



The Handle: A Parker Novel (Parker Novels Book 8)

Richard Stark

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Parker, the ruthless antihero of Richard Stark's eponymous mystery novels, is one of the most unforgettable characters in hardboiled noir. Praised by critics for his taut realism, unapologetic amorality, and razor-sharp prose style—and adored by fans who turn each intoxicating page with increasing urgency—Stark is a master of crime writing, his books as influential as any in the genre. The University of Chicago Press has embarked on a project to return the early volumes of this series to print for a new generation of readers to discover—and become addicted to.

In *The Handle*, Parker is enlisted by the mob to knock off an island casino guarded by speedboats and heavies, forty miles from the Texas coast.

"Parker . . . lumbers through the pages of Richard Stark's noir novels scattering dead bodies like peanut shells. . . . In a complex world [he] makes things simple."—William Grimes, *New York Times*

"Whatever Stark writes, I read. He's a stylist, a pro, and I thoroughly enjoy his attitude."—Elmore Leonard

"Westlake knows precisely how to grab a reader, draw him or her into the story, and then slowly tighten his grip until escape is impossible."—*Washington Post Book World*

"Donald Westlake's Parker novels are among the small number of books I read over and over. Forget all that crap you've been telling yourself about *War and Peace* and Proust—these are the books you'll want on that desert island."—Lawrence Block



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