



## A Deadly Shade of Gold: A Travis McGee Novel

By John D. MacDonald

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**A Deadly Shade of Gold: A Travis McGee Novel** By John D. MacDonald

**From a beloved master of crime fiction, *A Deadly Shade of Gold* is one of many classic novels featuring Travis McGee, the hard-boiled detective who lives on a houseboat.**

When Travis McGee picks up the phone and hears a voice from his past, he can't help it: He has to meddle. Especially when he has the chance to reunite Sam Taggart, a reckless, restless man like himself, with the woman who's still waiting for him. But what begins as a simple matchmaking scheme soon becomes a bloody chase that takes McGee to Mexico, a beautiful country from which he hopes to return alive.

**“John D. MacDonald was *the* great entertainer of our age, and a mesmerizing storyteller.”—Stephen King**

Deception. Betrayal. Heartbreak. When Sam left his girlfriend, Nora, and vanished from Fort Lauderdale, no one was surprised. But when he shows up three years later lying in a pool of his own blood, people start to ask questions. And his old friend Travis McGee is left to find answers.

But all he has to go on are a gold Aztec idol and a very angry ex-girlfriend. Is that enough to find his friend's killer? And when the truth is as terrifying as this, does he really want answers after all?

**Features a new Introduction by Lee Child**

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

MacDonald, whose 21 Travis McGee novels represent arguably the best U.S. mystery series of the past 50 years, died in 1986, leaving behind a legion of fans. Sadly, Travis McGee seems lost amid today's hip, violent, and politically correct private eyes and series detectives, so much so that most of today's younger mystery readers may never experience this National Book Award-winning series. Yet audio producers seem committed to keeping the series alive for a new generation of readers and audiobook fans, as this example proves. Bright Orange for the Shroud tells of a dangerous confidence scheme that traps one of McGee's friends. Soon, McGee infiltrates the group and takes on its sexy operative, with explosive results. In *A Deadly Shade of Gold*, McGee comes into possession of an evil-looking, solid gold Aztec icon that leads to a perilous fortune. Reader Darren McGavin, who narrates the entire series for Random Audio, employs a world-weary, laid-back voice that is perfect for the enigmatic McGee. Recommended wherever good mysteries circulate. Random Audio offers the entire Travis McGee line in abridged format; libraries seeking unabridged versions should look to Books on TapeR. ?Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal"

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From [Booklist](#)

It tends to be later in the Travis McGee series when the tales turn significantly darker (say, after *The Tan* and *Sandy Silence*), but this early installment, number five, displays a strong hint of what is to come. It starts, as so many of the 21 novels do, with the appearance, on the deck of McGee's houseboat, *The Busted Flush*, of a friend in trouble. This time it's Sam Taggart, a fellow adventurer committed to living by his wits; unfortunately, Sam's wits aren't quite as quick as Travis', and he has landed in a serious jam south of the border. But if he can just peddle the Aztec idol he has lifted from serious bad guys, Sam should be able to start a new life in Ft. Lauderdale with Nora, the girl he foolishly dumped before leaving for Mexico. There are no new lives to be had. McGee and Nora find Sam dead on the floor of a sleazy motel, his throat professionally slashed from ear to ear. The two of them set off for Mexico to extract several pounds of flesh and, hopefully, salvage the profit that would have been Sam's from the sale of the idol. So far, so good. We're on familiar McGee ground here: the salvage operation is afoot; the wounded dove, Nora, is ensconced on a beach in Mexico, prime for some psychic and sexual healing, which Trav delivers with his usual aplomb. And, of course, MacDonald has ample opportunity to rail against the absurdities of American tourists on display in Mexico. But then the wind changes. The bad guys are hard to find, being both too numerous and too ambiguous; the wrong bodies start to pile up; and Travis begins to feel the most unlikely of emotions: intimations of vulnerability. And, finally, a very curious thing happens: our beach-bum hero transforms into the novel's real wounded dove, a teeth-chattering, head-hanging wreck of a man, in desperate need of rejuvenation. The Aztec idol plot gets a little messy, requiring too much explication to sort out who did what and stole what and from whom, but for committed series readers, this novel offers the first good look at just how shrewd MacDonald can be. Through four books, he has eased his readers into letting the comforts of formula fiction roll over us like a gentle wave: we're grown accustomed to the rhythms of watching McGee work and play; we've chuckled at MacDonald's sociopolitical commentary; and, best of all, we've found little bits of our fantasy selves in Travis' nonconformity and his unshakable savviness. Now, suddenly, the wave is no longer gentle, and we're tossed onto the rocks of ugly reality. We bounce free, of course, just as McGee's teeth eventually stop chattering, but the warning MacDonald has issued is clear: get comfortable, that's what formula fiction is for, but don't take comfort for granted. --Bill Ott

Review

## **Praise for John D. MacDonald and the Travis McGee novels**

“*The* great entertainer of our age, and a mesmerizing storyteller.”—Stephen King

“My favorite novelist of all time . . . All I ever wanted was to touch readers as powerfully as John D. MacDonald touched me. No price could be placed on the enormous pleasure that his books have given me. He captured the mood and the spirit of his times more accurately, more hauntingly, than any ‘literature’ writer—yet managed always to tell a thunderingly good, intensely suspenseful tale.”—Dean Koontz

“To diggers a thousand years from now, the works of John D. MacDonald would be a treasure on the order of the tomb of Tutankhamen.”—Kurt Vonnegut

“A master storyteller, a masterful suspense writer . . . John D. MacDonald is a shining example for all of us in the field. Talk about *the best*.”—Mary Higgins Clark

“A dominant influence on writers crafting the continuing series character . . . I envy the generation of readers just discovering Travis McGee, and count myself among the many readers savoring his adventures again.”—Sue Grafton

“One of the great sagas in American fiction.”—Robert B. Parker

“Most readers loved MacDonald’s work because he told a rip-roaring yarn. I loved it because he was the first modern writer to nail Florida dead-center, to capture all its languid sleaze, racy sense of promise, and breath-grabbing beauty.”—Carl Hiaasen

“The *consummate* pro, a master storyteller and witty observer . . . John D. MacDonald created a staggering quantity of wonderful books, each rich with characterization, suspense, and an almost intoxicating sense of place. The Travis McGee novels are among the finest works of fiction ever penned by an American author and they retain a remarkable sense of freshness.”—Jonathan Kellerman

“What a joy that these timeless and treasured novels are available again.”—Ed McBain

“Travis McGee is the last of the great knights-errant: honorable, sensual, skillful, and tough. I can’t think of anyone who has replaced him. I can’t think of anyone who would dare.”—Donald Westlake

“There’s only one thing as good as reading a John D. MacDonald novel: reading it again. A writer way ahead of his time, his Travis McGee books are as entertaining, insightful, and suspenseful today as the moment I first read them. He is the all-time master of the American mystery novel.”—John Saul

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jared Hoskins:**

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one using theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The actual A Deadly Shade of

Gold: A Travis McGee Novel is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

**Lonnie Fazio:**

Reading a book for being new life style in this yr; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a lot of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The A Deadly Shade of Gold: A Travis McGee Novel offer you a new experience in looking at a book.

**Norma Baumgarten:**

Do you like reading a book? Confuse to looking for your favorite book? Or your book was rare? Why so many concern for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes studying, not only science book but in addition novel and A Deadly Shade of Gold: A Travis McGee Novel or maybe others sources were given understanding for you. After you know how the truly amazing a book, you feel need to read more and more. Science reserve was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those publications are helping them to add their knowledge. In additional case, beside science publication, any other book likes A Deadly Shade of Gold: A Travis McGee Novel to make your spare time much more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

**Michael Larose:**

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