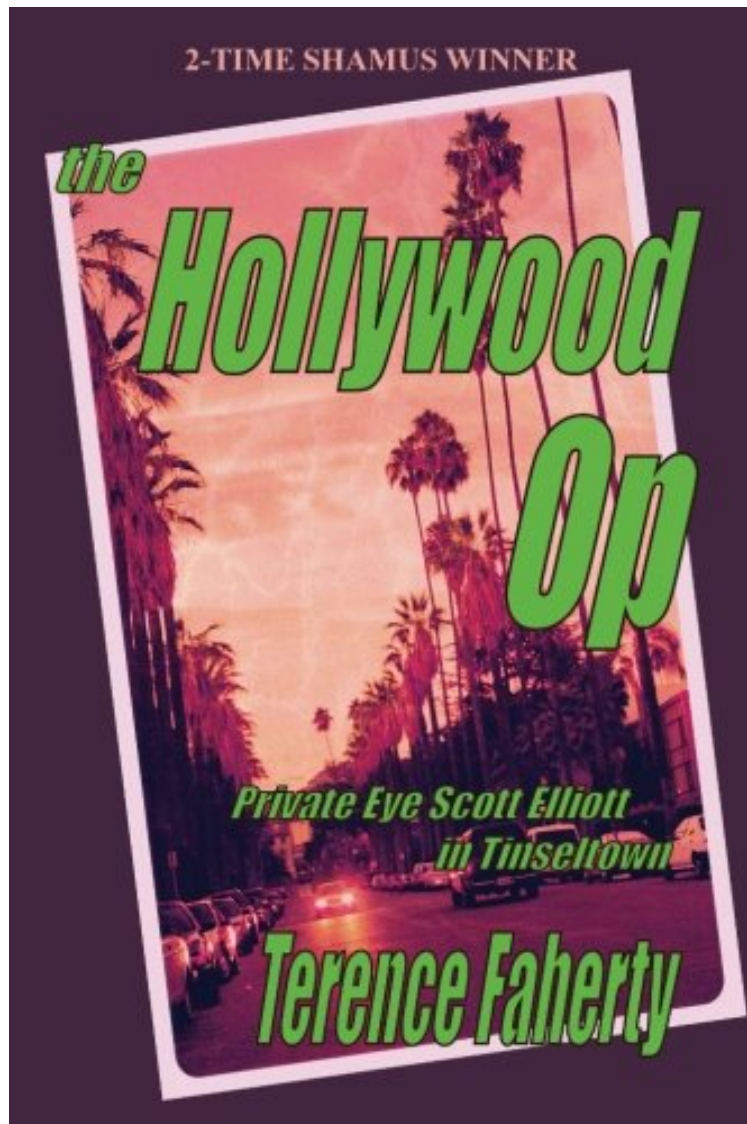


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The Hollywood Op

Terence Faherty

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Terence Faherty : The Hollywood Op before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hollywood Op:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Scott Elliott solves the case of Garbo's knees, and seven othersBy Christopher (o.d.c.)Terence Faherty has created a very appealing character in Scott Elliott, who was on his way to stardom in the Thirties, but who went to work after the war for the Hollywood Security detective agency- hence, the Hollywood Op.Faherty's postwar LA is not as gritty as some other writers have imagined it. The violence for the most

part, is slapstick: My boss, in shirt sleeves, was standing next to his desk facing two goons bigger than the one I now had behind me. They'd both glanced my way, though neither was giving me his full attention. Scotty! Paddy boomed. The very man I wanted to see. Show these gentlemen the trick you do with the gun. Just showing them a gun would have been a trick right then, as I wasn't carrying one. But I did my best to oblige. Nothing up my sleeve, I said, raising my left arm and tugging on my suit coat to display more shirt cuff. That got them interested. When they were good and turned my way, Paddy grabbed them by their collars and rammed their heads together. He held on to one with his left hand and tossed the other at me. There are a lot of in-jokes and movie what-ifs- one novelette is about Greta Garbo's hand and knee prints in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater (her block of cement gets stolen from Grauman's warehouse). One involves a rare silent movie (purchased from the USSR) coming into LA at Union Station. The last story (the earliest in Scott Elliott's career), "Sleep Big," is one big in-joke, as the naive non-detective follows in some famous footsteps (and may explain an unsolved mystery- namely, if the Sternwoods' chauffeur was 'sapped down,' how did the Packard go straight off the pier?): What would it say about Geiger's bookshop? That you wouldn't want your mother to catch you reading what they sell or rather rent in there. It's a rental library for smut of all varieties, including man-meets-sheep. Though I fail to see where Ben Hur comes into it. Must have been part of a gag some other guy pulled just before you went in. While we're on the subject, I can't say I ever liked Ben Hur. I always thought Lew Wallace had some crust, piggybacking his fairy tale onto a story a lot of people hold sacred. Those author guys are all hijackers at heart. Eight clever, urbane trips to a vanished Hollywood, which was partly mirage all along. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. And that's show biz. By Vince Keenan. Terence Faherty's Scott Elliott, the one-time contract player turned Tinseltown shamus, has appeared in several novels. The Hollywood Op collects eight short stories that span Elliott's career from the 1940s through the '60s. Elliott is his usual dogged but charming self, and the stories ably draw on actual show business history. Faherty saves the best for last. "Sleep Big" is an impressive piece of literary legerdemain, serving as both Elliott's origin story and a plausible answer to the confounding question of "Who killed Owen Taylor in Raymond Chandler's The Big Sleep?"

Includes 2012 Shamus nominee "A Bullet from Yesterday"! As Hollywood's golden age wanes, private eye Scott Elliott digs among the ruins. Eight stories include the never-before-published "Sleep Big," in which Elliott cracks a case that famously eluded Philip Marlowe. In "Garbo's Knees," a paving square signed by the reclusive screen idol has gone missing. But was it Garbo's stone the thief was after? Chasing stray actresses, hot jewelry, and a gun that may have started a war, Scott Elliott demonstrates once again two-time Shamus winner Terence Faherty's sharp eye and keen ear for characters living on broken dreams. "Faherty writes this period like he was there." Crime Spree

About the Author Terence Faherty has been honored twice with Shamus awards for distinguished writing in the private eye field. His first novel, Deadstick, was nominated by the Mystery Writers of America for an Edgar.