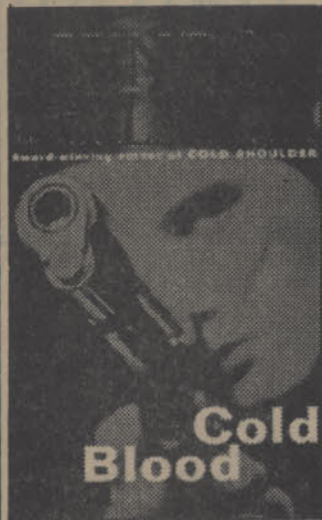


Bookshelf bargain



COLD BLOOD:

Suspicion and fear surround the mysterious disappearance of a movie star's daughter Anna Louise Caley. The race to claim the reward spirals into a deadly voodoo trail in the French quarter of New Orleans. Ex-Lieutenant Lorraine Page, in her desperation to succeed in her first case, is caught in a web of deceit and violence that threatens to drag her back into the murky world she has fought so hard to escape. Continuing the investigation means risking everything. But the million of dollar bonus is one hell of an incentive not to back off a case that could kill her — or give her the future and the professional respect she craves.

By Lynda LaPlante. Rs 330



MISSION POSSIBLE

He has saved 26 people charged with murder and gets to know the latest in mysterious cases in a jiffy. He is a super sleuth with guts and gumption.

D M Bahl trails the detective

THE SCENE: Lakhnour village near Saharanpur. A tea shop outside the village. Besides tea, biscuits, dry sweets, 'bidi', cigarettes, match boxes etc are available here. Although no liquor is sold but, in due course, 'hoochers' brought their own stuff and consumed it in the evenings. Soon, it became a popular 'joint' as was intended in the game-plan of a super sleuth from Delhi.

Also deployed as part of the plan were a number of operators impersonating as field labourers, house servants and so on as the likely sources of relevant information.

Twenty-three cassettes of private conversations of villagers, police officers and others were recorded. The tapes blew up the prosecution story and presented facts of a murder that had taken place some time ago in the village. Six people charged with the murder were thus saved.

There are numerous other cases in which innocent persons were saved by this sleuth from clutches of criminals and conspiracies. Some of his famous cases include, 'Maharajah and the Dancing Girl', 'Operation Bust', 'Royal Conspiracy of Manipur', 'Saharanpur Murder Case', 'Scandal in Bheem Taal' and so on.

The super sleuth is Ramesh Madan, a Delhi-based private consulting detective who has already set several enviable national and international records in the field of crime investigation. He has so far saved 26 innocent people from going to the gallows, charged for crimes they never committed.

He has won seven national and four international awards. These include, the International Investigator of the Year award in

1989 and the Keith Roger Award for 'World's Best Detective' in 1990 at Oxford. He has recently been honoured with the title of 'Vijaya Shree' by the India International Friendship Society for his outstanding contributions to the world community.

He is the first Indian to have become a certified international investigator (CII) way back in 1967 and the first Asian to be elected as the International President and thereafter Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Council of International Investigators, USA. At present, he is the Executive Director of

truth and produce relevant evidence when necessary. A long time has passed since then. Today, he is a professional at solving mysterious cases.

It is well known that Sherlock Holmes was created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the world's first private consulting detective for his mystery stories and novels. He modelled him as an ideal professional who focussed his intellect and experience in every case that he handled with greatest concentration and energy to get to the bottom of the truth.

Conan Doyle was an avid

pride, aggressiveness and relative youth are believed to have originated from the proud, even if unsuccessful, private consulting detective Wendel Schere.

Further, it is believed that *A Study in Scarlet*, the first detective novel by Conan Doyle was based on an actual and highly publicised affair, universally known as 'St. Luke's Mystery', in which Wendel Schere had not been able to impress the judge with his findings. Conan Doyle picked up the threads from that case and proceeded to demonstrate his worth in solving a case.

Ever since the creation of Sherlock Holmes, many authors have fictionalised private investigation and their trade portrayed in romanticised imagery. But, Ramesh Madan is no fiction. Here, in flesh and blood, he is a self-made professional and operates just like Sherlock Holmes for reaching at the truth. He has been chiselled and shaped by destiny as he has struggled through the jungle of difficult circumstances.

His physical features differ but his professionalism and competence, much like Sherlock Holmes, are indeed remarkable. Handsome, bespectacled, pleasant, very amiable, calm and unruffled, he is a living legend.

He started his investigation career as a freelancer in 1958. His creativity, knowledge of law, immense patience and, above all, instinct enabled him to achieve success in some of the most complex cases. In 1961, he founded the All India Private Detectives Association. Subsequently, in 1977, he established Goliath Detective Private Limited which is a top detective agency in India, employing hundreds of investigators with over



Ramesh Madan: His diktat runs over here

a dozen offices all over the country.

Ramesh Madan does not proceed with a case in which, during preliminary investigations, he finds his client actually guilty. His mission is to save the innocent from injustice. It is a no mean achievement to have saved 26 people wrongly charged with murder and numerous others from unjustified harm and persecution.

His methods are based on his capacity to quickly gather maximum relevant information, rare imaginative power to visualise all the possibilities and methodically work on his logically arrived at theory.

For collection of information, he employs highly advanced modern electronic gadgets — remote listening devices, hidden transmitters, variety of cameras, highly sensitive audio and video recorders, lethal and non-audio

lethal weapons, to name just a few. He has a fast and reliable communication system with his informers and usually receives information in a matter of seconds from his men.

His studio has an enormous collection of examination kits, devices, gadgets, alarm systems and disguise material. Ramesh Madan claims to possess more equipment of the latest variety than any other detective in any part of the world.

Being a perfectionist, he believes in unearthing complete truth and nothing short of that, often at a considerable danger to his own life. Having escaped three serious attempts on his life, he continues with his mission without fear and is admired by countless people as their 'Godfather'.

Investigation of civil crimes comprises about 15 per cent of total work load, other jobs under

his umbrella include investigating cases of fraud, false claims, infringement of trademarks and patents, verification of insurance claims, trailing missing persons and a host of particular verifications.

Ramesh Madan is a living example of grit, guts, gumption and glory. These are the very qualities Conan Doyle desired and portrayed in the master detective of his fiction. Of course, Madan has the added advantage of technological advancements which make his methods even more scientific.

Ramesh Madan is the man who discovered Sherlock Holmes in himself and updated his techniques in keeping with the emergence of highly sophisticated electronic equipment.

In Conversation

Ramesh Madan

this apex international body of private investigators.

And it all started with his personal experience. As a penniless refugee from Pakistan, he came to Delhi in 1947 with his sister and younger brothers. He was all of 11 years then and had to struggle to earn livelihood for his helpless family.

Later when compensation was given by the government for land and property left in Pakistan, the family's legitimate share was allegedly usurped by the stepmother and uncles. The strong urge to get justice, provided the spark to his hidden talent for carrying out meticulous and methodical investigations. At the young age of 16, he fought this battle alone, and won purely by dint of infinite capacity for hard work and keen eye for detail.

In the process, he mastered the art of persuasion, acting and various original techniques of investigation to arrive at the

reader of crime stories published in newspapers. He was also aware of the shabby treatment meted out to private inquiry agents. A kind of sympathy for these private investigators and his own desire to prevent miscarriage of justice due to ad hoc and incomplete evidence, motivated him to create a model detective upon the foggy stage of London's wickedness. He invented Sherlock Holmes in order to elevate this fascinating but unorganised business to something nearer to an exact science and began writing detective fiction.

In modelling the character of Sherlock Holmes, it has been stated by Conan Doyle's biographers that he chose Dr Joseph Bell, his old teacher at the Medical College for

professionalism, keen observation and snap deductions, but the other aspects, including the points of name, arrogance

Disney aims to usurp kings of West End

While some lament the musical's domination of Broadway and the West End, audiences show appetite for the genre

Productions. That company has staged musicals on the Continent, particu-

shows". He believed that the company's founder, Walt Disney, would have approved of

Nick Allott, executive producer of Cameron Mackintosh Ltd., said he was pleased at

Martin Guerre are among more than 300 productions staged by Sir Cameron around the world