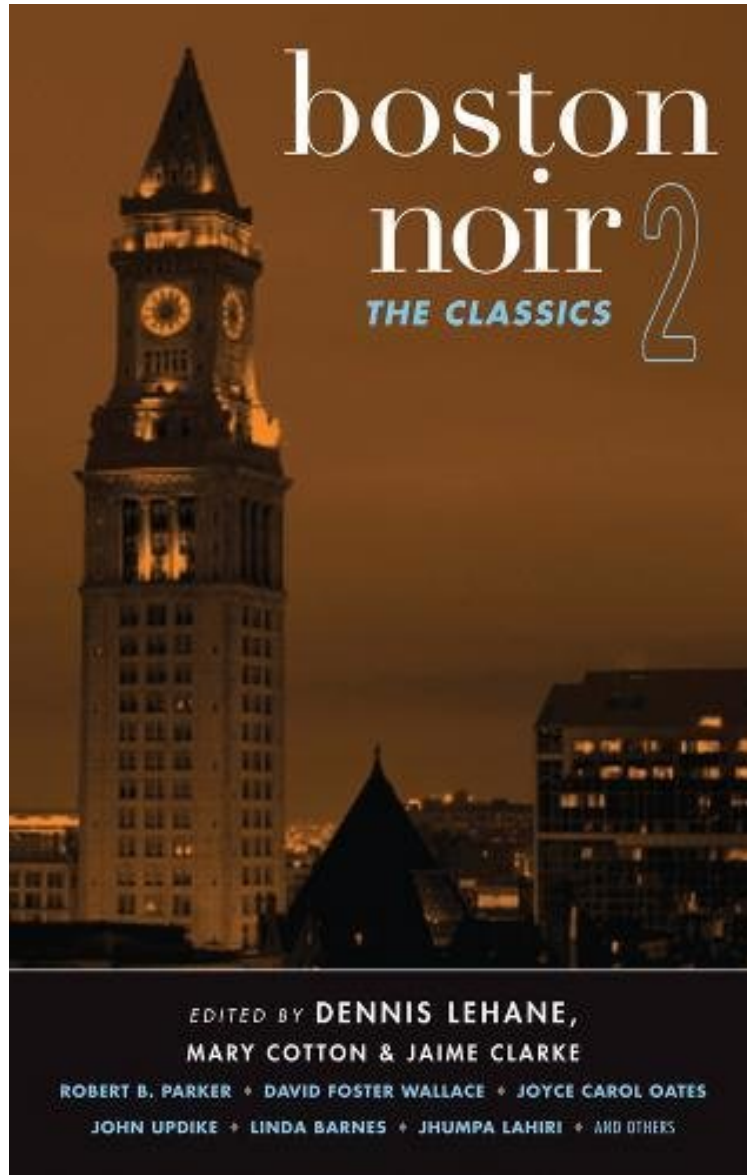


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Boston Noir 2: The Classics (Akashic Noir)

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From Akashic Books : Boston Noir 2: The Classics (Akashic Noir) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boston Noir 2: The Classics (Akashic Noir):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Strong stories, mixed genres By The Ginger Man The first collection of Boston Noir was released in 2009 and contained new pieces commissioned for that anthology. Boston Noir 2 includes works scoured from previously published short stories or excerpts from novels. This new "classics" anthology

contains selections from Robert Parker, Dennis Lehane, Andre Dubus, Joyce Carol Oates and David Foster Wallace among others. Almost every entry is worth reading but there are a few problems. First, the editors broadly define noir in their introduction as fiction including "bleak elements, danger, tragedy, sleaze." Many of the works in the book can only be characterized as noir at a stretch, if at all. Oates' story about the effect of a seance on an MIT professor is more Gothic than noir. The excerpt from Barbara Neely's *Blanche Cleans Up* is sharply written and insightful regarding Boston politics and society. However, it contains such a small part of the whole work that, while a crime is hinted at, none of the other elements of noir are evident. The second weakness in *Boston Noir 2* is that these excerpts were not written to stand alone and some act as teaser rather than final product. Finally, the Boston and suburban locales in these stories seem to be incidental rather than integral to their content, except in Neely's and Andre Dubus' entries. These concerns aside, there are nevertheless some very strong selections in the new edition of *Boston Noir*. Fans of Parker's Spenser series will enjoy an early rendering of the classic detective. A bit rougher around the edges, Spenser is ever the knight in tarnished armor ("Brenda, whatever it is, I can fix it"); threatening to throw bad guys out of windows while talking about William Faulkner. Lehane's tale of a petty thug's murder includes a killer who does not approve of what she did but thinks: "Someone had to pay, a message had to be sent. Can't have some fool traveling through life like he got an all-day bus pass. You got to pay the freight. Everyone. Got to." Andre Dubus' characters evoke the proper level of angst. A security guard's "body, whether at rest or in motion, seemed the result of sixty-one years of erosion, as though all his life he had been acted upon and, with just enough struggle to keep going, he had conceded." The murderer in the story, waits with resignation for the police, reminding the reader of Burt Lancaster in Noir movie classic *The Killers*. Jason Brown's *Driving the Heart* is perhaps the most completely noir story as drivers race through the dangers of the urban night carrying organs for transplant that will die in just a few hours. The protagonists are perfectly rendered. One wants only to pull over for a sandwich en route to the operating room while the driver faces down a shotgun and observes, "Hospital delivery often attracts people like myself, who have cared very deeply about the wrong things." *Boston Noir 2* is a perfect book to keep by the nightstand to read an entry each evening, exposing the reader to some fine authors to whom he may want to return in larger works. If the reader does not care overmuch if the stories are of the noir genre or not, the book should rate 3 stars. Given the 3 factors noted above, I felt more comfortable with a 2 star rating and an asterisk.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Boston Noir 2* By GOOD HEN Very, very Boston! I am enjoying every aspect. Definitely would recommend and will probably re read! It is a pleasure to reacquaint myself with some of these authors.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. fun book By CCK interesting stories, fast reading

Boston Noir 2: The Classics is now a Boston Globe best seller!"The contributor list is delightfully quirky...The collection's unifying element is a deep understanding of Boston's Byzantine worlds of race and class--as seen terrifyingly in Andre Dubus's tale of milltown resentment and pampered preppies."--Boston Globe"¹⁴ superior selections in this 'classics' volume in Akashic's series of regional dark crime short stories, the works of established writers that have stood the test of time."--Publishers Weekly" This collection features crime stories that have already been published. But that's OK when you have the likes of Chuck Hogan, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert B. Parker, Linda Barnes, George V. Higgins, Dennis Lehane, and David Foster Wallace all under the same roof...Followers of Akashic's long-running Noir series--not to mention, of course, fans of Boston-set crime fiction--should eagerly devour this one."--Booklist" These stories take place in neighborhoods you know well, and that can drive a reader crazy as well as entice him or her, but the read is worth it."--Boston Column, Summer Reading pick" *Boston Noir 2: The Classics* is a thorough representation of what noir has been, is, and continues to become. . . . The shadows over Boston are those of Bogart, leaning into the spotlight with that complexity of soul, that derisive navigation of morality and deviance. . . . The shadows on this cover prepare the tone, that these thin darknesses can be willed into corruption with little effort, and the reader will learn the ease of giving into it."--HTML Giant" There are few gifts I enjoy more than a box of chocolates. The very best surprise me, each candy layered with unexpected delights that leave me hungry for more. The same may be said of *Boston Noir 2*. It's a collection of dark short stories by names you know, set in places familiar to Bostonians. Edited by Dorchester's crime fiction king and Hollywood darling, Dennis Lehane...*Boston Noir 2* overflows with stories from some of the best writers of our time...This is the perfect book to open after a long day...The danger, of course, is that at the end of each story, you'll go for just one more and stay up well past your bedtime. My advice? Indulge."--Patriot Ledger Classic reprints from: Classic short fiction reprints from: George Harrar, George V. Higgins, Dennis Lehane, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert B. Parker, Hannah Tinti, Abraham Verghese, David Foster Wallace, and others. Dennis Lehane is the author of the Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro mystery series (*A Drink Before the War*; *Darkness*, *Take My Hand*; *Sacred*; *Gone, Baby, Gone*; *Prayers for Rain*; and *Moonlight Mile*), as well as *Coronado* (five stories and a play) and the award-winning novels *Mystic River*, *Shutter Island*, and *The Given Day*. *Mystic River*, *Shutter Island*, and *Gone, Baby, Gone* have been made into award-winning films. In 2009 he edited the best-selling anthology *Boston Noir* for Akashic Books. Mary Cotton is the pseudonymous author of nine novels for young adults, six of them New York Times bestsellers. She is also a fiction editor for the literary magazine *Post Road*, and is co-editor of *No Near Exit: Writers Select Their Favorite Work from Post Road*.

She is co-owner of Newtonville Books in Boston, Massachusetts. Jaime Clarke is a graduate of the University of Arizona and holds an MFA from Bennington College. He is the author of the novels *We're So Famous*, *Vernon Downs*, *World Gone Water* and *Garden Lakes*; editor of the anthologies *Don't You Forget About Me: Contemporary Writers on the Films of John Hughes*, *Conversations with Jonathan Lethem*, and *Talk Show: On the Couch with Contemporary Writers*; and co-editor of *No Near Exit: Writers Select Their Favorite Work from Post Road Magazine* (with Mary Cotton). He is a founding editor of the literary magazine *Post Road*, now published at Boston College, and co-owner, with his wife, of Newtonville Books, an independent bookstore in Boston.

From Booklist Unlike the first *Boston Noir* (2009) and, indeed, unlike the *Noir* series as a whole this collection features crime stories that have already been published. But that's OK when you have the likes of Chuck Hogan, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert B. Parker, Linda Barnes, George V. Higgins, Dennis Lehane, and David Foster Wallace all under the same roof. Parker's *Surrogate*, from 1982, offers Spenser fans a very early look at their favorite Boston PI; an excerpt from *Infinite Jest*, Wallace's 1996 novel set in an ironic near future, should send readers to the library to either read or reread the whole book; Barnes' *Lucky Penny* offers readers the debut appearance of fan favorite Carlotta Carlyle; and the outstanding stories from Lehane and Hogan are each worth the price of admission all by themselves. Followers of Akashic's long-running *Noir* series not to mention, of course, fans of Boston-set crime fiction should eagerly devour this one. --David Pitt "Boston is a very diverse city, and *Boston Noir 2* manages to offer readers a satisfying taste of some of the best classic noir literature the metropolis has to offer. Just like all previous books in this series from Akashic Books, this one is highly recommended." --*Verbiage Magazine* "In a bloody tribute to this great city, Lehane and company have resurrected several out-of-print classics and pushed the meaning of noir into peculiar places. For those unfamiliar with Greater Boston and its literary heritage, *Boston Noir 2: The Classics* is a great place to start." --Chicago Center for Literature and Photography "Akashic Books is this edgy press that you may or may not have heard of... Their noir series is sure to please fans of noir, and I recommend picking up one of the many titles, perhaps beginning with *Boston Noir 2: The Classics*... with contributors like David Foster Wallace, Joyce Carol Oates and Andre Dubus, how can you go wrong with *Boston Noir 2: The Classics*?" --Sacramento Press