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## Fer-de-Lance (Nero Wolfe)

*By Rex Stout*



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**Fer-de-Lance (Nero Wolfe)** By Rex Stout

As any herpetologist will tell you, the fer-de-lance is among the most dreaded snakes known to man. When someone makes a present of one to Nero Wolfe, Archie Goodwin knows he's getting dreadfully close to solving the devilishly clever murders of an immigrant and a college president. As for Wolfe, he's playing snake charmer in a case with more twists than an anaconda -- whistling a seductive tune he hopes will catch a killer who's still got poison in his heart.



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## Fer-de-Lance (Nero Wolfe) By Rex Stout Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #139317 in Books
- Brand: Crimeline
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- Released on: 1997-01-21
- Original language: English
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- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

I've promised myself for the past decade that, when I finally retire, my first major project will be to reread the entire Nero Wolfe canon in chronological order, a worthwhile occupation if ever there was one.

Although entirely different and not nearly as literary as Ross Macdonald's Lew Archer series or the Philip Marlowe novels of Raymond Chandler, the Wolfe saga deserves to be ranked with them as among the finest series of detective stories ever written by an American. *Fer-de-lance* introduces the brilliant, idiosyncratic, and obese armchair detective to the world and, while it may not be the best book of the series, it provides a wonderful murder set on a golf course and a cast of characters and laundry list of eccentricities that are an integral part of each novel and novella.

Rex Stout has managed to pull off a feat unparalleled to this day: the perfect combination of deductive reasoning--as exemplified by the classic Golden Age writers such as Christie, Sayers, Van Dine, and Queen--with the hard-boiled attitude and dialogue of the more realistic tough guy writers such as Chandler, Macdonald, Hammett, and Robert B. Parker.

The toughness is brought to the books by Wolfe's leg man and amanuensis, Archie Goodwin. The structure and ambience of the books is, quite deliberately, very much like the Sherlock Holmes stories that Stout so admired. The house on West 35th Street is as familiar as the sitting room at 221B Baker Street; his cook Fritz pops up as regularly as Mrs. Hudson; and his irritant, Inspector Cramer of the NYPD, serves the same role as several Scotland Yard detectives, notably Inspector Lestrade, did for Holmes. Fair warning: It is safe to read one Nero Wolfe novel, because you will surely like it. It is extremely unsafe to read three, because you will forever be hooked on the delightful characters who populate these perfect books. --*Otto Penzler*

### Review

"*Fer-de-Lance* will be welcomed by the legions of Rex Stout fans, and serve as welcome introduction to a whole new generation of mystery buffs." -- *The Midwest Book Review*, May 1997

"I've noticed books by Rex Stout (1886-1975) for many years but never have purchased or read one. You know, so many books, so little time. I've been missing the company of the ever-eccentric Nero Wolfe and his faithful legman, Archie Goodwin...I don't want to tell you too much about this classic tale and spoil your fun. This version is expertly performed by Michael Prichard, who has also brought novels by Clive Cussler and Tom Clancy to life." -- *Jim Clark, Publisher*

"In the annals of eccentric private detectives, one of the most famous is Nero Wolfe. Wolfe is an obese, misanthropic, arrogant orchid fancier who solves mysteries while never leaving his New York brownstone. His eyes and ears to the world is Archie Goodwin, the narrator of the books. In this well-read audio edition of Stout's first Wolfe novel, Goodwin is asked to find out who murdered a young Italian immigrant. The path leads to upscale Westchester County and to the body of a recently deceased philanthropist who has a crazy wife, a jealous son, and a beautiful daughter. Throw into the mix an attempt on Wolfe's life using a poisonous snake and the listener is entertained with a 1934 period mystery that is remarkably fresh." -- *The Roanoke Times*, November 16, 1997

"It is always a treat to [hear] a Nero Wolfe mystery. The man has entered our folklore." -- *The New York Times Book Review*

Originally published in 1934, *Fer-de-Lance* is the first mystery novel ever written by Rex Stout. This classic crime story (complete and unabridged) introduces one of the great fictional detectives, Nero Wolfe. Wolfe, the arrogant, gormandizing, sedentary sleuth who raises orchids in his Manhattan brownstone, solving his case with help from his assistant, Archie Goodwin, was to become one of American literature's most recognizable characters. When a fer-de-lance (one of the most deadly snakes known to man) is delivered to Nero Wolfe, Archie knows he is getting very close to solving the clever murders of an immigrant and a college president. The denouement brings forth all of Nero Wolfe's talents as he gathers the suspects together. *Fer-de-Lance* will be welcomed by the legions of Rex Stout fans, and serve as a welcome introduction to a whole new generation of mystery buffs. -- *Midwest Book Review*

From the Publisher

As any herpetologist will tell you, the fer-de-lance is among the most dreaded snakes known to man. When someone makes a present of one to Nero Wolfe, Archie Goodwin knows he's getting dreadfully close to solving the devilishly clever murders of an immigrant and a college president. As for Wolfe, he's playing snake charmer in a case with more twists than an anaconda -- whistling a seductive tune he hopes will catch a killer who's still got poison in his heart.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Dewayne Campbell:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they have because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you should have this *Fer-de-Lance* (Nero Wolfe).

**Madeline Edwards:**

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know what one you should start with. This *Fer-de-Lance* (Nero Wolfe) is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Paul Lopez:**

This *Fer-de-Lance* (Nero Wolfe) are generally reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason why of this *Fer-de-Lance* (Nero Wolfe) can be one of many great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you actually with information that perhaps will shock your before knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed ones. Beside that this *Fer-de-Lance* (Nero Wolfe) giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

**Jesus Moreno:**

The e-book with title Fer-de-Lance (Nero Wolfe) possesses a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This kind of book exist new understanding the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

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