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## The Lost Detective: Becoming Dashiell Hammett

By Nathan Ward

Audible Studios on Brilliance, 2016. CD-Audio. Condition: New. Unabridged. Language: English . Brand New. Before he became a household name in America as perhaps our greatest hard-boiled crime writer, before his attachment to Lillian Hellman and blacklisting during the McCarthy era, and his subsequent downward spiral, Dashiell Hammett led a life of action. Born in 1894 into a poor Maryland family, Hammett left school at 13 and held several jobs before joining the Pinkerton National Detective Agency as an operative in 1915. With time off in 1918 to serve at the end of World War I, he remained with the agency until 1922, participating in the banal and dramatic actions alike of an operative. The tuberculosis he contracted during the war forced him to leave the Pinkertons but it may well have prompted one of America's most acclaimed writing careers. While Hammett's life on center stage has been well-documented, the question of how he got there has not. That largely overlooked phase is the subject of Nathan Ward's enthralling *The Lost Detective*. Hammett's childhood, his life in San Francisco, and especially his experience as a detective deeply informed his writing and his characters, from the nameless...



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