

DREAMS, PARABLES AND HALLUCINATIONS: THE METAPHORICAL INTERLUDES IN DASHIELL HAMMETT'S NOVELS

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Dashiell Hammett has generally been regarded as the creator of «realistic» detective fiction ever since Raymond Chandler used his works in «The Simple Art of Murder» as the main argument against classic detective fiction:

Hammett . . . was one of a group –the only one who achieved critical recognition– who wrote or tried to write realistic mystery fiction . . . [he] took murder out of the Venetian vase and dropped it into the alley . . . gave murder back to the kind of people that commit it for reasons, not just to provide a corpse . . . He put these people down on paper as they were, and he made them talk in the language they customarily used for these purposes. (13-15)

Chandler's views were based on Hammett's own statements on the pages of *Black Mask*, where he reminded readers that his stories were based on his first-hand experience with crime and criminals as opposed to fictional detectives like Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes or S.S. Van Dine's Philo Vance.

But we should not overlook the fact that Hammett had worked in the advertising industry before joining *Black Mask*, and that he knew very well how to sell a product, including literary products like his own stories. Accordingly, his editor Joseph Shaw wrote introductions to his stories, where he emphasized their «reality»: «If you kill a symbol, no crime is committed and no effect is produced. To constitute a murder, the victim must be a real human being of flesh and blood» (vi); Hammett himself supported this marketing strategy writing letters to the editor, as well as introductions and reviews where he used his past as a detective as his main asset to sell his stories and to contrast his realistic detectives and criminals with their fictitious

Dreams Parables

Kathleen Armour



Dreams Parables:

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Report on "**Dreams Parables**"

In a global defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their power to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is truly awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Dreams Parables**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound effect on the souls of its readers.

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