



The Galton Case: A Lew Archer Novel

By Ross Macdonald

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Lew Archer returns in this gripping mystery, widely recognized as one of acclaimed mystery writer Ross Macdonald's very best, about the search for the long lost heir of the wealthy Galton family.

Almost twenty years have passed since Anthony Galton disappeared, along with a suspiciously streetwise bride and several thousand dollars of his family's fortune. Now Anthony's mother wants him back and has hired Lew Archer to find him. What turns up is a headless skeleton, a boy who claims to be Galton's son, and a con game whose stakes are so high that someone is still willing to kill for them. Devious and poetic, **The Galton Case** displays MacDonald at the pinnacle of his form.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Galton Case, published in 1959, was Ross Macdonald's breakthrough book. Its predecessors are craftsmanlike, highly literate, hard-boiled detective stories; *The Galton Case* and most of its successors are literature that happens to inhabit the detective-story form. For Macdonald the man, *Galton* was the first book in which he explored his deepest personal concerns (he was the child of a broken home who was passed from relative to relative in his youth). For readers, it's the book in which he first perfected the balancing act that became his trademark: a tightly written page-turner that also probes profound themes and frequently rises to something like poetry.

The tale opens with detective Lew Archer visiting the swanky offices of a lawyer acquaintance, who engages him to hunt for a long-missing scion of the rich Galton family. Though the case seems fruitless, Archer begins digging. Soon a seemingly unrelated crime intrudes--but Archer tells us, "I hate coincidences." As he roams California (and, briefly, Nevada) following leads and hunches, he gradually uncovers a long-buried tale of deception, hatred, and the power of illusion. As usual, Macdonald can accomplish more with three lines of dialogue and a simple description than most writers can in three pages. The connection between Archer's two cases finally clicks about three-quarters of the way through the book, and the moving denouement, with its final plot twist, takes place in a hardscrabble Canadian boarding house much like those in which Macdonald spent parts of his childhood. *The Galton Case* is an exceptionally satisfying read on several levels. --*Nicholas H. Allison*

Review

The Galton Case, published in 1959, was Ross Macdonald's breakthrough book. Its predecessors are craftsmanlike, highly literate, hard-boiled detective stories; *The Galton Case* and most of its successors are literature that happens to inhabit the detective-story form. . . . it's the book in which he first perfected the balancing act that became his trademark: a tightly written page-turner that also probes profound themes and frequently rises to something like poetry. . . . Macdonald can accomplish more with three lines of dialogue and a simple description than most writers can in three pages. . . . *The Galton Case* is an exceptionally satisfying read on several levels. --Amazon.com Review

Exciting, beautifully plotted, and written with taste, perception and compassion. --*New York Times Book Review*

A model of intelligently engineered excitement. --*New Yorker*

One of his best. . . . The Macdonald depth of understanding and dispassionate charity come out well, and the story. . . is richly plotted. --*San Francisco Chronicle*

"The character claiming to be the long-lost heir to the Galton fortune may be an actor, but he's not in the same league with (narrator) Grover Gardner; on the evidence here, few are. PI Lew Archer discovers that while 'John Galton' claims to have been raised in an orphanage in Ohio, he actually grew up in Canada. But listeners can make the same discovery from the very subtly Canadian way he pronounces the word 'about.' Even more fun, the fancy lawyer who hires Archer to find Galton speaks with the exact stagy faux-English accent that the likes of William Powell used in forties films noir; you can absolutely see his big-shouldered 1949 suit and his pencil mustache. Macdonald is at his best here; Gardner is even better. Winner of AudioFile Earphones Award." --*AudioFile*

One of his best. . . . The Macdonald depth of understanding and dispassionate charity come out well, and the story. . . is richly plotted. --*San Francisco Chronicle*

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

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Maryann Goldberg:

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