Toward a Hardboiled Genealogy

19thC.
- Western or frontier hero
  (James Fenimore Cooper)

1920s
- Modernist Novel
  Hemingway prose model
- Black Mask magazine
  (also, Dime Detective, etc.)

1930s
- Detective Fiction
  Dashiell Hammett
  Raymond Chandler
  Ross MacDonald

1940s
- Crime Novels/Thrillers
  James M. Cain
  Horace McCoy
  Cornell Woolrich
  Dorothy B. Hughes

1950s-60s
- Film Noir (1940–58)
  James Ellroy
  Martin Amis, Night Train
  Susannah Moore, In the Cut
  Jean-Patrick Manchette, Prone Gunman

1970s
- Contemporary Hardboiled
  Lawrence Block, Walter Moseley,
  George Pelecanos, etc.

19thC.
- Classic detective novel
  (ratiocinative, drawing room-style of Arthur Conan Doyle,
  Edgar Allen Poe)

1920s
- Urban & Proletariat Novel
  John Dos Passos, Theodore Dreiser

1930s
- Rise of the Paperback
  (1939-1950)
  Emerging of psychotic “hero”

1940s
- Crime Novels/Thrillers
  James M. Cain
  Horace McCoy
  Cornell Woolrich
  Dorothy B. Hughes

1950s-60s
- Film Noir (1940–58)
  Mysteries/Crime
  Melodramas
  Lovers on the Run
  Betrayal/Doomed Love
  Gun Crazy, Detour, Out of the Past, Double Indemnity, Criss Cross, Dead Reckoning, etc.

1970s
- Contemporary Noir Novel
  Martin Amis, Night Train
  Susannah Moore, In the Cut
  Jean-Patrick Manchette, Prone Gunman

19thC.
- Dime novels
  Nick Carter detective series

1920s
- Modernist Novel
  Hemingway prose model

1930s
- Crime Novels/Thrillers
  James M. Cain
  Horace McCoy
  Cornell Woolrich
  Dorothy B. Hughes

1940s
- Film Noir (1940–58)
  Mysteries/Crime
  Melodramas
  Lovers on the Run
  Betrayal/Doomed Love
  Gun Crazy, Detour, Out of the Past, Double Indemnity, Criss Cross, Dead Reckoning, etc.

1950s-60s
- Contemporary Hardboiled
  Lawrence Block, Walter Moseley,
  George Pelecanos, etc.

1970s
- Neo Film Noir
  Chinatown, Blade Runner, Body Heat, L.A. Confidential, Memento