: A NERO WOLFE DOUBLE MYSTERY. New York and Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1942]. Octavo, pp. [1-8] [1-2] 3-271 [272-280: blank], original brownish-red cloth front and spine stamped in black, fore edge uncut, bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The ninth Nero Wolfe mystery. Collects two stories, "Black Orchids" and "Cordially Invited to Meet Death." Both stories first published in the American Magazine. "Nero Wolfe and his ebullient amanuensis Archie Goodwin are here at top form in two "novellas" ... The first concerns a cleverly contrived murder at New York's annual Flower Show. The second features an adroit bit of poisoning in the fantastic Riverdale ménage — and menagerie — of a successful party-arranger for Manhattan society. First-class entertainment." - Time magazine review, 1 June, 1942. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C1a. A fine copy in a fine dust jacket with mild shelf wear to spine ends and corner tips. (23381) \$3750.00

Stout, Rex. NOT QUITE DEAD ENOUGH: A NERO WOLFE DOUBLE MYSTERY. New York and Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., [1944]. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1-2] 3-220, original brick red cloth front and spine stamped in black, fore edge and bottom edge rough cut. First edition. The tenth Nero Wolfe mystery. Collects two stories, "Not Quite Dead Enough" and "Booby Trap." Both first published in The American Magazine. Nero and Archie are involved in the war effort. "Neither is to be missed by anyone with an interest in the Wolfe-Goodwin saga." - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 4136. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C2a. A fine copy in a very good dust jacket with light shelf wear to spine ends and lower front corner tip,

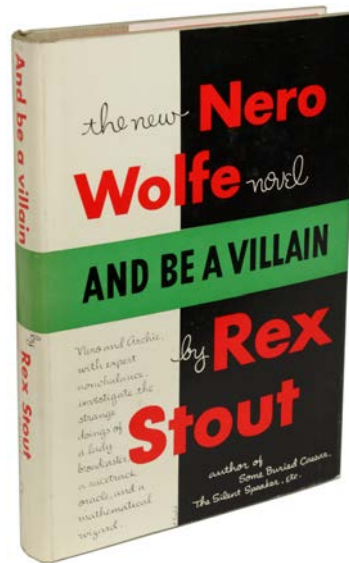
tiny closed tear to upper right front corner, large chip to base of rear panel.
(23382) \$850.00

Stout, Rex. THE SILENT SPEAKER. New York: The Viking Press, 1946. Octavo, original blue green cloth, front and spine stamped in yellow and pink, top edge stained pink. First edition. The eleventh Nero Wolfe mystery and first novel after WW II. "...about the murder of a dedicated Washington civil servant and one of his aides. The least likely suspect is well hidden, Wolfe does some thinking, and Archie is Archie. Not too much wrangling with the police, and in truth one of Rex Stout's best in the semi-demi form."- Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3090. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A27a. A fine copy in a very good dust or somewhat better jacket with a 20 mm closed tear with crease (repaired with clear tape on verso) at upper front panel, tiny chip to upper right corner, two chips to base of spine panel and a tiny chip to the upper right rear corner at spine. (23447) \$325.00

Stout, Rex. THE SILENT SPEAKER. New York: The Viking Press, 1946. Octavo, original blue green cloth, front and spine stamped in yellow and pink, top edge stained pink. First edition. The eleventh Nero Wolfe mystery and first novel after WW II. "...about the murder of a dedicated Washington civil servant and one of his aides. The least likely suspect is well hidden, Wolfe does some thinking, and Archie is Archie. Not too much wrangling with the police, and in truth one of Rex Stout's best in the semi-demi form."- Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3090. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A27a. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with a small chip to the upper left front corner, mild shelf wear to corner tips and shelf wear to spine ends with several tiny tears and creases, small chip to upper right rear corner at spine fold. (23383) \$250.00

Stout, Rex. TOO MANY WOMEN. New York: The Viking Press, 1947. Octavo, original blue green cloth, front and spine stamped in black and yellow, top edge stained dark green. First edition. The twelfth Nero Wolfe mystery. "Archie is the center of a seraglio of designing creatures, who want to bribe or seduce him as he helps Nero discover who killed (the victim in a firm) that employs 500 women. Longer than the later tales, this one has a great many lively turns and a good surprise ending." - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3094. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A28a. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with light shelf wear to corner tips, tiny 7 mm closed tear to upper right front panel with creases, closed tears and creases to head of spine panel reinforced on the

verso with clear tape, clear tape to verso of upper corner tips. (23384)
\$350.00

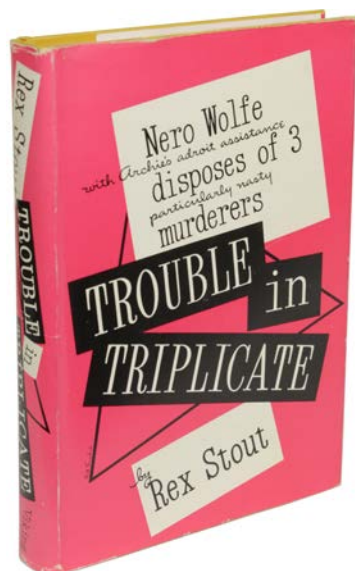


Stout, Rex. AND BE A VILLAIN. New York: The Viking Press, 1948. Octavo, boards. First edition. The thirteenth Nero Wolfe mystery. The first of three novels that feature Nero's criminal nemesis Zeck. "Zeck is a modern 'Napoleon of Crime,' and his confrontation with Wolfe can be compared to Sherlock Holmes versus Professor Moriarty." - Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction, pp. 758-759. "A first-rate sample of the author's art, this tale brings us face to face with the radio advertising of a beverage which the lady who promotes it cannot abide. Hence hanky-panky with the bottle of substitute liquid and resulting doubt as to whom the dose was intended for. Archie is spectacular in word and deed." - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3061. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A29a. A fine copy in a fine dust jacket with a touch of shelf wear. A lovely copy. (23385) \$500.00

Stout, Rex. AND BE A VILLAIN. New York: The Viking Press, 1948. Octavo, boards. First edition. The thirteenth Nero Wolfe mystery. The first of three novels that feature Nero's criminal nemesis Zeck. "Zeck is a modern 'Napoleon of Crime,' and his confrontation with Wolfe can be compared to Sherlock Holmes versus Professor Moriarty." - Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction, pp. 758-759. "A first-rate sample of the author's art, this tale brings us face to face with the radio advertising of a beverage which the lady who promotes it cannot abide. Hence

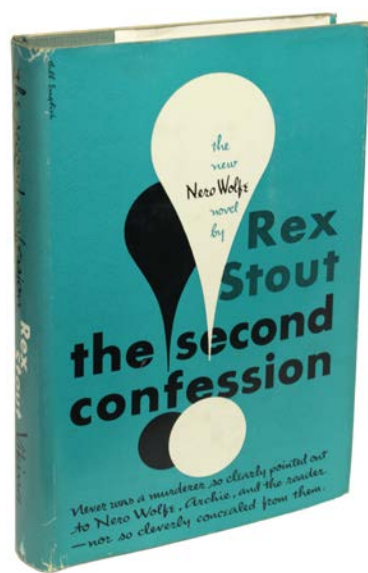
hanky-panky with the bottle of substitute liquid and resulting doubt as to whom the dose was intended for. Archie is spectacular in word and deed." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3061. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A29a. Upper corners a touched bumped, a fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with a touch of shelf wear and two light spots to upper spine panel at rear fold. (23449) \$450.00

Stout, Rex. *TROUBLE IN TRIPLICATE: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York:



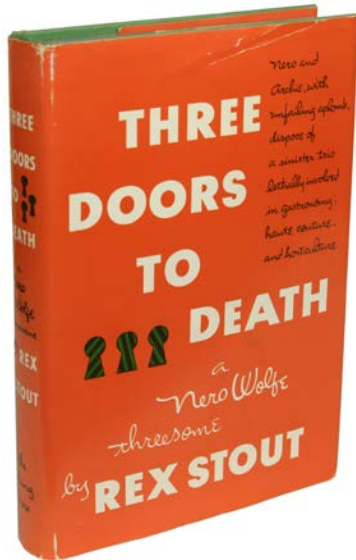
The Viking Press, 1949. Octavo, cloth. First edition. The fourteenth Nero Wolfe mystery. Collects three Nero Wolfe short fictions. "Help Wanted, Male," "Before I Die," and "Instead of Evidence." All first published in *The American Magazine*. "A particularly good bunch of early shorts ... All three start with victims or potential victims—of murder chiefly, but also of blackmail. The plots and their unraveling by Wolfe and Archie are superior examples of art, with plenty of drama, humor, and exact reasoning." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 4142. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C3a. Base of spine slightly bumped, a nearly fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with some rubbing to fold edges, mild

shelf wear to corner tips and light shelf wear to the spine ends. (23386) \$350.00



Stout, Rex. *THE SECOND CONFESSION*. New York: The Viking Press, 1949. Octavo, cloth. First edition. The fifteenth Nero Wolfe mystery. The second novel with master criminal Arnold Zeck. "Stylish, timely, and brilliantly plotted, with Archie and his boss functioning at full speed — Nero even leaves home to snare killer. Very good." - *The Saturday Review of Literature*, 15 October, 1949. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A30a. Pronzini and Muller, *1001 Midnights, The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction*, pp. 758-759. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with mild shelf wear to the corner tips and spine ends, mild color fade to spine panel. (23387) \$350.00

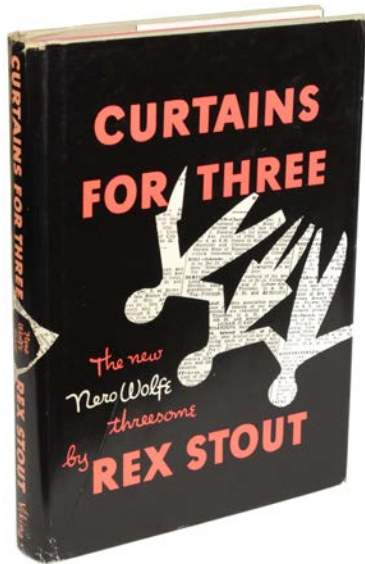
Stout, Rex. **THREE DOORS TO DEATH: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME**. New York: The Viking Press, 1950. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Man Alive," "Omit Flowers," and "Door to Death." All first published in The American Magazine. "The West 35th Street wonderman up and at three long shorts. Man Alive brings two suicides to life to solve the eventual murder of one of them and is concerned with the dress designing world: Omit Flowers proves the innocence of a once famous chef charged with murder: Door To Death has Nero Wolfe sitting tight until he demonstrates that his new gardener could not have killed a nurse. The bright-eyed brigand as before." - Kirkus Reviews, 21 April, 1949. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C4a. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with rubbing and mild shelf wear to spine ends and corner



tips, several stress creases to upper front panel. (23388) \$450.00

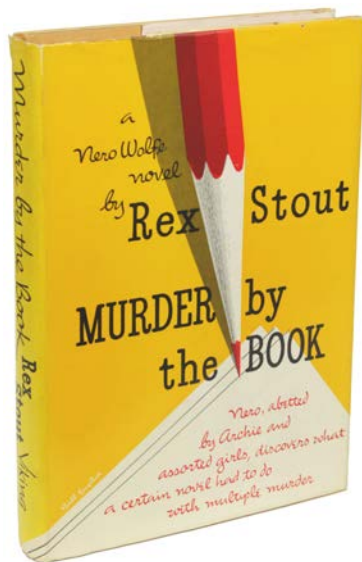
Stout, Rex. **IN THE BEST FAMILIES**. New York: The Viking Press, 1950. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. The third and final novel with master criminal Arnold Zeck. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A31a. Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction, pp. 758-759. Previous owner's name in ink to upper front free endpaper, a nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with a closed tear and crease to upper right front panel and some shelf wear with minor loss to spine ends and corners, purple background color of jacket is somewhat faded along upper edge and spine panel. (15707) \$250.00

Stout, Rex. **IN THE BEST FAMILIES**. New York: The Viking Press, 1950. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. The third and final novel with master criminal Arnold Zeck. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A31a. Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction, pp. 758-759. A fine copy in a very good dust jacket with shelf wear to the spine ends with shallow loss at base of spine panel, shelf wear to corner tips, light rubbing to the folds, moderate color fade to the spine panel. (23389) \$250.00



Stout, Rex. CURTAINS FOR THREE: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME. New York: The Viking Press, 1951. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "The Gun With Wings," "Bullet For One," and "Disguise for Murder." All first published in The American Magazine. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C5a. Upper right corner very slightly bumped, spine ends a little bumped, a nearly fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with mild shelf wear to corner tips and spine ends, slight fade to title lettering of spine panel. (23390) \$450.00

Stout, Rex. MURDER BY THE BOOK. New York: The Viking Press, 1951. Octavo, cloth. First edition. "It's a pleasure at last to report that in Murder by the Book



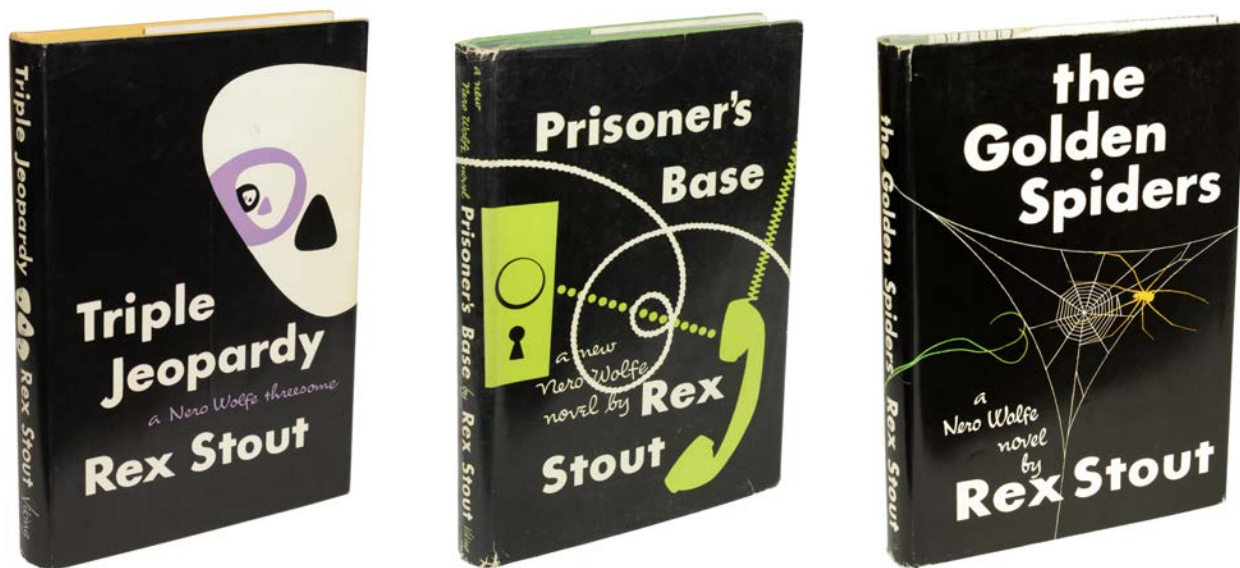
Rex Stout restores Nero Wolfe to his proper place in the long detective novel. A man has been murdered presumably because of a novel which he wrote and which has completely disappeared; there is apparently as total an absence of clues as ever confronted a fictional detective. And the story is not so much one of detection, as of the ingenious efforts of Wolfe and the incomparable Archie Goodwin to find some conceivable starting point from which detection can be carried on. It's an odd and interesting approach; the solution is at once plausible and surprising (if not quite deductively watertight). Wolfe and Archie are both in top form and Stout has rarely done a better novelistic job of putting flesh on assorted minor characters." - NY Times Book Review, 28 October,

1951. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A32a. A fine copy in a bright, nearly fine dust jacket with a touch of shelf wear along the upper front edge, rubbing and 10 mm closed tear to the upper spine panel, slight fade of the yellow ink background color of the spine panel and a touch of shelf wear to the base of the spine panel. (23391) \$300.00

Stout, Rex. TRIPLE JEOPARDY: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME. New York: The Viking Press, 1952. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe

mystery stories. "Home to Roost," "The Cop-Killer," and "The Squirt and the Monkey." All first published in The American Magazine. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C6a. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with mild soiling and two light spots to white area of front panel and a vertical scratch (100 mm) to center of front panel, slight wear to spine ends. Still an attractive copy. (23392) \$250.00

Stout, Rex. PRISONER'S BASE. New York: The Viking Press, 1952. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Pure detection (fleshed, of course, with humor and characterization) remains the trademark of Rex Stout. Prisoner's Base is a bit more conventional than last year's fine Murder by the Book, but still very solidly gratifying. Nero Wolfe refuses sanctuary to a potential client, thereby indirectly causing her death; the resultant investigation places Archie Goodwin in the doubly unheard-of position of being Nero's client himself and working closely with the New York Police Department. The solution is surprising, the construction tight; in this particular vein only Mr. Stout himself is apt to produce a better book." - NY Times Book Review, 9 November, 1952. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A33a. Previous owner's bookplate affixed to front paste down, some foxing with offsetting to front and rear free end-papers, head of spine bumped with small split to upper board edge, a very good copy in a very good dust jacket with mild shelf wear to spine ends and corner tips with some tiny loss, some foxing to the jacket flaps. (23393) \$150.00



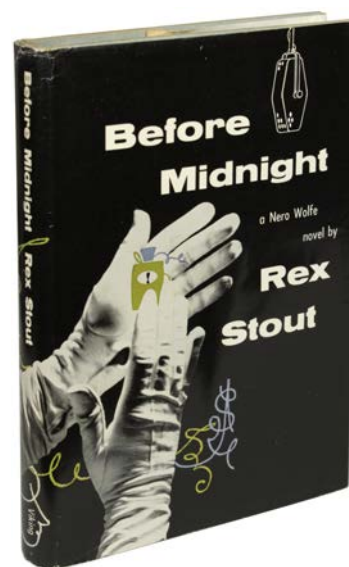
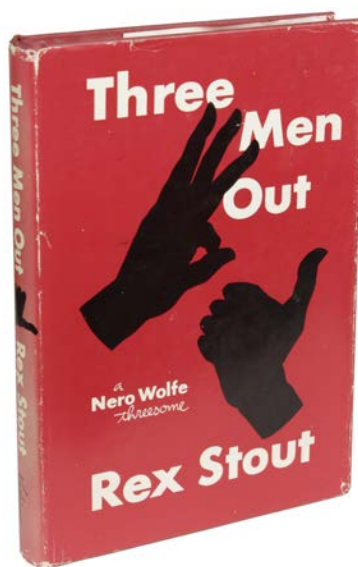
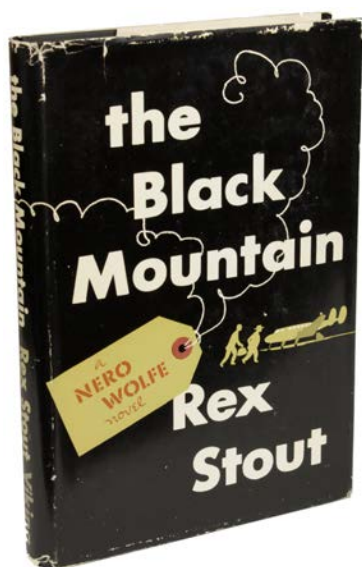
Stout, Rex. THE GOLDEN SPIDERS. New York: The Viking Press, 1953. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "That open (but

often shut) private eye, Nero Wolfe ignores police assumptions when he links three unrelated deaths and, with his meager force against N.Y.'s finest, ties in extortion with the murders. Inspector Cramer is redder-faced; Archie Goodwin lands in a rough mix-up; Wolfe expounds on the science and art of detection and his grumbles and snooperies prove out. Calculating." - Kirkus Review, 1 October, 1953. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A34a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with light shelf wear to spine ends and corner tips, a small 12 mm closed tear to left front corner and some rubs to the lower left rear corner. (23394) \$500.00

Stout, Rex. THE GOLDEN SPIDERS. New York: The Viking Press, 1953. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "That open (but often shut) private eye, Nero Wolfe ignores police assumptions when he links three unrelated deaths and, with his meager force against N.Y.'s finest, ties in extortion with the murders. Inspector Cramer is redder-faced; Archie Goodwin lands in a rough mix-up; Wolfe expounds on the science and art of detection and his grumbles and snooperies prove out. Calculating." - Kirkus Review, 1 October, 1953. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A34a. A nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with rubbing to the edges and corner tips, shelf wear to spine ends, closed tear to mid spine panel with long closed along lower rear spine fold. (23450) \$200.00

Stout, Rex. THE BLACK MOUNTAIN. New York: The Viking Press, 1954. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Nero Wolfe flies to Montenegro (that's right) to solve NY killing; Archie tags along. Radical departure from tested routine develops into swell yarn. OK all the way." - The Saturday Review of Literature, 27 November, 1954. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A35a. Pronzini and Muller, 1001 Midnights, The Aficionado's Guide to Mystery and Detective Fiction, pp. 759-760. A fine copy in a very good dust jacket with rubbing along upper and lower edges, a 15 mm closed tear to the upper front panel, shelf wear to spine ends with a small chip to the base of the spine panel. (23396) \$250.00

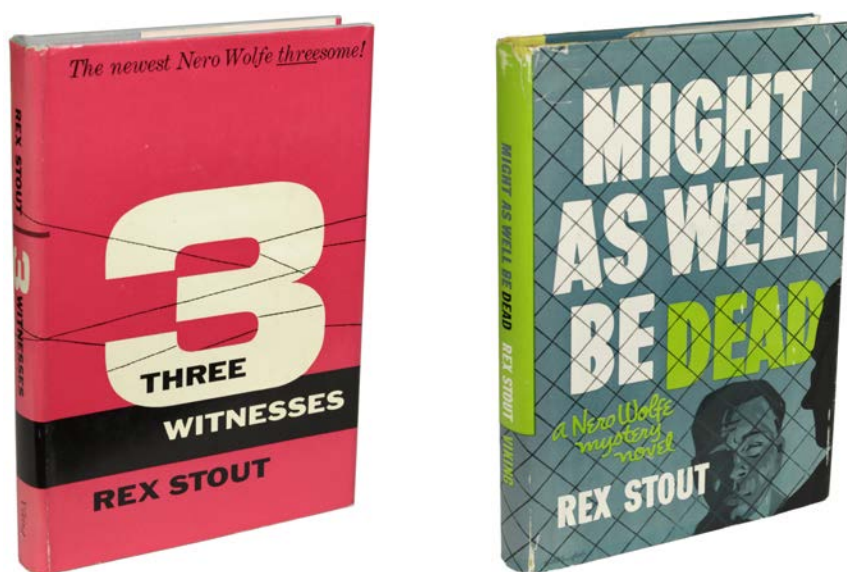
Stout, Rex. THREE MEN OUT: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME. New York: The Viking Press, 1954. Octavo, boards. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Invitation to Murder," "The Zero Clue" and "This Won't Kill You." All first published in The American Magazine. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C7a. A fine copy in a very good price clipped dust jacket with shelf wear and rubbing to spine ends and corner tips, mild rubbing to folds, moderate color fade to spine panel. (23395) \$150.00



Stout, Rex. BEFORE MIDNIGHT. New York: The Viking Press, 1955. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Nero Wolfe again and his faithful Archie are confronted with a ticklish Job in solving the problem of the disappearance of a wallet which contained the answers to a nationwide contest, now reduced to the final contestants. That the man who was carrying the wallet had been murdered was not Wolfe's concern: Just how he faces failure -- and brings off success with a flourish leaves the reader still questioning. Slick -- and not quite fair." Kirkus Review, 1 October, 1955. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A36a. Small bookstore stamp on front free endpaper. Tiny marginal stain on first leaf of text, else a clean, nearly fine copy in nearly fine dust jacket with just a bit of rubbing to edges, mainly at upper spine end. A pretty nice copy overall. (15681) \$350.00

Stout, Rex. BEFORE MIDNIGHT. New York: The Viking Press, 1955. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Nero Wolfe again and his faithful Archie are confronted with a ticklish Job in solving the problem of the disappearance of a wallet which contained the answers to a nationwide contest, now reduced to the final contestants. That the man who was carrying the wallet had been murdered was not Wolfe's concern: Just how he faces failure -- and brings off success with a flourish leaves the reader still questioning. Slick -- and not quite fair." Kirkus Review, 1 October, 1955. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A36a. A fine copy in a very good or somewhat better dust jacket with rubbing and shelf wear to the spine ends, mild wear to the corner tips, some rubbing to rear panel and rear flap fold. (23397) \$200.00

Stout, Rex. *THREE WITNESSES: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York: The Viking Press, 1956. Octavo, boards. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "The Next Witness," "When A Man Murders," and "Die Like a Dog." All first published in *The American Magazine*. "Archie is tops in all and in the first we not only enjoy Wolfe subpoenaed and in a courtroom, but subsequently driving around and doing genuine detection on the hoof." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 4140. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C8a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with a touch of rubbing to the corner tips and spine ends, a few rubs to folds and some mild color fade to spine panel. (23398) \$200.00

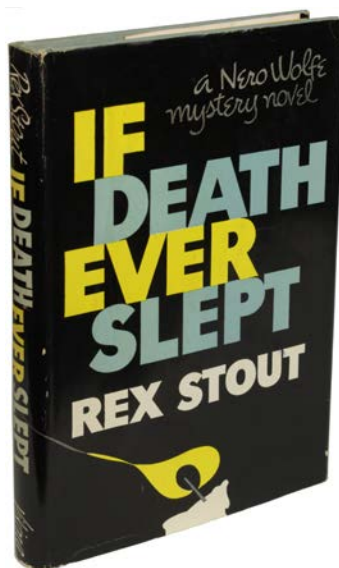
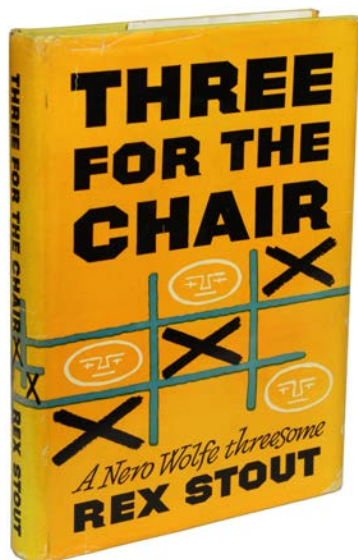


Stout, Rex. *MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD*. New York: The Viking Press, 1956. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "The missing person that Nero Wolfe contracts to find turns out to be in prison for murder so His Obesity is forced to undo a conviction before he can claim his fee. Backtracking where the police have not, Wolfe's able crew untangle the dead man's connections, set off three more killings and present him with enough facts that sting to pounce on the real killer. All the tricks in the trade." - *Kirkus Review*, 1 October, 1956. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A37a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with mild wear along the lower front edge, spine ends and corner tips, mild color fade to the spine panel. (23400) \$150.00

Stout, Rex. *MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD*. New York: The Viking Press, 1956. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "The missing person

that Nero Wolfe contracts to find turns out to be in prison for murder so His Obesity is forced to undo a conviction before he can claim his fee. Backtracking where the police have not, Wolfe's able crew untangle the dead man's connections, set off three more killings and present him with enough facts that sting to pounce on the real killer. All the tricks in the trade." - Kirkus Review, 1 October, 1956. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A37a. Lending library ink stamp to front free end paper, a very good copy in a very good dust jacket with rubs to front panel, two tiny tears to upper front panel, small chip and closed tear to upper spine panel, rubs to spine ends, (23399) \$50.00

Stout, Rex. THREE FOR THE CHAIR: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME. New York: The Viking Press, 1957. Octavo, boards. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "A Window for Death," "Immune to Murder," and "Too Many Detectives." First published in magazines; The American Magazine and Colliers. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C9a. Inked name to front free end paper, a nearly fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with mild shelf wear to spine ends and corner tips, tiny closed tear to upper front panel with creases, tiny closed tear to lower front panel and mild color fade to spine panel. (23401) \$250.00



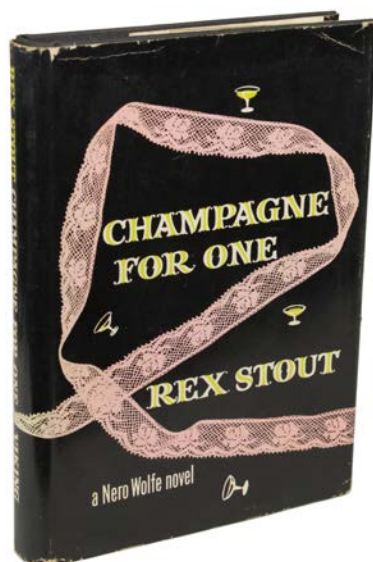
Stout, Rex. IF DEATH EVER SLEPT. New York: The Viking Press, 1957. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Though Archie Goodwin is here in top form, not much else can be said for this dose of the mixture as before. Archie is put in as secretary to a rich operator whose business secrets are being stolen. Wolfe neither foresees nor prevents a couple of murders. His

activities are limited to three lengthy interviews, at the last of which the killer is unmasked by the use of evidence supplied largely by Inspector Cramer." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3074. Hubin, pp. 777-778.

Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A38a. A fine copy in a very good dust jacket with stain to the verso of the front panel, mild shelf wear to the spine ends and corner tips. (23402) \$125.00

Stout, Rex. *ALL ACES: A NERO WOLFE OMNIBUS*. New York: The Viking Press, 1958. Octavo, boards. First edition. First collected edition of these works. Collects the novels *Some Buried Caesar*, *Too Many Women* and the stories from the collection *Trouble in Triplicate*. A near fine copy, slight rubbing to lower edges in a very good dust jacket, rubbing and shelf wear to edges, slight loss to spine ends, thumbnail size chip to lower front panel. Uncommon in the trade edition. (11793) \$200.00

Stout, Rex. *CHAMPAGNE FOR ONE*. New York: The Viking Press, 1958. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Archie and Nero shine, once

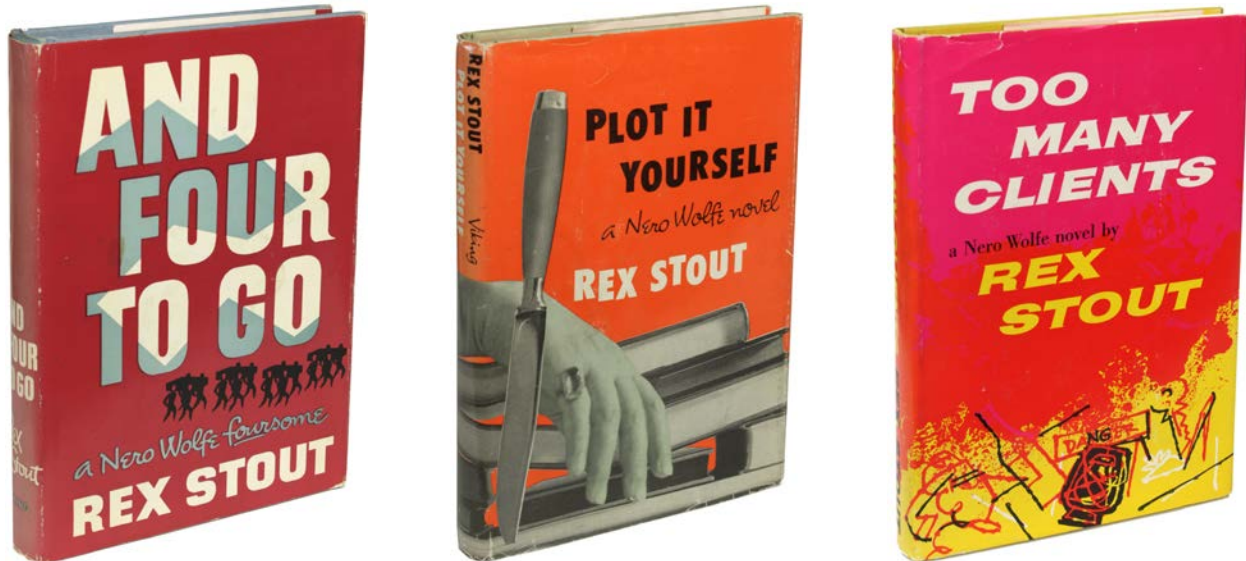


again, on the question: Who slipped the cyanide into the glass of the girl attending the unwed mothers' annual party at the house of their benefactress? Two small queries: would the dead philanthropist write the odd letter of gift that provides no better control of large funds than someone's probity? And how was the poison actually administered? One can't buy ready-mixed KCN." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3065. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A39a. Lower front corner a bit bumped, slightly leaned, mild foxing to front free end paper, paper clip indentation and residue to upper front free end paper and next blank leaf, a very good to nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with a small 11 mm closed tear and crease to upper front panel, mild wear and

rubs to upper and lower edges, shelf wear to spine ends and foxing to front flap. (23404) \$150.00

Stout, Rex. *AND FOUR TO GO: A NERO WOLFE FOURSOME*. New York: The Viking Press, 1958. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects four Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Christmas Party," "Easter Parade," "Fourth of July Picnic," and "Murder Is No Joke." All four first published in magazines, *Look*, *Saturday Evening Post* and *Collier's*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C10a. Previous owner's bookplate to affixed front free

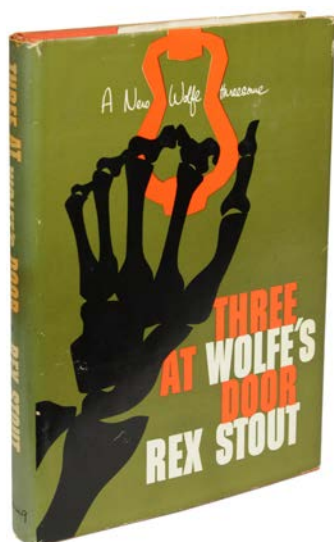
end paper a nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with mild shelf wear to spine ends and corner tips, several light stains to the front panel and some color fade to the spine panel. (23403) \$125.00



Stout, Rex. PLOT IT YOURSELF. New York: The Viking Press, 1959. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Rex Stout has been a member, an officer and a guiding spirit of many an organization of professional writers, and his lively knowledge of such organizations brightens Plot It Yourself, in which Nero Wolfe's client is the Joint Committee on Plagiarism of the National Association of Authors and Dramatists and the Book Publishers of America. An adroit scheme for bringing fraudulent chargers of plagiarism leads into murder and to an error by Wolfe which so enrages him that he vows to drink no beer and eat no meat until he solves the case — which he does promptly and satisfactorily in one of his better book-length adventures." NY Times Book Review, 8 November, 1959. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A40a. Inked name, date and city to front free end paper, a fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with rubbing along front flap fold edge, mild shelf wear along bottom edge and corner tips, mild shelf wear with some rubs to spine ends and spine along with mild fade to the red ink background color, rubbing to rear panel with a long closed tear 28 mm with creases to upper rear panel. (23405) \$150.00

Stout, Rex. TOO MANY CLIENTS. New York: The Viking Press, 1960. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Good treatment of the love-nest theme, integral as well as central, which implies good characterization.

Several new touches prevent the reader from taking Wolfe as a cliché. The sole reservation to be made is that the villain is not well enough concealed, perhaps because he is so well cast." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3092. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A41a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with a 5 mm closed tear with creases and tiny tear to upper left front panel, small 9 mm closed tear to upper front panel fold, 19 mm to upper interior rear panel fold, some stress creases to upper rear panel and rubbing to rear panel at spine fold. Bright, colorful jacket with no fading. (23407) \$200.00



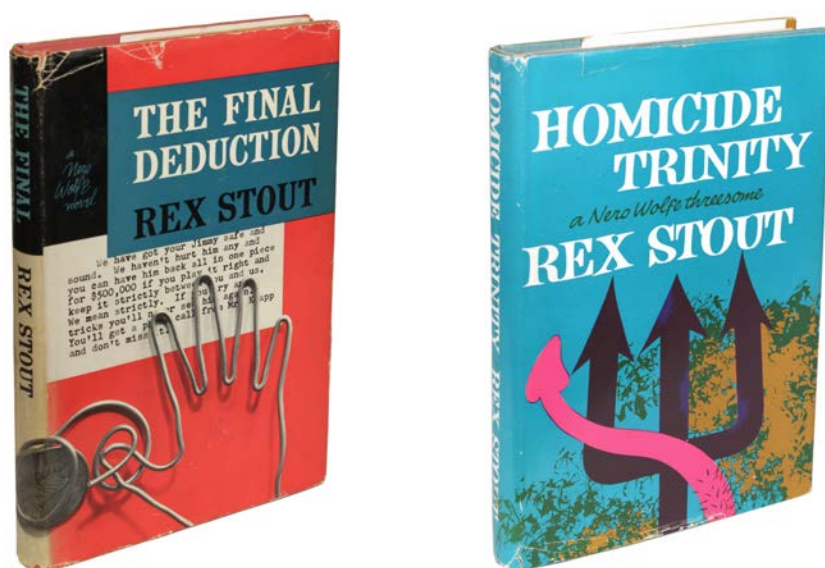
Stout, Rex. *THREE AT WOLFE'S DOOR: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York: The Viking Press, 1960. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Poison à la Carte," "Method Three for Murder," and "The Rodeo Murder." All three first published in magazines; *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C11a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with mild shelf wear to the corner tips and spine ends, mild age darkening to the spine panel. (23532) \$200.00

Stout, Rex. *THREE AT WOLFE'S DOOR: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York: The Viking Press, 1960.

Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Poison à la Carte," "Method Three for Murder," and "The Rodeo Murder." All three first published in magazines; *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C11a. Some stains to fore edge, wear to corner tips, spine leaned, a good copy in a fair dust jacket with masking tape to spine exterior spine ends and corners. (23406) \$25.00

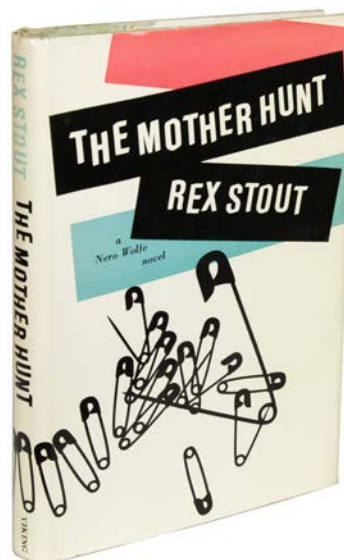
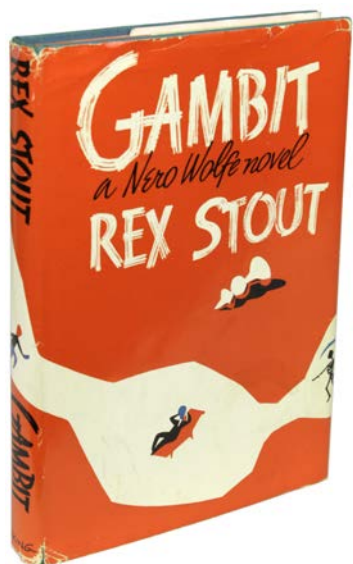
Stout, Rex. *FIVE OF A KIND: THE THIRD NERO WOLFE OMNIBUS*. New York: The Viking Press, 1961. Octavo, boards. First edition. Omnibus volume contains two novels, *THE RUBBER BAND* and *IN THE BEST FAMILIES* and the contents of the story collection *THREE DOORS TO DEATH*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, D4a. Four dings to front cover, a nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with corresponding dings to front panel, closed tear to spine panel and mild color fade to the green ink of the spine panel, small stain to lower left front panel. (23422) \$100.00

Stout, Rex. *THE FINAL DEDUCTION*. New York: The Viking Press, 1961. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Archie not at his best and not amusing, though we do get information about his mother, and Wolfe has some fair repartee. The kidnapping and ransoming, for once, dully treated. ... Nero is ingenious in getting his fee, Archie subtle as well as useful, and Inspector Cramer able to work off his anger outside the house." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3071. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A42a. A nearly fine copy in a good to very good dust jacket with several closed tears with creases to upper front panel, light wear to the corner tips and spine ends with shallow chipping a base of spine panel, fade to red ink color of spine panel. (23408) \$50.00



Stout, Rex. *HOMICIDE TRINITY: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York: The Viking Press, 1962. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Eeny Meeny Murder Mo," "Death of a Demon," and "Counterfeit for Murder." All three first published in magazines; *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C12a. Small previous owner's bookplate affixed to front paste down (hidden by flap), some foxing to the free end papers, contents titles ticked with pencil marks, a nearly fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with some light foxing to flaps, 10 mm closed tear with creases along bottom front edge, 8 mm closed tear with light crease to upper front panel, mild shelf wear to spine ends. A handsome, bright copy with no fading. (23409) \$250.00

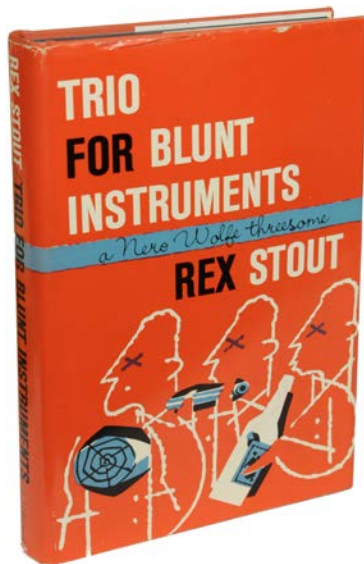
Stout, Rex. *GAMBIT*. New York: The Viking Press, 1962. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "There is more detection in this story than in any other of the mulling-and-quizzing sort; here we really see Nero Wolfe's thoughts whirring. Moreover, Archie is in excellent form, and although a chess tournament is a feature, the game itself is not. The great scene is that in which Nero reads and burns the pages of Webster's Dictionary, Third Edition." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3072. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A43a. Touch of discoloration to spine ends, a nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with shelf wear to corner tips and spine ends, 10 mm closed tear with creases to lower left front corner, 10 mm closed tear with creases to upper right rear corner at fold and a touch of edge wear. (23410) \$150.00



Stout, Rex. *THE MOTHER HUNT*. New York: The Viking Press, [1963]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Nero and Archie make one of their flights from home, and the grand confrontation scene is staged at their refuge. Nero is competent but not remarkably so in finding out who did the two murders and the giving birth." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3078. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A44a. Remnants of a small address label to upper front paste down, a fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket. (23533) \$150.00

Stout, Rex. *THE MOTHER HUNT*. New York: The Viking Press, [1963]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "Nero and Archie make one of their flights from home, and the grand confrontation scene is staged at their refuge. Nero is competent but not remarkably so in finding out who did the two

murders and the giving birth." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3078. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, A44a. Inked gift inscription to front free end paper, penciled numbers to front paste down, a very good copy with slight spine lean in a very good price clipped dust jacket with fade strip along upper front panel edge, closed tears to bottom of rear panel with crease, moderate soiling to white background of jacket. (23411) \$50.00

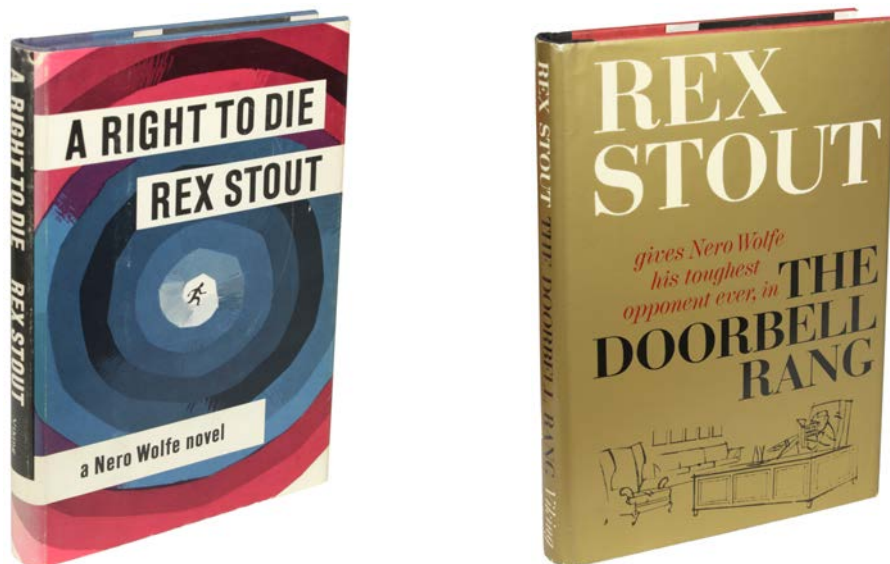


Stout, Rex. *TRIO FOR BLUNT INSTRUMENTS: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York: The Viking Press, [1964]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Murder is Corny" is original to this volume. The other two stories "Kill Now-Pay Later" and "Blood Will Tell" first published in magazines; *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C13a. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with a 10 mm closed tear to the upper right front panel, some rubs and shelf wear along top front edge and bottom rear edge, mild shelf wear to upper corner tips and spine ends. (23412) \$250.00

Stout, Rex. *TRIO FOR BLUNT INSTRUMENTS: A NERO WOLFE THREESOME*. New York: The Viking Press, [1964]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Collects three Nero Wolfe mystery stories. "Murder is Corny" is original to this volume. The other two stories first published in magazines; *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, *Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography*, C13a. Inked inscription to upper front free end paper, small bookstore label affixed to front paste down, a nearly fine copy in a very good dust jacket with light edge wear, tiny closed tear to upper right front panel, moderate color fade to spine panel, stains to interior of rear panel, closed tears and creases to upper rear panel repaired with clear tape on the verso. (23413) \$75.00

Stout, Rex. *A RIGHT TO DIE*. New York: The Viking Press, [1964]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "The present mystery is directly linked to one of 25 years ago, *Too Many Cooks*, by the person of Paul Whipple, the young Negro who had helped solve it. Whipple, now a middle-aged professor of anthropology, comes to Nero Wolfe seeking help for himself. His thoroughly topical problem involves his son, an active worker in the civil rights

movement, who has become engaged to a white girl. Her murder leads to Archie's active involvement and a second murder brings on a really surprise ending presided over by the nimitable Wolfe. Today's headlines, stoutly, adroitly handled." - Kirkus Review, 1 October, 1964. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A45a. Small bookstore label to affixed to bottom of rear paste down, a fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with a tiny rub mark to the front panel and slight color fade to spine panel. An attractive copy. (23414) \$150.00

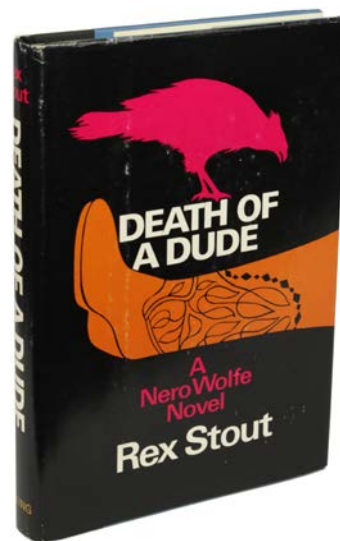
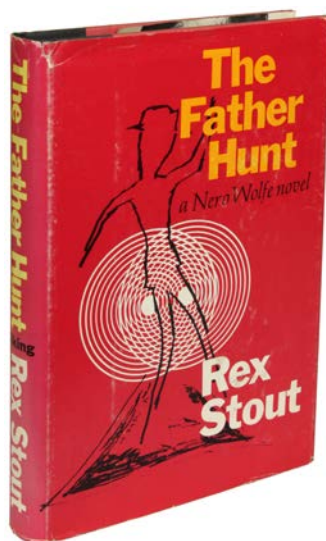
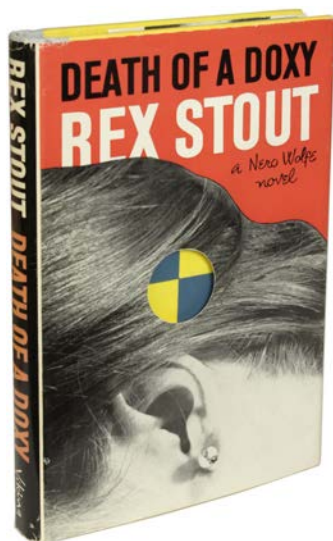


Stout, Rex. THE DOORBELL RANG. New York: The Viking Press, [1965]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. A controversial book in some circles in that it painted the FBI. in a very unflattering light. Rex Stout was never one to shy away from controversy and was familiar with the recent book by investigative journalist Fred J. Cook, THE FBI NOBODY KNOWS. Cook's book published in 1964 was highly critical of J. Edgar Hoover and how he used the FBI for political purposes. Stout also had a low opinion of Hoover. From the Wikipedia entry on this novel: "Nero Wolfe is hired to force the FBI to stop wiretapping, tailing and otherwise harassing a woman who gave away 10,000 copies of a book that is critical of the Bureau and its director, J. Edgar Hoover." "The Doorbell Rang generated controversy when it was published, due largely to its unflattering portrayal of the FBI, its director and agents. It was published at a time when the public's attitude toward the FBI was turning critical, not long after Robert F. Kennedy and J. Edgar Hoover clashed and the Bureau was coming under fire for its investigations of Martin Luther King. Some dismissed the book: National Observer described it as "little more than an anti-FBI diatribe," and Nero Wolfe fan John Wayne wrote Rex Stout a terse note of

goodbye after reading the condensed magazine version. But Clifton Fadiman, quoted in a Viking Press advertisement for *The Doorbell Rang*, thought it was "... the best of all Nero Wolfe stories." Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A46a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with a touch of shelf wear to the spine ends and corner tips, some tiny spots to the upper front panel, light wear to the edges of the rear panel. (23415) \$200.00

Stout, Rex. *ROYAL FLUSH: THE FOURTH NERO WOLFE OMNIBUS*. NY: The Viking Press, [1965]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Omnibus volume contains two novels, *FER-DE-LANCE*, *MURDER BY THE BOOK* and the contents of the story collection *THREE WITNESSES*. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, D5a. A fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with a tiny tear to the upper front panel, two small tears to lower front panel and crease, rub mark to upper left front corner. (23423) \$200.00

Stout, Rex. *DEATH OF A DOXY*. New York: The Viking Press, [1966]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. "First-rate Stout done at the age of 80. The tightness of the plot, the wit, and the people are done with sureness and speed, so that the book, though short, gives one the sense of having lived through a long stretch of tense expectation. New roles, too, for Orrie Cather, Cramer, and Wolfe in relation to a murder which they are not asked to investigate. Wolfe gets his \$50,000 fee, which one hopes he splits with the author." - Barzun & Taylor, *A Catalogue of Crime* (1989), 3066. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A47a. A fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with mild rubbing to spine ends and corner tips, slight color fade to title lettering of spine panel. (23416) \$100.00



Stout, Rex. THE FATHER HUNT. New York: The Viking Press, [1968]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. The British Crime Writer's Association award this novel with it's Silver Dagger Award for best novel. "Young Amy Denovo, whose mother was, killed in a recent, possibly not so accidental, hit-and-run, hires the great Nero to find out who her father is And in the process to discover, perhaps, the name of the mysterious benefactor who has been depositing checks to her account--a sum which now amounts to about \$264,000. The \$264,000 question is part and parcel of a plot that throws a few curves but doesn't really put his most excellent Wolfe to the test. Still, the Stout-hearted won't fuss."- Kirkus Review, 1 May, 1968. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A48a. A fine copy in a very good dust jacket with mild rubbing to front panel, a tiny chip to the lower right front corner, mild shelf wear to upper front corner tip and spine ends, small closed tear to upper left front corner at spine fold, slight color fade to spine panel. (23534) \$100.00

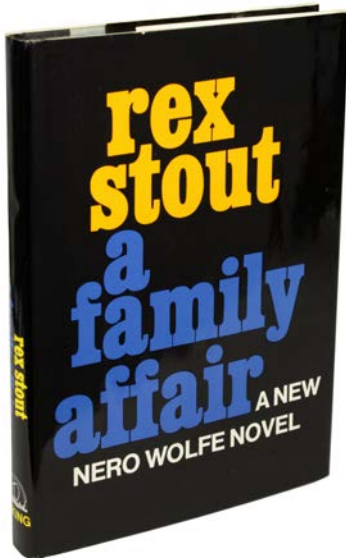
Stout, Rex. THE FATHER HUNT. New York: The Viking Press, [1968]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. The British Crime Writer's Association award this novel with it's Silver Dagger Award for best novel. "Young Amy Denovo, whose mother was, killed in a recent, possibly not so accidental, hit-and-run, hires the great Nero to find out who her father is And in the process to discover, perhaps, the name of the mysterious benefactor who has been depositing checks to her account--a sum which now amounts to about \$264,000. The \$264,000 question is part and parcel of a plot that throws a few curves but doesn't really put his most excellent Wolfe to the test. Still, the Stout-hearted won't fuss."- Kirkus Review, 1 May, 1968. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A48a. Slight lean, nick to paper at lower front edge, some foxing through out, a very good copy in a very good dust jacket with light shelf wear to corner tips and spine ends, a small 10 mm closed tear to upper left front panel, rubs and small stain to front panel, spine mostly color faded. (23417) \$50.00

Stout, Rex. DEATH OF A DUDE. New York: The Viking Press, [1969]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. Archie is on vacation with long time friend Lily Rowan. When there is a murder Nero travels to Montana to investigate. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A49a. A fine copy in a nearly fine price clipped dust jacket with mild rubbing to front panel, spine ends and corner tips. (23418) \$100.00



Stout, Rex. PLEASE PASS THE GUILT. New York: The Viking Press, [1973]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. The penultimate Wolfe novel, Stout is 87 when this is published. "...Nero stands up pretty well but Archie is only a faint echo of his brash and witty self." - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3081. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A50a. Some spine lean, a nearly fine copy in a very good to nearly fine dust jacket with two tiny closed tears with crease to upper right front panel, a touch of shelf wear to the spine ends and corner tips. (23419) \$45.00

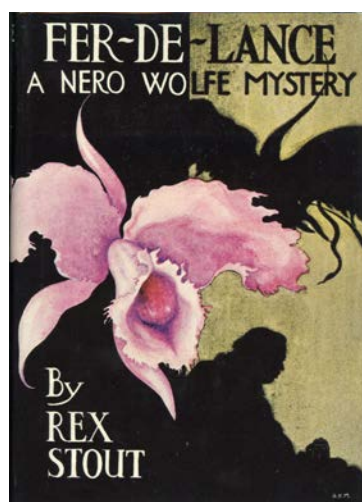
Stout, Rex. A FAMILY AFFAIR. New York: The Viking Press, [1975]. Octavo, cloth backed boards. First edition. A Nero Wolfe mystery novel. The final Wolfe novel, Stout passes away six months after publication.



"This late Nero Wolfe is remarkably good. A waiter at Rusterman's Restaurant is given a slip of paper with a name and address on it. Shortly thereafter, the waiter is blown to bits in Wolfe's south room, which effectively engages the big man's interest. Two other murders follow. When the main clue is found, it bearing comes as a shock to Nero and a surprise to the reader. Good byplay between Archie Goodwin and Lily Rowan puts this on par with the very best early tales" - Barzun & Taylor, A Catalogue of Crime (1989), 3069. Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend, Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, A50a. Fading along board edges, patchy fading to front paste down, a nearly fine copy in a fine dust jacket. (23420) \$85.00

Stout, Rex. Michael Bourne (editor). CORSAGE: A BOUQUET OF REX STOUT AND NERO WOLFE. Bloomington, IN: James A. Rock & Company Publishers, 1977. Octavo, cloth. First edition. Of 276 bound in cloth, this is one of 250 numbered copies. In 1940 Stout writes BAD FOR BUSINESS and offers it The American Magazine, that publisher offered to double his fee if it was re-written as a Nero Wolfe story, the author obliged and titled it "The Bitter End." After magazine publication Stout chose not to republish the story. This is the first book publication of "The Bitter End." Also included in this volume is a Rex Stout interview and "Why Nero Wolfe Likes Orchids." Hubin, pp. 777-778. Townsend,

Rex Stout: An Annotated and Secondary Bibliography, C14. A fine copy in a fine dust jacket. (23421) \$350.00



Stout, Rex. FER-DE-LANCE. [Shelton CT: The First Edition Library and Otto Penzler Books, 1996]. Octavo, cloth. Later (facsimile) edition. The first Nero Wolfe novel. A fine copy in a fine dust jacket. (23372) \$125.00

