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On the Lam: Narratives of Flight in J. Edgar Hoover's America

By William Beverly

Rethink Press, United Kingdom, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The fugitive is the sinister hero of many a novel (*Light in August*, *Beloved*), the luminary in a cluster of motion pictures and in other popular entertainment (*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Fugitive*, *Thelma and Louise*), and a headliner for the daily news (O. J. Simpson, Osama bin Laden). Yet, although a paradigm and symbol, seldom has the fugitive figure been the focus of literary or cultural discussion. Correcting that oversight, this book maps changing landscapes of criminal flight in American texts by focusing on the twenty years between 1932 and 1952, the period when the codes of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI first prevailed. It was the time that policing was modernized and reconfigured, a time when law enforcement fought to redeem itself from the corruption and compromise of Prohibition. The young Hoover was the star of this rehabilitation. His administrative innovations were matched only by his tireless effort to shape public sentiment about crime. His complex system employed information and communication technology as a way to overcome the...



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