

# BLOG BYTES



by Kristopher Zgorski

*Happiness Is a Book* (<https://happinesisabook.com>) is both a great life motto and a wonderful blog about the love of reading. Owned by Aubrey Hamilton, a former librarian and lifelong reader, *Happiness Is a Book* has a unique perspective among book blogs—its focus is on forgotten books. Each Friday, Aubrey posts a review about a novel from the past, or in some cases an assessment of a particular author's oeuvre with a focus on one specific work. In both cases, the blog posts are a mixture of review and analysis of how the discussed work fits under the larger umbrella of crime fiction. All readers know that they have overlooked excellent books just due to ignorance or lack of time, so having a knowledgeable resource like Aubrey to highlight forgotten gems is extremely valuable.

Dave, the owner of *Pulp, Crime, and Mystery* (<https://davespulpandmysteryreads.wordpress.com>) knows his stuff when it comes to his specific loves in crime fiction, in particular pulp and espionage releases. As a resource for viewing the wonderfully effective pulp-style covers of the past, this blog should be a regular stop on the Internet highway. And the knowledgeable and succinct reviews are a gold mine of information for aficionados of this brand of crime fiction. One of the most inspired parts of the blog is how current reviews are linked to a dedicated author page for the most prolific writers so that visitors can easily find Dave's reviews of other books by their favorites.

*Mystery\*File* (<https://mysteryfile.com/blog>) in various different formats has been run by Steve Lewis since the seventies, so in terms of longevity, this one is hard to beat. The blog itself is a more recent development but remains an important resource. Like the other entries in this month's Blog Bytes column, *Mystery\*File* is focused on the past, helping readers to understand how crime fiction has morphed over the years. Readers will constantly find new content on this site—mostly informed and well-written reviews of books, movies, and television shows by a collection of consistent reviewers including Steve's son, Jonathan. The tab called Links alone can consume hours of a visitor's time, including a resource that leads fans to many other websites of interest.

Lastly, I would like to highlight my own latest initiative: *We Are What We Read* (<https://www.youtube.com/@WAWWR>). This is a series of YouTube video episodes, each featuring eight members of the crime-fiction community. This includes authors, fans, and publishing professionals, with the firm aim of representing the full diversity of the genre. All guests are invited to talk about one influential, overlooked, or important book in their own lives for about five minutes. There is also a bookshop.org storefront set up so viewers can easily order the books under discussion. At this point, I have committed to a year of monthly episodes, but with the excited public response we've

recieved, I can see *We Are What We Read* continuing on beyond that original pledge.

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