

# Girl Gangs, Biker Boys, and Real Cool Cats

Pulp Fiction and Youth Culture, 1950 to 1980

Editors: Iain McIntyre and Andrew Nette

Foreword: Peter Doyle

*Girl Gangs, Biker Boys, and Real Cool Cats* is the first comprehensive account of how the rise of postwar youth culture was depicted in mass-market pulp fiction. As the young created new styles in music, fashion, and culture, pulp fiction shadowed their every move, hyping and exploiting their behaviour, dress, and language for mass consumption and cheap thrills. From the juvenile delinquent gangs of the early 1950s through the beats and hippies, on to bikers, skinheads, and punks, pulp fiction left no trend untouched. With their lurid covers and wild, action-packed plots, these books reveal as much about society's deepest desires and fears as they do about the subcultures themselves.

*Girl Gangs* features approximately 400 full-color covers, many of them never reprinted before. With 70 in-depth author interviews, illustrated biographies, and previously unpublished articles from more than 20 popular culture critics and scholars from the US, UK, and Australia, the book goes behind the scenes to look at the authors and publishers, how they worked, where they drew their inspiration and—often overlooked—the actual words they wrote. Books by well-known authors such as Harlan Ellison and Lawrence Sanders are discussed alongside neglected obscurities and former bestsellers ripe for rediscovery. It is a must read for anyone interested in pulp fiction, lost literary history, retro and subcultural style, and the history of postwar youth culture.

Contributors include Nicholas Tredell, Alwyn W. Turner, Mike Stax, Clinton Walker, Bill Osgerby, David Rife, J.F. Norris, Stewart Home, James Cockington, Joe Blevins, Brian Coffey, James Doig, David James Foster, Matthew Asprey Gear, Molly Grattan, Brian Greene, John Harrison, David Kiersh, Austin Matthews, and Robert Baker.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Iain McIntyre** is a Melbourne-based author, musician, and community radio broadcaster who has written a variety of books on activism, history, and music. Recent publications include *How to Make Trouble and Influence People: Pranks, Protest, Graffiti and Political Mischief-Making from across Australia* (2013), *Wild About You: The Sixties Beat Explosion in Australia and New Zealand* (2010), and *Tomorrow Is Today: Australia in the Psychedelic Era, 1966–1970* (2006). He also helped compile the *Down Under Nuggets: Original Australian Artyfacts 1965–1967* CD compilation (2012).

**Andrew Nette** is a writer and pulp scholar based in Melbourne, Australia. His first novel, *Ghost Money*, a crime story set in Cambodia in the mid-1990s, was published in 2012 and his second, *Gunshine State*, was published in 2016. He is one of the founders of Crime Factory Publications, a small press specialising in crime fiction, and coedited *Hard Labour* (2012), an anthology of Australian short crime fiction, and *LEE* (2014), an anthology of fiction inspired by American cinema icon Lee Marvin. His short fiction, reviews and nonfiction writing has appeared in numerous print and online publications. He is currently undertaking a PhD on the history of Australian pulp fiction.

**Peter Doyle** is an Australian author, musician, and visual artist. He lectures in print media production at MacQuarie University and is a part-time curator of the Police and Justice Museum. The first of his four crime novels in the Billy Glasheen series, *Get Rich Quick*, won the 1996 Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Novel. He has also had four nonfiction books published, including the acclaimed *City of Shadows: Sydney Police Photographs, 1912–1948* (2007).



## SUBJECT CATEGORY

History-Pop Culture / Literature

## PRICE

\$29.95

## ISBN

978-1-62963-438-8

## PAGE COUNT

336

## SIZE

10x8

## FORMAT

Paperback

## PUBLICATION DATE

10/17

## DISTRIBUTED BY

Independent Publishers Group  
(312) 337-0747  
www.ipgbook.com

## DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK/EUROPE BY

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd  
t: 020 8829 3000  
orders@turnaround-uk.com

## ◆ PM PRESS ◆

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