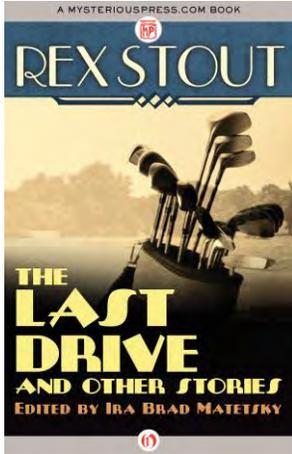


## ***The Last Drive And Other Stories* by Rex Stout**



### **DESCRIPTION**

When Colonel Phillips begins his final game of golf, his greatest problem in life is that he has begun to slice the ball. Playing with his nephews and lawyer, Phillips fights his way back into the game, and is on the verge of victory when he keels over. He clutches his chest, mumbles a few words, and is dead in minutes. The club physician has no doubt: the Colonel was poisoned. Finding the killer falls to the President of the club, amateur detective Canby Rankin, who will do whatever it takes to find the killer on the links.

Published nearly a century ago, “The Last Drive,” the story that inspired *Fer-de-lance*, the first Nero Wolfe novel is clever, charming, and absolutely baffling. In short, it is vintage Rex Stout. Never before published in book form, it and the other stories in this volume represent the early efforts of a modern genius.

### **AUTHOR BIO**

Rex Stout (1886–1975) was one of the most beloved mystery novelists of all time, best known for creating the corpulent genius Nero Wolfe. Born in Indiana, Stout was a child arithmetic prodigy who spent his leisure time reading every book in his father’s 1,200-volume library. After two years in the navy—which he passed playing whist on Theodore Roosevelt’s yacht—Stout began organizing children’s field trips to banks, where he was paid a commission for every student who opened a savings account. He made a fortune, and in the late 1920s retired to write serious fiction.

After the Depression wiped out his savings, Stout began writing detective stories. *Fer-de-Lance* (1934) introduced Nero Wolfe, master of deduction, and his indefatigable assistant, Archie Goodwin. Over the next four decades, Stout published dozens of stories and novels starring the quirky pair, earning him a place in the mystery novelist’s pantheon alongside Agatha Christie and Erle Stanley Gardner. He died in Connecticut in 1975.

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