

The Real Cool Killers (Harlem Cycle, #2) By Chester Himes **Real cool killers discogs** But there are complications - like Sonny high on hash found standing over the body with a gun in his hand that fires only blanks a street gang called the Moslems a disappearing suspect and the fact that Coffin Ed's own daughter is up to her pretty neck in the whole explosive situation. **Real cool killers discogs** In 1953 Himes emigrated to France where he was approached by Marcel Duhamel of Gallimard to write a detective series for Série Noire which had published works from the likes of Raymond Chandler Dashiell Hammett and Jim Thompson. **Real cool killers discogs** The resulting Harlem Cycle gained him celebrity when he won France's Grand Prix de Littérature Policière for La Reine des Pommes (now known in English as A Rage in Harlem) in 1958. **Real cool killers discogs** In 1953 Himes emigrated to France where he was approached by Marcel Duhamel of Gallimard to write a detective series for Série Noire which had published works from the likes of Raymond Chandler Dashiell Hammett and Jim Thompson. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The resulting Harlem Cycle gained him celebrity when he won France's Grand Prix de Littérature Policière for La Reine des Pommes (now known in English as A Rage in Harlem) in 1958. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Three of these novels have been adapted into movies: Cotton Comes to Harlem directed by Ossie Davis in 1970; Come Back Charleston Blue (based on The Heat's On) in 1972; and A Rage in Harlem starring Gregory Hines and Danny Glover in 1991. **The real cool killers by chester himes** {site_link} This is the 2nd book in Chester Himes's Harlem Cycle and it's just as absurd and insane as his previous masterpiece in the series A Rage in Harlem which I loved. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Something that sets Chester Himes apart from so many others is his ability to inject a mix of witty comedy and social commentary into his work as well as astute observations about living in Harlem in the '50's: The white manager stood on top of the bar and shouted 'Please remain seated folks. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The super-hard-boiled Harlem detectives Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson are back on the job again when a big Greek dude gets shot and killed by a fake gun in the middle of a crowded street in Harlem causing all hell to break loose. **Real cool killers discogs** Throughout the course of one night he discovers that there is more to the case that he originally thought and it seems like all connections lead to some young hookers and a gang that calls themselves the Real Cool Moslems. **Real cool killers discogs** ' Saxophones were pleading; the horns were teasing; the bass was patting; the drums were chatting; the piano was catting laying and playing the jive and a husky female voice was shouting:'. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Eventually Himes and his second wife Lesley a beautiful white woman of whom he described as the only color-blind person I met in my life moved to Barcelona where they lived until he died from Parkinson's Disease in 1984. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Imprisoned as a young man Himes spent much of his life in France where he created a series involving two African American detectives Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson with a beat in Harlem. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Unlike some noir the book is in part a who-done-it as Jones and Johnson try to find the killer of one Ulysses Galen a white salesman of a brand of soft drink on a busy Harlem street. **The real cool killers by chester himes** I was reminded of a contemporary African American writer of noir Walter Mosley who has written several different series of crime novels the most famous of which is the Easy Rawlins series set in California. **Real cool killers discogs** As he tells a compelling story Himes gets across the reality that Harlem of this time was a construct of white America a deliberate ghetto every bit as much as the historic European ghettos built to contain the Jews. **The real cool killers by chester himes** My first and still the best of the Harlem Cycle novels I've read so far The Real Cool Killers paints a harrowing bleak portrait of the atmosphere and attitudes of late-1950s Harlem with main characters Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson as somewhat exaggerated larger-than-life versions of badass NYC cops. **The real cool killers by chester himes** They're great characters and they -- as well as the overall feel of the novel in general -- reminded me of certain blaxploitation films of the 70s such as Shaft and Superfly. **The real cool killers by chester himes** I wonder if these books served as inspiration for the movement in any way though it could be possible that those movies (and that cover) influenced the way I imagined everything here instead. **The real cool killers by chester**

himes His depiction of teenage street gangs is horrifying but he makes the reader not only understand why they have the attitudes they have but actually sympathize with them which is quite an accomplishment in light of some of their disturbing actions. **The real cool killers by chester himes** It's also action-packed with an insanely over-the-top bar fight scene (featuring an axe-wielder) that will stick with me for a while and the pages kept turning til I finished the whole thing in just a couple of sittings. **The real cool killers by chester himes** For fans of hardboiled/noir-type novels and for those just looking for a fast-moving tale of the streets with a dose of social commentary for good measure *The Real Cool Killers* is a top-notch read. **Real cool killers discogs** The intense protectiveness of one cop by other cops who know something bad is going down with his daughter and (a) don't want him to find out and (b) don't want to witness his discovery if they are unsuccessful in hiding it from him. **The real cool killers by chester himes** How can you even blame Coffin Ed for killing the kid that threw perfume on him when he has a history of someone tossing acid in his face? Or blame the cops for covering it up?The story begins with a white man in a bar accused of fooling around with someone's wife. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The white guy runs and the accuser chases through the streets of Harlem attracting hecklers and bystanders including a suspicious group of young black men called the 'Real Cool Moslems' (s. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Jackson and perhaps he could save this but I think between the relentless amorality of the youngsters and the relentlessly aggressive amorality of black detectives Grave Digger and Coffin Ed the 1950w era racism and the police corruption it's just not going to work for me right now. **The real cool killers by chester himes** 60 English This second novel by the first great African-American writer of mystery stories is a classic deserving a place in the pantheon right up there with *The Maltese Falcon* *The Big Sleep* and *The Big Chill*. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The plot and the characters are both very good—particularly our two heros the black Harlem detectives Coffin Ed Johnson and Gravedigger Jones—but the real beauty of the book lies in the extraordinary liveliness of the prose the way it conveys movement and the color and richness of the imagery too—all of which adds up to a vivid portrait of Harlem. **The real cool killers by chester himes** But first he has to deal with the bartender Big Smiley: Big Smiley leaned across the bar and grabbed the red-eyed knifeman by the lapels of his mackinaw and lifted him from the floor. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The severed arm in its coat sleeve still clutching the knife sailed through the air sprinkling the nearby spectators with drops of blood landed on the linoleum tile floor and skidded beneath the table of a booth,

Real cool killers discogs

Since I have discovered that Crime Noir is not my favorite genre, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Why is he there? This is Harlem in the 1950s and he is the only white man in the bar. **Real cool killers discogs** A black man approaches him with a switch blade saying that he knows why the man is there and he's not going to diddle his little gals. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The bartender prevents the man from injuring the white man by seriously injuring the man with the knife. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The white man exits the bar but is accosted by another man named Sammy who yells.

The real cool killers by chester himes

When Harlemites set about each other with knives it's an everyday kind of happening. **The real cool killers by chester himes** But when a white man is shot dead in a Harlem street one steamy evening it means trouble big trouble: **The real cool killers by chester himes** Plenty of people had motives for killing Galen a big Greek with too much money and too great a liking for young black girls, **The real cool killers by chester himes** *The Real Cool Killers* (Harlem Cycle #2) Chester Bomar Himes began writing in the early 1930s while serving a prison sentence for armed robbery: **The real cool killers by chester himes** From there he produced short stories for periodicals such as *Esquire* and

Abbotts Monthly. **Real cool killers discogs** When released he focussed on semi autobiographical protest novels: **The real cool killers by chester himes** Himes would be the first black author included in the series. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Three of t Chester Bomar Himes began writing in the early 1930s while serving a prison sentence for armed robbery. **The real cool killers by chester himes** From there he produced short stories for periodicals such as Esquire and Abbott's Monthly: **The real cool killers by chester himes** When released he focussed on semi autobiographical protest novels. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Himes would be the first black author included in the series: **The real cool killers by chester himes** In 1968 Himes moved to Spain where he made his home until his death: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The plot starts almost immediately and moves at a breakneck pace: **Real cool killers discogs** Just like in A Rage In Harlem the story is so crazy and the writing so sharp that it's hard to stop reading: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The police have been called and everything will be taken care of, **Real cool killers discogs** 'As though he'd fired a starting gun there was a race for the door, **Real cool killers discogs** 38 all over 128th Street when some little gangster throws perfume at him (Coffin Ed had a little run-in with some acid a while back) Grave Digger investigates the case solo. **Real cool killers discogs** Himes's descriptions throughout the novel are richly evocative with his usual playfulness, **Real cool killers discogs** Should he be considered the James Brown of Crime Fiction? There I coined it first! You can practically smell hear and taste his wicked version of Harlem. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Check out this gem: The joint was jammed with colored people who'd seen the big man die but nobody seemed to be worrying about it: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The jukebox was giving out with a stomp version of 'Big-Legged Woman. **The real cool killers by chester himes** 'Happy-tail women were bouncing out of their dresses on the high bar stools. **Real cool killers discogs** Grave Digger trod on the sawdust sprinkled over the bloodstains that wouldn't wash off and parked on the stool at the end of the bar, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Once again an entertaining read from the great Chester Himes: **The real cool killers by chester himes** English Absolutely my favourite of Himes's Harlem cycle of the ones I've read so far (I have read them in totally random order as I've found them). **Real cool killers discogs** It starts with a knife fight the swing of an axe and a chase down a packed Harlem street and proceeds through a madcap manhunt to it's violent conclusion: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The writing is so hot in The Real Cool Killers there are so many awesome passages you just want to share with everyone, **The real cool killers by chester himes** He had an amazing ability to nail people or places in just a savage line or two: **Real cool killers discogs** And his view of Harlem is brilliantly realised - something Himes was never matched in except maybe by Ralph Ellison, **Real cool killers discogs** A supremely tough violent and very funny thriller that carves itself a hole somewhere between Ed McBain's police procedurals and Elmore Leonard's cool capers. **Real cool killers discogs** English I enjoyed this Crime Noir better than usual hey you're the one that was with my sister and pulls a gun on him, **The real cool killers by chester himes** The white man runs down the street with Sammy in hot pursuit: **The real cool killers by chester himes** A gang of teenagers called The Real Cool Muslims see what is happening and join the chase. **Real cool killers discogs** By this time two local policemen arrive and run up to the white man who is now dead. **The real cool killers by chester himes** They get ready to arrest Sammy but also ask the gang members questions. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The young thugs are belligerent and one throws perfume in the face of one of the cops: **The real cool killers by chester himes** His face is already scarred from having acid thrown in his face before. **The real cool killers by chester himes** He shoots the youth dead before realizing it was only perfume, **Real cool killers discogs** During the confusion after the second death the gang and Sammy run off, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Coffin Ed and his partner Gravedigger Jones have already confiscated Sammy's gun and they discover that it is only a stage prop and could not have killed the white man: **The real cool killers by chester himes** So who did?The rest of the story is the police investigation but mostly it is a commentary on life in Harlem, **Real cool killers discogs** The gang of Muslims are not really Muslims but black teenagers, **The real cool killers by chester himes** The story spends a

long time with them showing what makes them tick. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Just what little it takes to make people violent when they know nothing else and cannot imagine a life greater than being a gangster, **Real cool killers discogs** The story is dark violent and extremely sad probably because even though it was written in 1959 it is sadly reflective of reality in poor neighborhoods today: **The real cool killers by chester himes** Only now it is worse because instead of knives young people are killing each other with automatic weapons: **Real cool killers discogs** He spent several years in prison for armed robbery where he began writing fiction, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Later he achieve literary success and many of his stories were made into films. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The Real Cool Killers is one of a series called the Harlem Detective novels with the black detectives Gravedigger Jones and Coffin Ed. **The real cool killers by chester himes** In At Home in Diaspora: Black International Writing Wendy Walters describes the detectives as viable folk heroes for the urban community, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Himes later moved to Paris where he became good friends with Langston Hughes Richard Wright James Baldwin and Malcolm X: **The real cool killers by chester himes** English A Harlem Novel In Noir From its beginnings in detective magazines and pulp fiction American noir developed into literature of varied people and places. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Chester Himes (1909 --1984) was one of the first African Americans to write noir. **Real cool killers discogs** Some of the novels in the series were first published in French as Himes remained relatively unknown in his native land, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Published in 1959 The Real Cool Killers was the third of the series, **The real cool killers by chester himes** The plot becomes contrived with a number of surprising twists: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The interest in the book lies much less in the plot than in the creation of atmosphere at the heart of noir writing. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The book frequently is sharply penetrating descriptive tragic or biting funny. **The real cool killers by chester himes** He is perceptive in developing his characters beyond stereotypes: **Real cool killers discogs** And his writing is full of memorable passages and one-liners. **The real cool killers by chester himes** A good deal of the novel is set in a Harlem bar the Dew Drop Inn where Galen is a rare white patron. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The story opens with a large fight scene at the Dew Drop in involving Galen Big Smiley and a third individual who displays enormous and unexplained anger towards Galen. **The real cool killers by chester himes** When Galen flees the establishment he is mysteriously gunned down on the street, **Real cool killers discogs** The characters include a gang of teenagers led by Shiek who dress as Arabs together with Shiek's two young girlfriends, **Real cool killers discogs** Among the other characters are several policemen at all levels of the NYPD a number of suspects a madam and a pimp, **The real cool killers by chester himes** As the novel develops sadistic sex comes to play a major role, **Real cool killers discogs** Yet Himes portrays most of his characters with substantial care, **The real cool killers by chester himes** With the exception of the villain they are nuanced and not wholly good or evil. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Jones and Johnson are shown as dedicated and intelligent law enforcement officers but they often use violence intimidation and brutality to get their way. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The white detectives and offices are likewise shown as varied human beings with strong prejudices that accompany their virtues, **The real cool killers by chester himes** In some comic scenes the officers are almost unbelievably stupid. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The main character of the book is Harlem which is portrayed realistically and unsentimentally in all its rawness, **Real cool killers discogs** Himes captures Harlem's poverty vice and simmering rage rather than a literary Harlem or a Harlem for visitors. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The book also portrays sharp racial tension and oppression with distrust and prejudice among both white and African American people, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Sharp racial epithets and stereotyping occur throughout the book. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Himes' novel portrays a place and shows the effect of prejudice and poverty as well as telling a gripping story. **The real cool killers by chester himes** It includes the novel Devil in a Blue Dress which in its setting bears some resemblance to The Real Cool Killers. **The real cool killers by chester himes**

Himes' novel is available in the single edition I am reviewing here and in a compilation of American noir from the 1950s published by the Library of America: **The real cool killers by chester himes** It will be of interest to readers of African American literature and to readers of noir. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Robin Friedman English Chester Himes drops his readers right into the mix Harlem circa 1958. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Some books boast colorful characters these books are unrivaled in characters that know how to survive in one of the toughest environments ever created, **The real cool killers by chester himes** The Real Cool Killers gets into the world of juveniles and as always the characters hold up as genuine never caricatures, **Real cool killers discogs** Himes sees people in all their shades of imperfection and beauty, **The real cool killers by chester himes** He is allegedly writing dime store novels but actually delivering Dostoyevsky. **The real cool killers by chester himes** English Ulysses Galen is shot down in the streets of Harlem and Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson are on the case: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The prime suspect is a member of a gang calling themselves The Real Cool Moslems: **The real cool killers by chester himes** Good thing since one of the girls that runs with the Moslems is his teenaged daughter: **The real cool killers by chester himes** It's a crime that Chester Himes isn't more well known than he is. **Real cool killers discogs** The writing in The Real Cool Killers is gritty and straight to the point, **Real cool killers discogs** I can see Himes's influence in not only Joe Lansdale's writing but also James Ellroy's. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Himes's Harlem isn't a nice place to live that's for sure. **Real cool killers discogs** The revelation of who actually killed Galen is fairly surprising, **Real cool killers discogs** I think I'll be tracking down the rest of the Harlem Detectives series, **Real cool killers discogs** Coffin Ed and Grave Digger Jones are ass-kicking machines and I'd like to see them on another case where they can fully cut loose: **The real cool killers by chester himes** English Here's the (very nearly as cool as the original Avon) cover of the 1975 Signet mass-market 173 pages, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Chester Himes was a fine storyteller and his unencumbered-yet-evocative prose really pulls the reader into the streets of inner-city Harlem, **The real cool killers by chester himes** You can tell that he knew what he was talking about; he clearly wasn't faking it and that adds a layer of realism to everything. **The real cool killers by chester himes** 5 Stars English If you are intending to read only one of Chester Himes' novels read A Rage in Harlem. **Real cool killers discogs** Candidly the first 75% of The Real Cool Killers is routine not special nothing to mention to a friend. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Then -abruptly -it becomes the 5-star read you'd been anticipating. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Abominable ongoing abuse in which many members of the community are complicit, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Not sold yet?Read this spot-on review from my GR friend Lemar:<https://www>, **Real cool killers discogs** Written in 1958 there's much here that will feel a lot like sad horrible violent 2020. **The real cool killers by chester himes** Some blurbs call it 'action-filled' and 'over-the-top' but I'd call it scathing social commentary: **The real cool killers by chester himes** Dress it up and make it 'funny' but wow there's desperation heartbreak addiction violence cycles inequity and enough 'ism to destroy a character: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The accuser is exceedingly drunk and is working himself up towards attacking with a knife when the bartender gets involved with a machete. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The white guy escapes and is watching the ensuing chaos from the outside when yet another intoxicated black man approaches from behind and accuses him of the same thing: **The real cool killers by chester himes** ' The young men hide out in a local tenement and during their discussion I lost my interest, **Real cool killers discogs** The other front windows were jammed with colored faces looking like clusters of strange purple fruit in the stark white light, **The real cool killers by chester himes** The first book in this series was amazing as read by the incomparable Samuel M, **The real cool killers by chester himes** They looked like big-shouldered plowhands in Sunday suits at a Saturday night jamboree. **Real cool killers discogs** The story is set in Harlem in the '50s and begins with the shooting of a white man and the arrest of a member of a small local gang called "The Real Cool Moslems: **The real cool killers by chester himes** " At first the case seems open-and-shut for the chase and shooting is witnessed by a score of

people on a busy Harlem street, **Real cool killers discogs** But there's a problem: the bullet the killed the man couldn't have come from from the teenager's gun: **Real cool killers discogs** Hime's prose makes me think not of writers but of caricaturists painters movie-makers: Daumier Grosz; Brueghel Rivera; Fellini Scorsese, **The real cool killers by chester himes** Himes makes memorable images but he knows how to "move his camera" too. **Real cool killers discogs** In the Harlem Dew Drop Inn a little guy pulls a knife on the white man who will soon end up dead in the street: **The real cool killers by chester himes** "Gimme that chiv shorty 'fore I makes you eat it" he said lazily smiling as though it were a joke: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The knifeman twisted in his grip and slashed him across the arm: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The white fabric of his jacket slevve parted like a burst balloon and his black-skinned muscles opened like the Red Sea **The real cool killers by chester himes** Big Smiley draw back and reached beneath the bar counter with his right hand: **Real cool killers discogs** The little knifeman jumped into the air and slashed at Big Smiley again matching his knife against Big Smiley's axe. **Real cool killers discogs** Big Smiley countered with a right cross with the r5ed-handled axse. **The real cool killers by chester himes** The blade met the knifeman's arm in the middle of its stroke and cut it off just below the elbow as though it had been guillotined: **The real cool killers by chester himes** The little knifeman landed on his feet still making cutting motions with his half arm. A white man is at a bar in Harlem looking around. He slashes at the man with his knife. I won't go into it but it is really violent. Everybody go back to his seat and pay his bill. After Coffin Ed gets suspended for blasting his .you can feel my thigh But don't you feel up high. Absolute genius. Pure class. Sammy shoots at the man and he goes down. This cop Coffin Ed is terrified. Now there are two dead people lying on the street. Chester Himes writes about what he knows. Himes understands and portrays Harlem and its people. The bartender Big Smiley sets the tone of the establishment. The two detective heroes search for the killer. Yet things haltingly fall into place. It evocatively presents a Harlem noir. After an incident with the Moslems Coffin Ed is suspended.⁴ But once you've read that read this. Trenchant social commentary. goodreads.com/review/show. English I think this will be a pass. Which is indeed the point. i.c.) who run around dressing as 'Arabs. F. Note: quit at chapter 7/p. Here's a vivid passage from the beginning of the novel. He came up with a short-handled fireman's axe. It had a red handle and a honed razor-sharp blade. English

