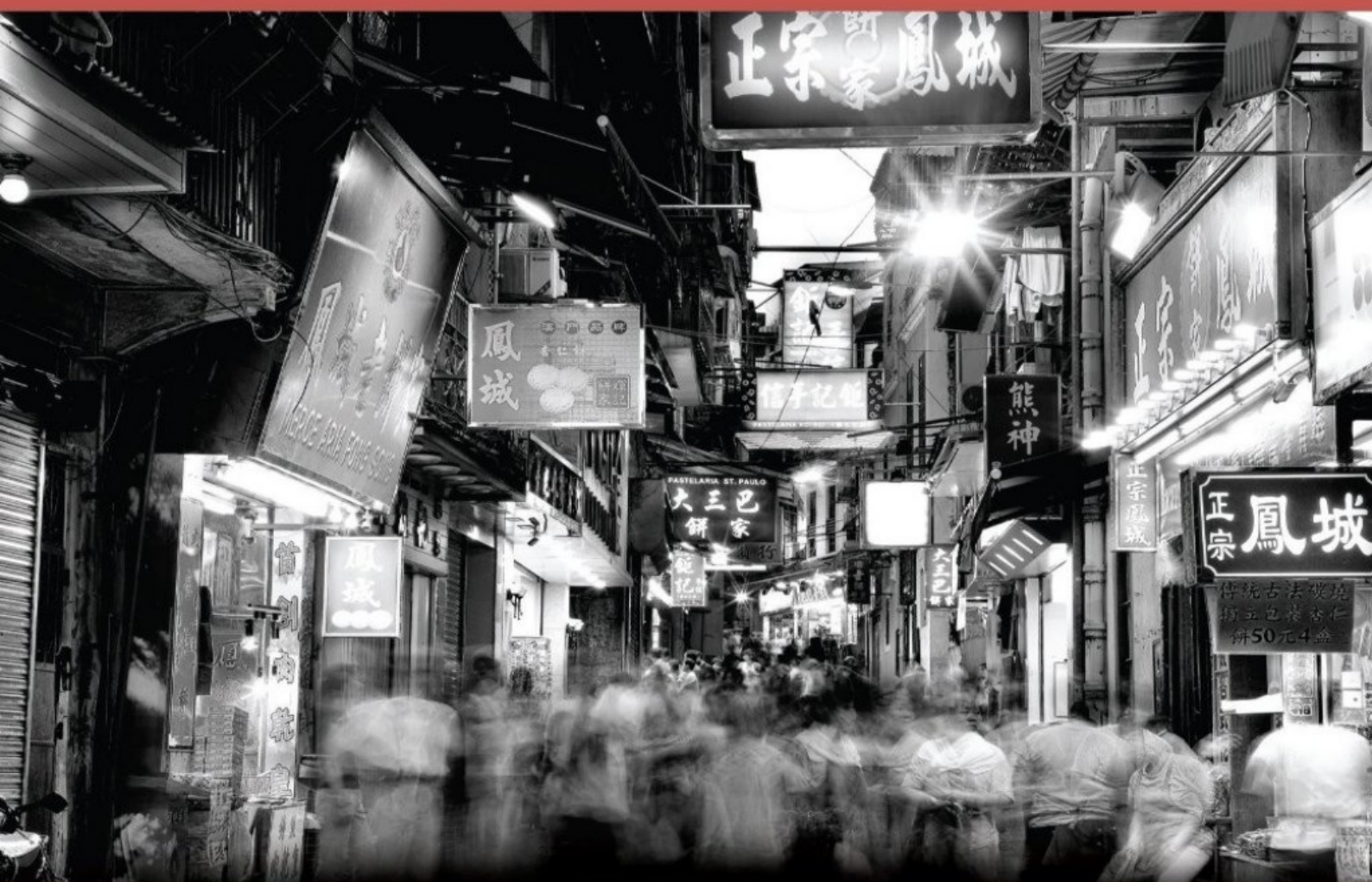


# ED McBAIN

"ED McBAIN IS A MASTER."—NEWSWEEK



# THREE BLIND MICE

A MATTHEW HOPE MYSTERY

## **PRAISE FOR THE MATTHEW HOPE SERIES**

“A master. He is a superior stylist, a spinner of artfully designed and sometimes macabre plots.” —*Newsweek*

“He is, by far, the best at what he does. Case closed.” —*People*

“McBain has a great approach, great attitude, terrific style, strong plots, excellent dialogue, sense of place, and sense of reality.” —Elmore Leonard

“It’s hard to think of anyone better at what he does. In fact, it’s impossible.”  
—Robert B. Parker

“The Matthew Hope novels do for the world of Florida sleaze what the 87th Precinct books do for big-city vice. The reader is hooked and given not a moment’s letup.” —*New York Times Book Review*

### *Jack & The Beanstalk*

“A cracking good read...a solid, suspenseful, swiftly-paced story.”  
—*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

### *The House That Jack Built*

“Deft plotting, crisp dialogue, and intriguing characters rack up solid entertainment.” —*San Diego Union*

“When McBain sets his tale to wagging, he commands close attention.” —*Los Angeles Times*

### *Three Blind Mice*

“Matthew Hope, the suave Florida lawyer, is back in the latest of McBain’s series of cynically titled nursery-rhyme and fairy-tale themed novels....McBain is an undisputed master of the genre—slick, wry, and satisfying.” —*Booklist*

### *There Was a Little Girl*

“McBain does it again! A brilliant piece of writing...and you won’t put it down.” —Larry King, *USA Today*

### *Cinderella*

“The first page of a McBain novel is like the first potato chip: It whets the appetite for more.” —*Newsday*

*Snow White & Rose Red*

“Guaranteed to raise the hackles you didn’t know you had.” —*Kansas City Star*

## ALSO BY ED McBAIN...

### THE 87TH PRECINCT NOVELS

*Cop Hater* (1956), *The Mugger* (1956), *The Pusher* (1956), *The Con Man* (1957), *Killer's Choice* (1957), *Killer's Payoff* (1958), *Lady Killer* (1958), *Killer's Wedge* (1959), *'Til Death* (1959), *King's Ransom* (1959), *Give the Boys a Great Big Hand* (1960), *The Heckler* (1960), *See Them Die* (1960), *Lady, Lady, I Did It* (1961), *The Empty Hours* (1962), *Like Love* (1962), *Ten Plus One* (1963), *Ax* (1964), *He Who Hesitates* (1964), *Doll* (1965), *Eighty Million Eyes* (1966), *Fuzz* (1968), *Shotgun* (1969), *Jigsaw* (1970), *Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here!* (1971), *Sadie When She Died* (1972), *Let's Hear It for the Deaf Man* (1972), *Hail to the Chief* (1973), *Bread* (1974), *Blood Relatives* (1975), *So Long As You Both Shall Live* (1976), *Long Time No See* (1977), *Calypso* (1979), *Ghosts* (1980), *Heat* (1981), *Ice* (1983), *Lightning* (1984), *Eight Black Horses* (1985), *Poison* (1987), *Tricks* (1987), *Lullaby* (1989), *Vespers* (1990), *Widows* (1991), *Kiss* (1992), *Mischief* (1993), *And All Through the House* (1994), *Romance* (1995), *Nocturne* (1997), *The Big Bad City* (1999), *The Last Dance* (2000), *Money, Money, Money* (2001), *Fat Ollie's Book* (2002), *The Frumious Bandersnatch* (2004), *Hark!* (2004), *Fiddlers* (2005)

### THE MATTHEW HOPE NOVELS

*Goldilocks* (1977), *Rumpelstiltskin* (1981), *Beauty and the Beast* (1982), *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1984), *Snow White and Rose Red* (1985), *Cinderella* (1986), *Puss in Boots* (1987), *The House That Jack Built* (1988), *Three Blind Mice* (1990), *Mary, Mary* (1992), *There Was a Little Girl* (1994), *Gladly the Cross-Eyed Bear* (1996), *The Last Best Hope* (1998)

### OTHER NOVELS

*The April Robin Murders* (with Craig Rice) (1958), *The Sentries* (1965), *Where There's Smoke* (1975), *Doors* (1975), *Guns* (1976), *Another Part of the City* (1986), *Downtown* (1991), *Driving Lessons* (2000), *Learning to Kill* (2005), *Transgressions* (2005)

## **AND BY EVAN HUNTER...**

*The Evil Sleep!* (1952), *Don't Crowd Me* (1953), *The Blackboard Jungle* (1954), *Second Ending* (1956), *Strangers When We Meet* (1958), *A Matter of Conviction* (1959), *Mothers and Daughters* (1961), *Buddwing* (1964), *The Paper Dragon* (1966), *A Horse's Head* (1967), *Last Summer* (1968), *Sons* (1969), *Nobody Knew They Were There* (1971), *Every Little Crook and Nanny* (1972), *Come Winter* (1973), *Streets of Gold* (1974), *The Chisholms: A Novel of the Journey West* (1976), *Walk Proud* (1979), *Love, Dad* (1981), *Far from the Sea* (1983), *Lizzie* (1984), *Criminal Conversation* (1994), *Privileged Conversation* (1996), *Candyland* (2001)

### **PLAYS**

*The Easter Man* (1964), *The Conjuror* (1969)

### **SCREENPLAYS**

*Strangers When We Meet* (1960), *The Birds* (1963), *Fuzz* (1972), *Walk Proud* (1979)

### **TELEPLAYS**

*The Chisholms* (1979), *The Legend of Walks Far Woman* (1980), *Dream West* (1986)

### **CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

*Find the Feathered Serpent* (1952), *The Remarkable Harry* (1959), *The Wonderful Button* (1961), *Me And Mr. Stenner* (1976)

### **SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS**

*The Jungle Kids* (1956), *The Last Spin & Other Stories* (1960), *Happy New Year, Herbie* (1963), *The Easter Man (a Play) and Six Stories* (1972), *The McBain Brief* (1982), *McBain's Ladies: The Women of the 87th* (1988), *McBain's Ladies, Too* (1989), *The Best American Mystery Stories* (2000), *Running from Legs* (2000), *Barking at Butterflies* (2000)

# THREE BLIND MICE

---

# THREE BLIND MICE

A MATTHEW HOPE MYSTERY

ED *by* McBAIN

**f** THOMAS & MERCER

The characters and events portrayed in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

Text copyright ©1990 HUI Corporation

No part of this book may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without express written permission of the publisher.

Published by Thomas & Mercer  
P.O. Box 400818  
Las Vegas, NV 89140

ISBN-13: 9781612182629  
ISBN: 1612182623

*T*HIS IS FOR  
LOU AND ALICE WEISS

# CONTENTS

---

[Chapter 1](#)

[Chapter 2](#)

[Chapter 3](#)

[Chapter 4](#)

[Chapter 5](#)

[Chapter 6](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 9](#)

[Chapter 10](#)

[Chapter 11](#)

[Chapter 12](#)

[About the Author](#)