

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: **The Big Sleep** (1946)

1 Disc



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Theatrical release lobby card

ISBN: 7321900650267

Information

Release Title: **The Big Sleep** 29th September 1946 United Kingdom (London)

AKA:

Origin: United States

Release Date: United States: 31st August 1946

Genres: Film Noir, Hard Boiled Detective, Crime, Mystery, Thriller

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 1h 54m (114m)

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: New York Street, Warner Brothers Burbank Studios - 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank, California, USA

Sound mix: Mono (RCA Sound System)

Colour: PAL B&W

Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1 (16mm, 35mm) (Eastman 1302)

Directed by	Howard Hawks
Screenplay by	William Faulkner Leigh Brackett Jules Furthman
Based on	<i>The Big Sleep</i> 1939 novel by Raymond Chandler
Produced by	Howard Hawks
Starring	Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall Martha Vickers
Cinematography	Sidney Hickox
Edited by	Christian Nyby
Music by	Max Steiner
Production company	Warner Bros.
Distributed by	Warner Bros.
Release dates	August 23, 1946 (<i>New York City</i> premiere) [1] August 31, 1946 (US) [2]
Running time	114 minutes (released cut) 116 minutes (re-released original cut)
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$1.6 million ^[3]
Box office	\$4.9 million ^[3]

Storyline

Philip Marlowe, a private detective in Los Angeles, is summoned to the mansion of General Sternwood, who wants to resolve a series of personal debts his daughter Carmen owes to bookseller Arthur Geiger. As Marlowe leaves, Sternwood's older daughter Vivian stops him. She suspects her father's true motive for hiring a detective is to find his protégé Sean Regan, who had disappeared a month earlier.

Marlowe goes to Geiger's shop, which is minded by Agnes Lowzier, and then follows Geiger home. Hearing a gunshot and a woman's scream, he breaks in to find Geiger's body and a drugged Carmen, as well as a hidden camera minus its film. After taking Carmen home he returns and discovers that the body has disappeared. During the night Marlowe learns that Sternwood's driver, Owen Taylor, has been found dead in a limousine driven off the Lido Pier, having been struck on the back of the head.

Vivian comes to Marlowe's office the next morning with scandalous pictures of Carmen that she received with a blackmail demand for the negatives. Marlowe returns to Geiger's bookstore and follows a car to the apartment of Joe Brody, a gambler who previously blackmailed Sternwood. He then finds Carmen outside Geiger's house, where she insists that it was Brody who killed Geiger. They are interrupted by the landlord, gangster Eddie Mars.

Marlowe goes to Brody's apartment, where he finds Agnes and Vivian. They are interrupted by Carmen, who wants her photos. Marlowe disarms her and sends Vivian and Carmen home. Brody admits he was behind the blackmailing, having stolen the negatives from Taylor, but denies having murdered him. Answering his door he is shot dead. Marlowe chases the killer and apprehends Carol Lundgren, Geiger's former driver, who believes Brody is swindling him. Marlowe calls the police to arrest Lundgren.

Marlowe visits Mars' casino where he asks about Regan, who supposedly ran off with Mars' wife. Mars is evasive and tells Marlowe that Vivian is running up gambling debts. Vivian wins a big wager and then wants Marlowe to take her home. A stooge of Mars' attempts to rob Vivian, but Marlowe knocks him out. While driving back, Marlowe presses Vivian on her connection with Mars but she admits nothing. Back at home, Marlowe finds a flirtatious Carmen waiting for him. She says she did not like Regan and mentions that Mars calls Vivian frequently. When she attempts to seduce Marlowe, he throws her out. The next day, Vivian tells him he can stop looking for Regan; he has been found in Mexico and she is going to see him.

Mars has Marlowe beaten up to stop him from investigating further. He is found by Harry Jones: an associate of Agnes who is besotted with her. Jones conveys her offer to reveal Mars' wife's location for \$200. When Marlowe goes to meet him and be taken to her hiding place, he spots Lash Canino, a gunman hired by Mars, who is there to find Agnes. As Marlowe watches from hiding, Canino threatens Jones until Jones tells him Agnes' address. Canino then forces Jones to have a "drink" which turns out to be poison. Afterward, Marlowe discovers that Jones lied about Agnes' location.

Agnes telephones the office while Marlowe is still there, and he arranges to meet her. She has seen Mona Mars behind an auto repair shop near a town called Realito. When he arrives, Marlowe is attacked by Canino. He awakes tied up, with Mona watching over him. Vivian is also present and frees Marlowe, allowing him to get his gun and kill Canino. They drive back together and Marlowe calls Mars from Geiger's house, pretending to be still in Realito.

Mars arrives with four men, who set up an ambush outside. He enters, surprised to see Marlowe, who accuses him of blackmailing Vivian, as Carmen had killed Regan; Mars claims she did this in a mental haze, though Marlowe doubts Mars' credibility. He then forces Mars back outside, where he is shot by his own men. Marlowe calls the police, telling them that Mars killed Regan to cover for Carmen. He also convinces Vivian that her sister needs psychiatric care. Vivian then confesses her own problems but claims there's "nothing you can't fix."

[Wiki](#)

P.I. Philip Marlowe's hired by a wealthy general to find out and stop his daughter Carmen from being blackmailed over gambling debts, Marlowe finds himself deep within a web of love triangles, blackmail, murder, gambling, and organized crime. With help from Vivian (another of the general's daughters), Marlowe hatches a plot to free the family from this web and trap the real culprit.. [IMDb](#)

Review: Many fans of this classic film are drawn to it because of Bogie and Bacall, who do indeed make a deft acting duo. Here, Bogie plays Philip Marlowe, the tough talking, street savvy PI, who has his roots in the crime novels of writer Raymond Chandler. Bacall plays Vivian Sternwood, the adult daughter of a wealthy man. Vivian is just as tough and cagey as Marlowe. And she has a younger sister named Carmen, who seems to have fallen in with a bad crowd. It's up to Marlowe to investigate, and to save the Sternwood family from financial ruin. "The Big Sleep" is a story of blackmail, murder, multiple motives, lies, and all manner of general mayhem.

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall are certainly persuasive in their roles. I also like the script's snappy dialogue. For example, in a conversation with General Sternwood, Marlowe responds: "Hmm". Sternwood follows up: "What does that mean?" To which Marlowe fires back: "It means, hmm". Marvelous.

But the film's plot is an incoherent mess. It is hard to follow, disjointed, and has obvious lapses. Further, secondary characters (Geiger, Brody, Mars, et.al.), and their interrelationships, are poorly defined. To some extent that vagueness and lack of precision are fairly common in 1940's pulp detective stories.

The best approach to "The Big Sleep" is to engulf the relationship between Marlowe and Vivian, marvel at the acting of Bogie and Bacall, enjoy the witty dialogue, and ignore the discombobulated plot. [IMDb](#)

Cast

Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlowe

Lauren Bacall as Vivian Sternwood Rutledge

John Ridgely as Eddie Mars

Martha Vickers as Carmen Sternwood

Sonia Darrin as Agnes Lowzier (uncredited)[8]

Dorothy Malone as Acme Bookstore proprietress

Regis Toomey as Chief Inspector Bernie Ohls

Peggy Knudsen as Mona Mars

Charles Waldron as General Sternwood

Charles D. Brown as Norris, Sternwood's butler

Bob Steele as Lash Canino

Elisha Cook, Jr. as Harry Jones

Louis Jean Heydt as Joe Brody

Trevor Bardette as Art Huck, gas station owner (uncredited)

Tommy Rafferty as Carol Lundgren (uncredited)

Ben Welden as Pete, Mars' henchman (uncredited)

Tom Fadden as Sidney, Mars' henchman (uncredited)

Parents Guide

Certification

Argentina- 16, Australia-SOAoriginal ratingPG1997, re-rating, Canada-14Avideo rating, Denmark-15, Finland-K-161949(Banned)1947, France-Tous publics, Iceland-12, Ireland-(Banned), Italy-T, Malaysia-(Banned)original rating Netherlands-AL, New Zealand-PG, Norway-9recommended rating16cinema rating, 1973, Poland-12TV rating, Portugal M/12, South Africa-10, Spain-A, Sweden-(Banned)original rating151961, re-rating, United Kingdom-Aoriginal ratingPG1988, re-rating. United States-PassedNational Board of Review Approvedcertificate #10625TV-PGTV rating West Germany-16

Sex & Nudity –Mild, **Violence & Gore** - Mild , **Profanity** – None, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Mild



Philip Marlowe (Bogart) and Vivian Rutledge (Bacall) eye to eye

Soundtracks

And Her Tears Flowed Like Wine

(uncredited)

Music by Stan Kenton and Charles Lawrence

Lyrics by Joe Greene

Sung by Lauren Bacall and The Williams Brothers

[A band accompanies Vivian singing the song at the casino]

