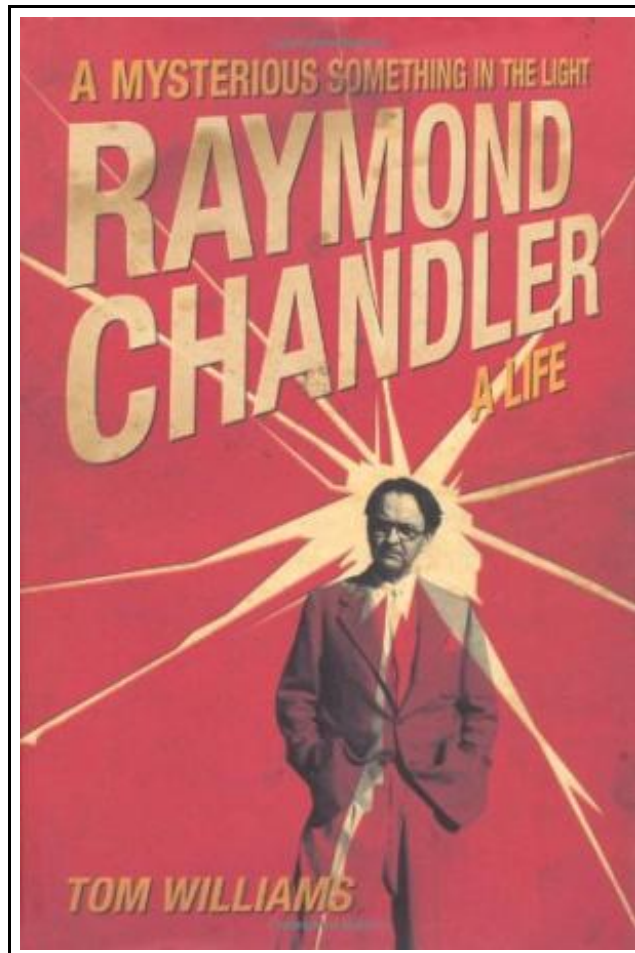


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Aurum Press Ltd, United Kingdom, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 160 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. What we know of Raymond Chandler is shrouded in secrets and half-truths as deceptive as anything in his magisterial novel *The Long Goodbye*. Now, drawing on new interviews, previously unpublished letters and archives on both sides of the Atlantic, literary gumshoe Tom Williams casts light on this most mysterious of writers. The Chandler revealed is a man troubled by loneliness and desertion from an early age - experiences that fuelled his writing as much as they scarred his life. Born in Chicago in 1888, his childhood was overshadowed by the cruel collapse of his parents marriage and his father s alcohol-fuelled violence. After his mother fled America, Chandler was schooled in London, but felt constrained by the stuffy English class system, eventually returning to the land of his birth, where - in corruption-ridden Los Angeles - he met his one great love: Cissy Pascal, a married woman 18 years his senior. It was only during middle age, after his own alcoholism wrecked a lucrative career as an oilman, that Chandler seriously turned to crime fiction, although his success was to prove bittersweet. An obsessive attitude towards his craft, unrealised literary ambitions and a suicidal turn after Cissy s death combined to prevent him from recapturing the verve of his earlier writing. But his legacy - the lonely, ambiguous world of Philip Marlowe - endures, compelling generation after generation of crime writers to go down mean streets. In this long-awaited new biography, the most thorough and comprehensive yet written, Tom Williams shadows one of the twentieth century s true literary giants and considers how crime was raised to the level of art.



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