



Criminal Conversation

By Evan Hunter

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"A special occasion" (*Entertainment Weekly*) in the celebrated career of Evan Hunter, *Criminal Conversation* goes deeper than most suspense fiction dares -- inside the intimate, sensual secrets of lovers...In a chic apartment hidden within a workingclass neighborhood, Sarah and Andrew make love. Neither of them knows that their illicit affair is about to have explosive consequences -- or that their hideaway has been wired to record their every word, by a New York City prosecutor with an agenda to indict Andrew, a reputed Mafia leader. And none of them can predict where the most basic desires of the human heart -- passion, ambition, vengeance -- will lead: a life-and-death struggle inside the worlds of organized crime and legal warfare.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hunter's latest--his 19th since *The Blackboard Jungle* in 1954--shows a master's hand at popular fiction, as he employs engaging characters in a riveting plot that leads to an operatic, cathartic climax. Sarah Welles, 34-year-old wife, mother and schoolteacher, falls in love with 28-year-old Andrew Farrell, a suave, mysterious businessman. We know that he's really Andrew Faviola, scion and acting boss of a Mafia family with plans for massive profits from a new smokable opium-cocaine drug. He's also the target of the New York DA's special rackets squad headed by Sarah's husband Michael. Electronic eavesdropping shows Andrew, a seasoned rake, dropping all amours but Sarah, moving from cynical opportunism to true love. Meanwhile, the DA's focus turns to the unknown "blonde." Sarah and Andrew's steamy sex scenes are caught on audiotape, and when her husband learns the blonde's identity it's only a question of when and how disaster will strike. We learn a lot about mob "loyalty" (Andrew is betrayed by his favorite cousin) and ignorance (a capo ponderously intones: "The Chinese have a saying, 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs' "). Hunter can write funny dialogue, and he also wrenchingly portrays the desperate struggle of a sweet, very bright black girl--Sarah's favorite student--in a terrifying environment. As the prolific Ed McBain, Hunter writes the 87th Precinct novels; here he has fused his skills in bravura fashion. Film rights optioned by Tom Cruise; Mystery Guild main selection; Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club alternates; major ad/promo; author tour.

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From Library Journal

Sarah Welles lives a good life. She is a good wife, a good mother, and a good teacher. She loves her husband, Michael, but his job as a lawyer in the DA's office is demanding--more so now that he is on the trail of the new boss of one of New York's most powerful crime families. While on a vacation that Michael is unable to make, Sarah's daughter is rescued from drowning by a handsome stranger. Although Sarah is attracted to him, she keeps her distance until they meet back in New York and become embroiled in a torrid affair. Hunter and his alter ego, Ed McBain, have electrified readers with dozens of novels for 40 years but rarely have the characters come to life with such fervent emotion as they do here. This is a tough, sexy novel by a master at the top of his game examining the blurred lines between love and desire, virtue and sin.

Highly recommended for all popular fiction collections.

--*Dan Bogey, Clearfield Cty. P.L. Federation, Curwensville, Pa.*

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From [Booklist](#)

Best known as the author of the popular 87th Precinct mysteries (written under the pseudonym Ed McBain), Hunter offers readers a riveting new novel that's certain to be in demand among thriller fans. Michael Welles is an up-and-coming lawyer in the New York D.A.'s office. Five years ago, he put Mob leader Anthony Faviola behind bars, and now he's single-mindedly pursuing Anthony's son, Andrew, the new head of the Faviola crime family. Michael's wife, Sarah, a teacher, is feeling neglected, what with Michael's 90-hour work weeks and his fixation on Faviola. When she meets a handsome New York playboy on vacation in the Caribbean, she falls for him hard. Back home, Sarah's secret meetings with her lover become more and more passionate, while Michael becomes more and more determined to find a way to get Faviola. Wiretaps and surveillance cameras reveal that Andrew's got a hot new mistress, and his pillow talk is not only revealing, it's enough to send him to the Big House for life. To Michael's horror, though, he finds that Andrew's mistress is none other than Sarah, and from that point on, Michael's worst nightmares turn real. This suspense-filled, cleverly plotted novel is a marathon of nail-biting tension from beginning to end. It's also a

Mystery Guild Main Selection and has had film right optioned to Tom Cruise. *Emily Melton*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lynnette Cash:

This book untitled Criminal Conversation to be one of several books which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

Kenneth Hill:

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