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ZJ CZUPOR'S MYSTERY MINUTE: ON TOUR WITH DEAD WRITERS

ANSWER: Margaret Millar (1915-1994) was a pioneer in writing suspense novels about the psychology of women with often surprise endings. Most of her novels were “stand-alones” but she occasionally created a detective character for more than one novel. Her novel *Beast in View* (1955) was adapted for Alfred Hitchcock’s TV series *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (1964) and *Rose’s Last Summer* (1952) for Boris Karloff’s *Thriller* (1960). For a while, her books were out of print but in 2016, Soho Syndicate re-issued many of her novels and some are available as ebooks.



In 1956, Millar won the Edgar award for Best Novel, *Beast in View*, and four later novels were also nominated for Best Novel: *An Air That Kills* (1957), *The Listening Walls* (1959), *A Stranger in My Grave* (1960), and *The Fiend* (1964).

In 1965, the Los Angeles Times named her “Woman of the Year,” and Mystery Writers of America awarded her the “Grand Master Award” in 1983.

Her husband, Kenneth Millar, was a famous, award-winning writer of hard-boiled mysteries featuring private detective Lew Archer. He wrote his first four novels, all stand-alones but changed to writing as Ross Macdonald to avoid confusion with his wife who became famous as a writer before him. As a couple, they collectively produced fifty-three books in forty-five years.