



## Devil in a Blue Dress

By Walter Mosley

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**It's 1948, and Easy Rawlins is on the trail of a missing woman in South Central L.A.**

*Devil in a Blue Dress* honors the tradition of the classic American detective novel by bestowing on it a vivid social canvas and the freshest new voice in crime writing in years, mixing the hard-boiled poetry of Raymond Chandler with the racial realism of Richard Wright to explosive effect.

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## **Devil in a Blue Dress By Walter Mosley Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #574682 in Books
- Published on: 1990-06-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.60" h x .90" w x 5.80" l, .95 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Walter Mosley's *Easy Rawlins* has few illusions about the world--at least not about the world of a young black veteran in the late 1940s in Southern California. His stint in the Army didn't do anything to dissuade him from his belief that justice doesn't come cheap, especially for men like him. "I thought there might be some justice for a black man if he had money to grease it," Easy says. Fired from his job on the line at an aircraft plant, he's in danger of losing his home, symbol of his tenuous hold on middle class status. That's a good enough reason to accept a white man's offer to pay him for finding a beautiful, mysterious Frenchwoman named Daphne Monet, last seen in the company of a well-known gangster. Easy's search takes the reader to an L.A. few writers have shown us before--the mean streets of South Central, the after-hours joints in dirty basement clubs, the cheap hotels and furnished rooms, the places people go when they don't want to be found. Evocative of a past time, and told in a style that's reminiscent of Hammet and Chandler, yet uniquely his own, Mosley's depiction of an inherently decent man in a violent world of intrigue and corruption rang up big sales when it was published in 1990 (although the movie version, with Denzel Washington as Easy, never found the audience it deserved). The minor characters are deftly and brilliantly developed, especially Mouse, who saves Easy's life even as he draws him deeper into the mystery of Daphne Monet. Like many of Mosley's characters, Mouse makes a return appearance in the succeeding *Easy Rawlins* mysteries, such as *A Red Death*, *Black Betty*, and *White Butterfly*, every one of which is as good as *Devil in a Blue Dress*, his first. --Jane Adams

### From Publishers Weekly

This jaunty crime novel, set in L.A. in 1948, introduces Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, a recently laid-off mechanic who is young, black and--but for the need to meet the mortgage on his new house--a most reluctant sleuth. Easy hails originally from the tough Fifth Ward in Houston; he served his country, landing on the Normandy Beach. He knows racism firsthand and seeing too many white men in one day unnerves him. But a white businessman, Dewitt Albright, engages Easy to locate a beautiful French woman named Daphne Monet who has a "predilection for the company of negroes." She also has \$30,000 of someone else's money. Easy becomes entangled in a chain of events that takes him to bar after bar to meet a range of characters, most of whom are seeking their own advantages in the pursuit of Daphne. With bodies piling up, there is no turning back for Easy, as he is dogged by brutish white cops and a few "brothers" none too friendly. The language is hard-boiled ("Somewhere between the foo young and the check I decided to cut my losses") and the portrait of black city life gritty and real. But the first-person narrative, which hurtles along with improbable transitions and sketchy psychological portraits, leaves the reader winded rather than exhilarated at the book's predictable conclusion. 25,000 first printing; \$25,000 ad/promo; movie rights to Reuben Cannon ; Mysterious Book Club and QPB selections. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### From Library Journal

Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, a young, tough black veteran living in 1948 Los Angeles, only wants respect and enough money to pay his mortgage. When fired from his factory job, however, he undertakes some paid errands for a shady white mobster who wishes to locate a light-haired, blue-eyed beauty. As Easy plumbs his usual hangouts for clues, he relays information to the mobster, runs afoul of the police, meets the mysterious woman, discovers a murder, then investigates in self-defense. An unusually refreshing protagonist, slated for further adventure, talented prose, and evocative, realistic descriptions of speech, manners, and social life make this an exceptional and welcome addition. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Joshua Johnson:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on pre-school until university need this Devil in a Blue Dress to read.

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#### **Alice Walker:**

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