



The Saint In New York

Leslie Charteris

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How Simon Templar cleans up corruption in Manhattan and brings the mob along with its mysterious leader to justice all in the space of forty-eight hours.

Another long weekend - for the Saint.

The Saint In New York Details

Date : Published 1984 by Dent (first published 1934)

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Author : Leslie Charteris

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From Reader Review The Saint In New York for online ebook

Wendy says

Surprisingly violent for a book of this era. Nonetheless I enjoy the Saint character and would read another book in this series.

Simon Mcleish says

Originally published on my blog here in July 2000.

This novel, the first Saint story to be conceived as a novel rather than expanded to that length from work which had already appeared in magazines, established Leslie Charteris as an international bestseller. This is a new Saint, rather more in the line of an American thriller character than he was originally, though still maintaining a trademark line of banter perplexing to his opponents.

The three days covered in the novel's plot do require a particularly tough Simon Templar, as he takes on New York's organised crime single handed. Aiming for "The Big Fellow" who has recently taken over, he is twice 'taken for a ride', kills several hoodlums, baits corrupt politicians, and is enchanted by the mysterious Fay Edwards, mouthpiece of the Big Fellow.

Aside from the excitement of the plot itself, the novel is remarkable for containing one of the earliest direct attacks on Nazism by a popular writer, among the familiar diatribes against corrupt politicians which give his work something of a radical tinge.

Karen says

The Saint is a pretty durable character, in every sense of the phrase. This book feels like a slice of history where organized crime in New York City controls the city and most of the government. Oh, wait... Maybe not so 'historical' after all.

Kelvin says

A really well written and fast paced Saint book. Everything happened in three days. I also like that in this Saint series, at the end of each book is a section called "About the Author". It gave a very good history of Leslie Charteris and how the Saint series came about and how it progressed into different medias and ultimately became an industry of its own.

Tad Richards says

In *The Three Musketeers*, Milady is held prisoner by an incorruptible guard. You know she's going to corrupt him, and although it takes her about six chapters to do it, you relish every word, every web of deceit she spins. In *The Saint in New York*, Simon Templar is taken for a ride by mobsters, and it takes about a chapter to reach that particular climax, and you find yourself skimming pages, waiting for him to turn the tables. You do want to know how he's going to pull it off, but you'd rather that Leslie Charteris cut to the end of the chase. That's the difference between a great storyteller and a good one.

But Charteris is a good one, and the Saint is a good character, and the florid overwriting of the pre-Hammett, pre-Leonard detective novelist has a charm of its own, and I very much enjoyed this book.

Of the crime novelists of that era, I'd still give the nod to Earl Derr Biggers, who is way underrated, and Charlie Chan. Interestingly enough, Derr Biggers was a Caucasian writing about a Chinese protagonist, and Charteris was half-Chinese writing about a Caucasian protagonist. Which says something about cultural appropriation, but I'm not sure what.

Lemar says

This is Charteris' masterpiece. The Saint emerges in full while retaining the devil-may-care reckless charm that is his signature as surely as his stick figure drawing.

Bill Lynas says

In a few weeks time my family & I will be on holiday in New York, so what better way to get in the mood than by reading one of my favourite novels featuring the famous Simon Templar.

This may be the fourth (or fifth ?) time I've read this book & it's as enjoyable as ever. Charteris wrote this way back in the 1930s, but it's as fresh & exhilarating as anything written today. The Saint takes on numerous gangsters in New York City & dispatches them with a smooth mixture of gunplay & humour. What lifts this Saint story above many others is that amidst the action & excitement lies a real emotional depth.

If you're a fan of The Saint then this is a must read, & any new readers who enjoy the book will delight at the final uplifting message that has appeared in the stories of Leslie Charteris for many years....

WATCH FOR THE SIGN OF THE SAINT. HE WILL BE BACK!

Mike Jensen says

The first SAINT book I read and a huge improvement over those written earlier. Charteris was not a BLACK MASK writer, but mastered that very readable style early. He was too prone to remind readers how fabulous Simon Templar was every three pages, which is tedious. His plots were absurd. By the time he wrote THE SAINT IN NEW YORK, he still had his pulpy style but had reduced the number of fabulous reminders to a bearable level, and his plotting had improved. I won't kid anyone and claim this is actually a good book, but there is a LOT of fun to be had in the reading. It also makes interesting study for writers and would-be

writers as to what Charteris did to make the book so readable.

Rural Soul says

My first "The Saint" book. I loved watching series "The Saint" starring Roger Moore in my childhood. It aired on PTV.

HBalikov says

The Saint was the most popular character in British thrillers before James Bond. Like Fleming's protagonist, he enjoys the good things in life while showing his dark side. And, like Bond, The Saint has been portrayed on film, radio and television by a gaggle of actors including: George Sanders, Vincent Price, Roger Moore and Val Kilmer. Unlike Bond, The Saint (Simon Templar) has no "license to kill," but he does so while following his own "code."

Charteris, who began writing about him in the 1920's, does not equivocate about Templar being a criminal. Most of the stories are about him righting wrongs perpetrated by other criminals while taking his cut of any money, jewels, etc. that he discovers along the way. Part of Templar's character is his word. Once he gives it, he is on an unalterable path to finishing his commitment. But, he does so with panache. Here is how another character sees him: "No man whom he had ever known could have been so elegantly at ease and at the same time so alert and dangerous. No other man he had know could ever have measured up in his judgment to the stature of devil-may-care confidence that he had demanded in his own mind and set out to find---and Valcross called himself a judge of men." And later, Charteris describes his approach as follows: "He went forth, as he had done so often in the past, with nothing but a sublime faith that the gods of all good buccaneers would provide. And there was the loaded automatic in his pocket, and the ivory-hilted throwing-knife strapped to his hand in cast the gods should overdo their generosity..."

I was not a fan of The Saint, and this is the first of Charteris' books that I have read. I only knew this character from his other media iterations. And, having read this book, those portrayals were all merely caricatures. This Saint was more interesting and the venue, New York City in the early 1930's, equally so. This was a place where skyscrapers were still a new thing, Prohibition had just concluded, the City was spiraling into economic chaos and, crime and corruption ran rampant. We see this all through the eyes of a foreigner, and that makes it all the more interesting. These are dark times and the story is gritty, as Templar, seeks out those who kidnapped and killed a boy.

There is a slight, belated, introduction to romance. And, a few opportunities for The Saint to show his sardonic wit, but most of the book is devoted to his progress in peeling back the layers of corruption in order to find his targets. The process seems to be Charteris' thing as Templar searches for The Big Fellow. This guy is ethereal, and though there is more to the other characters, they are not well filled out. The plot details can often verge on stock, but the surprise ending carries its weight. In employing this genre, Charteris often walks a fine line between repetition that is tedious and repetition that reassures the reader.

All in all, I have no regrets. This was entertaining.

Randy says

From 1933, a harder edged Saint than the later books, Simon Templar is in New York earning \$1,000,000 by tracking down and killing underworld figures that killed his employer's son a few years before.

Along the way, he rescues a six year old girl kidnapped because her millionaire father had refused to pay protection, prevents her from being killed, and tracks down the "big Guy" behind it all.

Paul Magnussen says

This is the book that put Leslie Charteris on the map and made best-sellers of all the previous Saint books in retrospect.

Set shortly after the repeal of Prohibition, this tale of revenge is one of the grimmest, and the certainly the most violent, of all the Saint stories, so that when it was filmed, it was considerably toned down (and all hint of corruption in the New York judiciary removed, of course).

Nevertheless, most Saint fans, including myself, seem to regard it as one of the best. To take just one example: as a synopsis of all the previous Saint books — vital, if new readers are to understand the story — the prologue (which takes the form of a letter to the NYPD from Simon's old adversary Chief Inspector Teal of Scotland Yard) is one of the most skillful things I've seen.

Charteris knew New York well, along with its denizens and their culture and language. The characters are drawn with great verve, especially Inspector John Fernack, the various members of the gangland hierarchy, and the mysterious Fay Edwards, who falls in love with Simon at the same time as she is helping him to kill just about everyone she knows.

Above all, Charteris shows himself once again a first-rate story-teller. Gripping from start to finish.

Evi Routoula says

Απλοϊκ? γρ?ψιμο ? κακ? μετ?φραση. Σε κ?θε περ?πτωση διαβ?ζεται πολ? ευχ?ριστα, η ιστορ?α ε?ναι αφελ?ς, ο ?ρωας, ο ?γιος, ε?ναι το αν?κητο παλικ?ρι που καταφ?ρνει τα π?ντα, υπ?ρχει ο απ? μηχαν?ς Θε?ς της ερωτευμ?νης γυνά?κας που θα τον σ?σει την κατ?λληλη στιγμή, υπ?ρχει ο μεγ?λος κακ?ς που ε?ναι προφαν?ς εξ αρχ?ς ? σχεδ?ν εξ αρχ?ς. Παρ?λα αυτ?, ?χει μια αθω?τητα, την αθω?τητα της εποχ?ς που γρ?φτηκε, ?ταν η Αμερικ? και ?λος ο κ?σμος ?ταν πολ? πιο απλ?ς, χωρ?ς κινητ? τηλ?φωνα, χωρ?ς ?ντερνετ. Εδ? μιλ?νε μ?νο τα πιστ?λια! Και ο ?κρατος ηρωισμ?ς.

Mark says

One of the early Saint novels not written in three novellas. AND it is a nice take upon the sole adventurer

who is up against the whole of New Yorks gangsterdom.

The Saint gets asked to help out in order to break the back of organised crime in a pre-WOII New York. He comes to town and gets to work with a list of people that are big boys in the crime world and pretty quick people start dying. The Saint meets Henry Fernack a police-officer he likes (and will continue to do so in future books and movies) and a young lady who tickles his fancy and apperently he does hers.

In the end the Saint meets the Big Boss and leaves the big Apple having singlehandedly decimated a crime-organisation.

This is a somewhat dated but fun adventure of a darker Saint than before and after. This is perhaps as close at the EON folks got to Charteris' hero while creating their moviehero 007.

A fun book that I have read often and undoubtely will do so again.

Bruce Blanchard says

Simon Templar, the Saint, Invades the Big Apple

This novel of the Saint is a period piece, harkening back to the days of the corrupt Tammany Hall where judges and politicians were bribed and paved the way of gangsters. Where police interviews used a bright sweating light and the 3rd degree. Where killers walked free from courts of justice and the easiest way to die would be to take on the gangsters. Enter the cool and calm Simon Templar in a case of murder, battle, and sudden death and he is the newest celebrity to down and out.

The price for this job is impressive. The challenge is the biggest he's ever known: take down the top hoods, stay one step ahead of the police, and figure out the identity of the top man in the operation known as the Big Fellow. What could be simpler?

I was warned this novel would be a turning point in the Saint's life. The Saint has always been ready to take on Death itself. Push it, twist it, and fun. This is one story where he will question his own motives and how to deal with them. Women, egos, fears, and rankled fears of exposure rule the plot of this book.

Hire the Saint to be an assassin, fine. Just be aware the Saint is not a man to be used. I was warned The Saint in New York. Watch out, world, Simon Templar is on the loose and enjoying life to it's fullest, thank you very much!
