He also will not accept all jobs offered to him for ethical reasons.

As circumstances dictate, Marlowe sometimes refrains from full-condemnation of acquaintances as he is also a poseur and knows it.

Marlowe is therefore a man of many faces who plays both the tough guy and the pushover, the sharpie and the dimwit.

**Novels**


*Playback* London, UK: Hamish Hamilton (1958)


**Produced Movie Scripts**

*Double Indemnity.* Paramount Pictures (1944)

*And Now Tomorrow.* Paramount Pictures (1944)

*The Unseen.* Paramount Pictures (1945)

*The Blue Dahlia.* Paramount Pictures (1946)

*Strangers on a Train.* Warner Bros., (1951)

**Other Works**

In addition to completing 7 novels, Chandler also wrote 26 poems, 8 book reviews, and 25 short stories which were collected in 12 volumes.

**Sources**

*The World of Raymond Chandler in His Own Words.* Edited by Barry Day. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, c2014.


Born in Chicago in 1888, Raymond Chandler moved to England with his mother when he was seven.

He relocated to California in 1912 where he worked as an accountant. Chandler enlisted in the Canadian army in 1917 and served in Europe. Upon release he returned to California and started working for Dabney Gil Syndicate as a bookkeeper. Chandler married in 1924. In 1932 Chandler was fired from his job due to drinking, absenteeism and involvement with female subordinates. Unemployed, he began writing “hardboiled detective stories” for inexpensive magazines that were called “pulp magazines or pulps”. These stories were later brought together as collected works.

At the request of the publisher Alfred A. Knopf, Chandler wrote his first novel The Big Sleep.

He continued to write novels, movie scripts, book reviews and columns through the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Chandler fell into a deep depression after his wife died in 1954. He passed away in La Jolla, CA of health related problems related to alcoholism in 1959.

Writing Style

Raymond Chandler’s novels and short stories are evocatively written, conveying the time, place and ambiance of Los Angeles and environs in the 1930s and 1940s.

Written in the “hardboiled” fiction writing style employed by Dashiell Hammett, Chandler’s works are written from the perspective of Philip Marlowe, a detective with a cynical attitude toward emotion.

Chandler appropriated the metaphor of a fraudulent Southern California in his work on a number of levels. His Los Angeles is steeped in promotional ballyhoo and movie fantasy as a symbol of artifice.

Deception is ubiquitous in Chandler’s works and detective Marlowe makes his way through false fronts by penetrating through appearances to the realities beneath.

Marlowe likens his investigations to a drama where principles play roles and speak from a script. They are a company of liars, cheats and imposters. The seductress is a recurring figure and Chandler’s male protagonist and his detectives are always on guard against deceiving women and female treachery.

The action in Chandler novels is swift-moving and “stagey”. Although his works enjoy critical acclaim today, Chandler’s novels have been criticized for their “rambling to non-existent plots” as well as their negative portrayals of women, African Americans and homosexuals.

Philip Marlowe sometimes portrays himself as a weary and beleaguered film critic forced to view a tedious production.

His speech is peppered with sharp lyrical similes which are unique to Chandler’s writing style. “The Champagne was as cold as Velley Forge...” “She was as limp as a freshly-killer rabbit”. “His smile was as wide as Wilshire Boulevard”.

Despite his cynicism, Marlowe is not a stereotypical tough guy. He attended university, speaks some Spanish, can be sentimental with friends, sometimes admires Mexicans and is a student of chess and classical music.