



Falling Angel: A Novel

By William Hjortsberg

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Falling Angel: A Novel By William Hjortsberg

Hjortsberg's Edgar Award–nominated classic about the hunt for a vanished singer that leads a detective into the depths of the occult

Big-band frontman Johnny Favorite was singing for the troops when a Luftwaffe fighter squadron strafed the bandstand, killing the crowd and leaving the singer near death. The army returned him to a private hospital in upstate New York, leaving him to live out his days as a vegetable while the world forgot him. But Louis Cyphre never forgets.

Cyphre had a contract with the singer, stipulating payment upon Johnny's death—payment that will be denied as long as Johnny clings to life. When Cyphre hires private investigator Harry Angel to find Johnny at the hospital, Angel learns that the singer has disappeared. It is no ordinary missing-person's case. Everyone he questions dies soon after, as Angel's investigation ensnares him in a bizarre tangle of black magic, carnival freaks, and grisly voodoo. When the sinister Louis Cyphre begins appearing in Angel's dreams, the detective fears for his life, his sanity, and his soul.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of William Hjortsberg including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Originally published in 1978, Hjortsberg's debut mystery was the basis for the film *Angel Heart*.

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Review

“Terrific . . . One of a kind . . . I’ve never read anything remotely like it.” —Stephen King

“A chilling homage to the hard-boiled detective novel of the Raymond Chandler school.” —*The New York Times*

“A near perfect book . . . Not since *Psycho* changed the bathing habits of thousands has a novelist so completely turned conceptions inside out.” —*Los Angeles Times*

About the Author

William Hjortsberg (b. 1941) is an acclaimed author of novels and screenplays. Born in New York City, Hjortsberg's first success came with *Alp* (1969), an offbeat story of an Alpine skiing village, which Hjortsberg's friend Thomas McGuane called, “quite possibly the finest comic novel written in America.” In the 1970s, Hjortsberg wrote two science fiction novels, *Gray Matters* (1971) and *Symbiography* (1973), as well as *Toro! Toro! Toro!* (1974), a comic jab at the macho world of bullfighting. His best-known work is *Falling Angel* (1978), a hard-boiled occult mystery. In 1987 the book was adapted into a film titled *Angel Heart*, which starred Robert De Niro and Mickey Rourke. Hjortsberg's most recent work is *Jubilee Hitchhiker* (2012), a biography of Richard Brautigan, American writer and voice of 1960s counterculture.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth Haakenson:

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