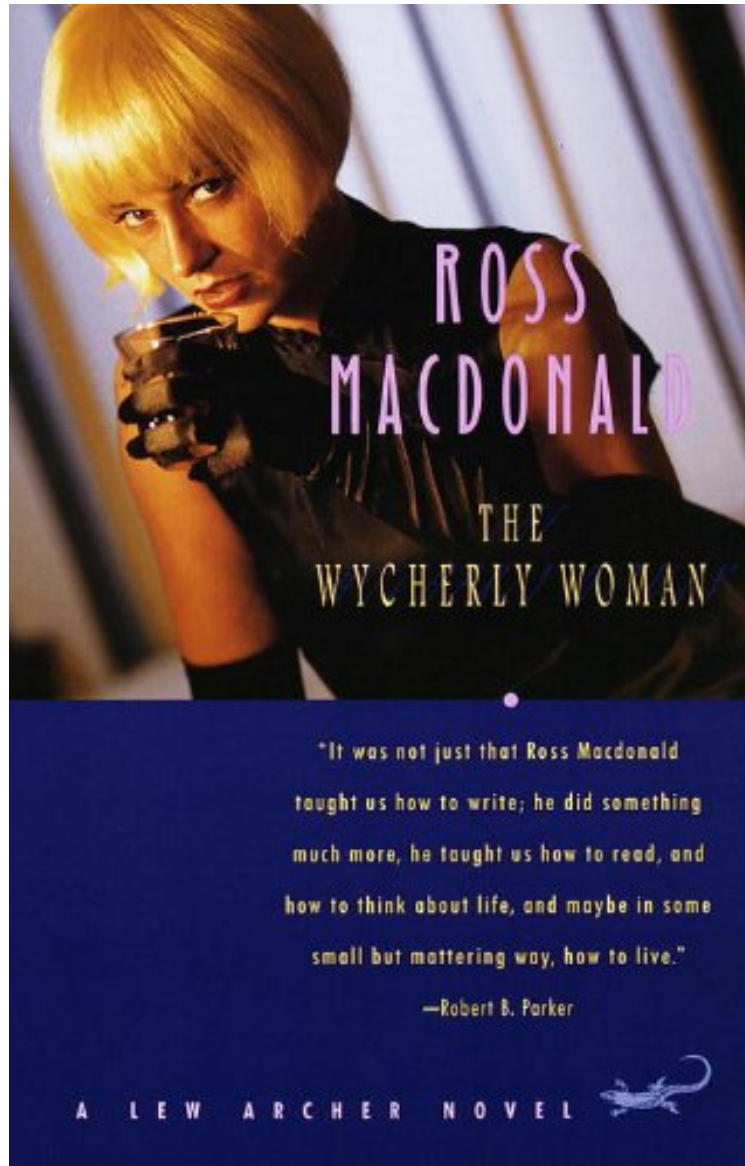


The Wycherly Woman

Von Ross Macdonald

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Von Ross Macdonald : The Wycherly Woman before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wycherly Woman:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Little Girl LostVon Herman Ross Macdonald("Kenneth Millar in real life" as the book jackets notes) had an extraordinarily troubled and tragic relation with his daughter, the late Linda Millar. However, actual events that occurred between

father and daughter began to make their way into the Lew Archer mysteries. This is one of the most tragic examples. Even before the Alisos tragedy in Santa Barbara, Kenneth Millar had difficulty relating to his daughter. In his papers, at UC Irvine, he writes of the "natural, incestuous feelings" toward his daughter and his wife's "reactions" to them. But in 1956, a drunken teenage Linda Millar ran down two hispanic boys who were walking home from parochial school. One of them died. The resultant prosecution tore the city of Santa Barbara apart. Hatred came from the old families, the hispanic families-the ones who didn't take to outsiders(of whom Ross Macdonald was one). When the case was wrapped up, Ross MacDonald fled to Menlo Park, California with his family and went through a year of psychoanalysis. On his return, Linda became a college student at UC Davis, and then broke her probation by disappearing from the campus. That event almost killed Macdonald-he had a serious stroke-and a ten day "man hunt" featured Macdonald's impassioned television plea for Linda to come home. A detective, he hired (who would become the model for Arnie Walters, Lew Archer's helpful colleague, finally found her in Reno. There, in a nutshell is the plot of *The Wycherly Woman*. Lew Archer is called by an oil rich father, Homer Wycherly, to find his beloved daughter. Archer is specifically ordered not investigate the parallel disappearance of Wycherly's former wife. However, the two come together in an incestuous drama that reads much like Greek tragedy. Who, exactly, is the Wycherly woman that Archer seeks? Mother or daughter? In his search for his daughter lost, Homer Wycherly mirrors Ross Macdonald's own tragedy. The author's former weakness for scenic descriptions is bolstered by setting a significant portion of the novel in Menlo Park-San Francisco. However, unlike some critics believe, the book opens in Bakersfield which is featured in some other Archer novels-but the author doesn't get that city quite right.(Who could?)The book is saturated with incestuous situations, confusions between daughter and wife, the miracles of psychoanalysis(the new religion of the author), and psychologists as being the saviors of a lost girl. That didn't work with the author. His daughter died tragically young. It does work with this novel. The strong and tight plotting, the infusion of atmosphere, the nuanced and subtle prose, the action level-both covert and overt-make this a thriller with a real surprise ending. The characters-the wilted California blondes, the con men who use them and discard them, the stench of quick money-all make this one of the author's masterpieces. Having known the author, however, briefly, I am sure he would rather have had the book fail than his daughter lost. Definitely worth reading for all mystery fans-rivals Chandler! 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very well done Von Ein Kunde This is only the second book I have read by MacDonald but it certainly won't be the last. The plot and characterizations were both very strong. From what I have read so far, MacDonald compares very favorably with Hammett and Chandler. The thing that I probably like best about MacDonald is that his detective, Lew Archer, seems more like a real person than most of the detectives in this genre. He is tough, but he also shows some sensitivity and human emotion.

Kurzbeschreibung Phoebe Wycherly was missing two months before her wealthy father hired Archer to find her. That was plenty of time for a young girl who wanted to disappear to do so thoroughly--or for someone to make her disappear. Before he can find the Wycherly girl, Archer has to deal with the Wycherly woman, Phoebe's mother, an eerily unmaternal blonde who keeps too many residences, has too many secrets, and leaves too many corpses in her wake. From the Trade Paperback edition. From Library Journal Published in 1949, 1961, and 1962, respectively, these three titles find gumshoe Lew Archer up to his neck in murder, kidnapping, and blackmail. A just another day at the office. This is hard-boiled detective writing at the top of its form. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. Kurzbeschreibung Phoebe Wycherly was missing two months before her wealthy father hired Archer to find her. That was plenty of time for a young girl who wanted to disappear to do so thoroughly--or for someone to make her disappear. Before he can find the Wycherly girl, Archer has to deal with the Wycherly woman, Phoebe's mother, an eerily unmaternal blonde who keeps too many residences, has too many secrets, and leaves too many corpses in her wake. From the Trade Paperback edition.