



Back to the Badlands: Crime Writing in the USA

John Williams

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“A gazetteer of American noir.”—*Daily Telegraph*

In the summer of 1989 John Williams donned a baseball cap and took off for the States to search out the mythical America of modern crime fiction—to find James Ellroy’s Los Angeles, Elmore Leonard’s sleazy South Beach of Miami, Sara Paretsky’s Chicago, and many others on a tour of the American underbelly. The result was *Into the Badlands*, a riveting collection of interviews.

In 2005 Williams returned to discover that much had changed in the intervening years, both in crime writing and in America as a whole. As Williams crosses America in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he finds himself in a profoundly uneasy country. Whether their territory is inner-city DC, like George Pelecanos, or the rural white poverty of the Ozark Hills, like Daniel Woodrell, the best crime writers today are sending dispatches from the edge. John Williams brings their visions together to construct a powerful, personal portrait of America today.

Includes interviews with James Lee Burke, James Ellroy, James Crumley, Sara Paretsky, Eugene Izzi, Elmore Leonard, George V. Higgins, Vicki Hendricks, Kem Nunn, Kinky Friedman, Daniel Woodrell, and George P. Pelecanos.

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