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### GLMQZQ - ASHLEY ALESSANDRA

From Perry Mason-creator Erle Stanley Gardner comes a lost classic of detective fiction featuring private eyes Donald Lam (once played by Frank Sinatra!) and Bertha Cool. "About the best of the series... perhaps since the very first." — Raymond Chandler Private investigators Bertha Cool and Donald Lam, stars of five of Hard Case Crime's most popular novels, return to solve their toughest case yet. Hired to prevent a socialite from poisoning her husband, Donald Lam dreams up an ingenious scheme involving a carton of anchovy paste and a fictitious national ad campaign. But when the whole thing backfires spectacularly and bodies, witnesses, and suspects start piling up, it'll take every ounce of Donald's brainpower and Bertha's bruising ruthlessness to keep the police at bay - and a killer from getting away with murder.

**SHE PLAYED THE ODDS - AND LOST!** When the beautiful girlfriend of a notorious gangster vanishes, the last man to be seen with her needs an alibi - and fast. Enter Donald Lam of the Cool & Lam detective agency. Donald tracks down the two women with whom his client claims to have spent the night and the client declares the case closed. But it's not. Something about his client's story doesn't add up, and Donald can't resist the temptation to keep digging. Before he knows it, he's dug up connections to a mining scam, an illegal casino, and a double homicide - plus an opportunity for an enterprising private eye to make a small fortune, if he can just stay alive long enough to cash in on it!

**EMERALDS ARE FOR EVIL** Shirley was sultry, sexy, smashing—a sweet young thing to make a sugar daddy's mouth water. This luscious lass loved pretty baubles, so no wonder men showered her with jewels. But when a deluge of emeralds turned into a reign of terror, Shirley needed someone to bail her out. That brought Bertha Cool and Donald Lam into the act, as the indomitable detective duo discovered that emeralds could be a girl's worst enemy when they carried a price tag of murder...

Donald Lam arrives at work one day to find an outraged police sergeant Frank Sellers stewing in the office of his senior partner, Bertha Cool. Sellers is close to cracking an armoured car robbery case, but in the course of his investigation, a telephone number for the Cool-Lam detective agency was found on one of his primary suspects - one Hazel Downer. The same Hazel Downer employs Donald Lam to find her husband who has run off with another broad, taking her fifty thousand dollars with him. Wasn't it fifty thousand dollars that haven't been recovered from the armoured car job?

Give 'em the Ax by Erle Stanley Gardner (as A. A. Fair), a Cool and Lam mystery, complete and unabridged. From the cover: The Rimpley Rendezvous was the kind of back-street bistro where a tired businessman could drop in for a pick-up, no questions asked. Deep carpets and subdued lights gave the place an air of clandestine class. And solicitous waiters catered to the customer's every whim. All these comforts added up to a steep cover charge, especially since blackmail figured as the major part of the tab. It was a very lucrative business...until a murderer cut into the profits...and left his ax in Donald Lam's car. The team of Cool and Lam are at their fast-talking, fast-moving best in this tough tale of suicide, blackmail and murder.

The search for stolen jewels and a missing woman yields deadly trouble for an LA detective duo in this hard-boiled mystery by the creator of Perry Mason. Side by side, Bertha Cool and Donald Lam make quite the odd couple of private investigators. She's a fifty-something-year-old widow, built like a bulldog, with the personality to match. He's a wiry, ex-lawyer in his thirties with a lightning-quick wit that always helps him out of a jam, including the one he finds himself in with their latest case . . . After Dr. Milton Devarest discovered his wife's jewelry stolen from their safe, they noticed his wife's secretary was also missing. Certain of what happened, Devarest asks Bertha and Donald to locate the secretary and persuade her to return the jewelry, no questions asked. But when Donald heads to Devarest's home to get some answers, all he finds are more questions—and a body . . . "The best American writer, of course, is Erle Stanley Gardner." —Evelyn Waugh "Gardner has a way of moving the story forward that is almost a lost art: great stretches of dialogue alternate with lively chunks of exposition, and the two work together perfectly, without sacrificing momentum." —Booklist

One morning Barclay Fisher awakes in the apartment of a beautiful woman. He is threatened with blackmail-- and he is pretty sure his wife will never understand. Hence his pitiful appeal to Bertha Cool and Donald Lam. Bertha smells money, and Donald heads for San Francisco. There he has quite a time with the glamorous

"other woman," a disconcerting and hilarious encounter with modern art, and a very nasty turn when he finds the body.

The first job was simple. Find the name of a man. He was to get the name of a man who provided the plot of a book. With just a few things to go on Donald Lam does exactly that - much to his frustration. He provides that information to his client - the name of the man, then acts surprised when his client really wanted more. Lam points out that if he was REALLY interested in the murder of the man, he made three big mistakes. The first was not telling him, so Lam could cover his back trail. The second was not telling him the man the police were interested in fit his description. The third was not leaving a phone number so Donald could warn him that the police might just be interested in a private eye who was looking up a famous murder case. Still, he was all business after that - pay him for the job. However, his partner accepts a second job - find out if it is safe for the client to come back since the death of the only man who could identify him in the murder case. It wasn't, but the man is arrested. Still, even Lam's job as a jury consultant to a law school friend of his wasn't the key to the case - it was Donald's own legal knowledge and ability to bait a trap. Maybe the real killer would never be prosecuted for it, but Donald's job was saving his client.

Bertha Cool was in a flap. The distinguished Mr Homer Breckinridge had been waiting twenty minutes for Donald Lam to make an appearance, and around Mr Breckinridge was the heady aroma of C-A-S-H. Then Donald appeared and in no time found himself hired to investigate an insurance claim. 'Such nice, safe, respectable work', purred Bertha, 'and it's up for grabs.' But it didn't take Donald long to find out he was anything but safe and that he was the one up for grabs ...

Following a money trail leads a PI into danger in this hard-boiled mystery by the creator of Perry Mason and author of Turn on the Heat. Brainy private detective Donald Lam is always one step ahead of the bad guys—but he's also smaller than them and typically gets beat up. That's why his boss, the ever-irascible Bertha Cool, has hired a martial arts master to teach him self-defense. The first class isn't easy for Donald, but he is rewarded with a new client . . . Henry Ashbury is concerned about his daughter's recent spending habits. He wants Donald to find out where her money is going, without letting on that he's a detective. So, going undercover as Ashbury's trainer, Donald soon learns the story behind the daughter's finances. But when his investigation also turns up a dead body, the diminutive detective must teach the killer a lesson in justice . . . "Lively wit and machinegun dialogue." —Ralph E. Vaughan, author of Murder in the Goblins' Playground "Gardner has a way of moving the story forward that is almost a lost art: great stretches of dialogue alternate with lively chunks of exposition, and the two work together perfectly, without sacrificing momentum." —Booklist

Lost for more than 75 years, The Knife Slipped was meant to be the second book in the series, but shelved when Gardner's publisher objected to (among other things) Bertha Cool's tendency to "talk tough, swear, smoke cigarettes, and try to gyp people." But this tale of adultery and corruption, of double-crosses and triple identities—however shocking for 1939—shines today as a glorious present from the past, a return to the heyday of private eyes and shady dames, of powerful criminals, crooked cops, blazing dialogue, and delicious plot twists. Donald Lam has never been cooler—not even when played by Frank Sinatra on the U.S. Steel Hour of Mystery in 1946. Bertha Cool has never been tougher. And Erle Stanley Gardner has never been better.

**COOL AND LAM RETURN - IN THE CASE OF A LIFETIME** Erle Stanley Gardner was not just the creator of PERRY MASON - at the time of his death, he was the best-selling American author of all time, with hundreds of millions of books in print. Among those books were the 29 cases of the brash, irresistible detective team of Bertha Cool and Donald Lam. Last year, Hard Case Crime brought out the first new Cool and Lam novel in decades, THE KNIFE SLIPPED, lost for 77 years after Gardner's publisher refused it. Now, we're bringing you the book Gardner wrote to replace it, often considered the best in the series: TURN ON THE HEAT. Hired by a mysterious "Mr. Smith" to find a woman who vanished 21 years earlier, Donald Lam finds himself facing a sadistic cop, a desperate showgirl, a duplicitous client, and one very dogged (and beautiful) newspaper reporter - while Bertha Cool's attempts to cut herself in on this lucrative opportunity land them both hip-deep in murder...

"Donald Lam and Bertha Cool, the sleuths in this detective novel, develop a connection between a missing alcoholic and a wander-

ing husband. Los Angeles and northern California."--

From the world-famous creator of "Perry Mason," Erle Stanley Gardner comes another baffling case for the Cool & Lam detective agency Erle Stanley Gardner was not just the creator of PERRY MASON - at the time of his death, he was the best-selling American author of all time, with hundreds of millions of books in print, including the 29 cases of the brash, irresistible detective team of Bertha Cool and Donald Lam. Gardner was also one of the most ingenious plot-spinners in the field, coming up with stunning twists and reveals... and THE COUNT OF 9 is Gardner at his twistiest. Hired to protect the treasures of a globe-trotting adventurer, Bertha and Donald confront an impossible crime: how could anything be smuggled out of a dinner party - least of all a 6-foot-long blowgun - when the guests were X-rayed coming and going? But that's nothing compared to the crime they face next: AN IMPOSSIBLE MURDER...

Dealing with debtors turns deadly for a prickly PI in this hard-boiled mystery by the creator of Perry Mason and author of Bats Fly at Dusk. A hot-headed widow and a glass-jawed ex-lawyer, Bertha Cool and Donald Lam seem like an unlikely duo of private detectives. Even so, they've managed to solve the most difficult of mysteries—when they're together. With Donald now on a European vacation, Bertha is hesitant to accept any new business—but money is money, and this new case seems routine enough . . . Bertha is hired to get sales engineer Everett Belder out of a \$20,000 problem. Unfortunately, his troubles soon multiply. His wife is receiving poisoned-pen letters accusing him of infidelity. Then she disappears. And there's also the matter of the body in his cellar. With everything spiraling out of control, Bertha must determine who is behind this deadly game of cat and mouse before another murder comes into play. "No one has ever matched Gardner for swift, sure exposition." —Kirkus Reviews "The best American writer, of course, is Erle Stanley Gardner." —Evelyn Waugh

Give 'em the ax: A simple private investigation turns into a murder scene.

**THE RIMLEY RENDEZVOUS** was a back-street bistro where a tired businessman could drop in for a pick-up, no questions asked. The cover charge was steep, Blackmail was the major part of the tab. It was a lucrative business—until a murderer cut into the profits...and left his weapon in Donald Lam's car. The famous team of COOL and LAM at their fast-moving, quick-thinking best. "Many enthusiasts like Erle Stanley Gardner even better in his disguise as A. A. Fair"

A hot-headed PI's missing person case leads to murder in this mystery by the creator of Perry Mason and author of Owls Don't Blink. Bertha Cool and Donald Lam make for an unlikely pair of private detectives. She's a fifty-something-year-old widow built like a longshoreman with a mouth to match. Donald is a wiry ex-lawyer in his thirties with a face that's a magnet for fists. Fortunately, he's whip-smart. His brains have gotten him and his partner through the toughest of cases. However, with World War II on, he's recently enlisted in the navy, leaving Bertha flying solo with her next client . . . A blind beggar is searching for a young lady who disappeared after being hit by a car. Bertha's certain she can handle a missing person case on her own, especially after her client asks her to break a hundred-dollar bill. But when her search yields murder, Bertha is suddenly flying blind. Now she must quickly locate a killer before everything comes crashing down. "No one has ever matched Gardner for swift, sure exposition." —Kirkus Reviews "The best American writer, of course, is Erle Stanley Gardner." —Evelyn Waugh

From Perry Mason creator Erle Stanley Gardner - during his life, the best-selling American author of all time -- comes a lost classic of detective fiction featuring private eyes Donald Lam (once played by Frank Sinatra!) and Bertha Cool. "What I can say is that for those who like their crime fiction to be high-octane, this novel is a stunner." The Daily Mail HBO series Perry Mason, based on characters from Erle Stanley Gardner's novels, airs June 2020 starring Matthew Rhys in the titular role. HAS DONALD LAM GONE OVER TO THE DARK SIDE? From the world-famous creator of PERRY MASON, Erle Stanley Gardner - at his death the best-selling American writer of all time - comes another baffling case for the Cool & Lam detective agency. Return to the 1960s as a simple insurance investigation into a car accident puts Bertha Cool and Donald Lam on the trail of murder - and Donald hip-deep in danger when he poses as an ex-con to infiltrate a criminal gang. It's Gardner's twistiest caper ever, and a fitting conclusion to Hard Case Crime's revival of this classic (and long unavailable) detective series.