

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A seventh-generation Philadelphian, Richard Powell (1908–1999) was a prodigiously talented writer whose 19 full-length fictional works included many mysteries along with several comedic, dramatic, and historical novels. Prior to retiring to Florida in 1958 to write full time, he studied history at Princeton, was a reporter for the *Philadelphia Evening Ledger*, served in the Army during WWII, and worked for many years in advertising and public relations.

Powell was an inventive storyteller and a keen observer of human foibles and follies who, at the peak of his writing prowess in the late 1950s and early 1960s, emerged as a master of the contemporary novel. No matter what fiction genre Powell turned his hand to, his wry characterizations, crackling dialog, and deft plotting made each book an irresistible page-turner. Several of his novels, including *The Philadelphian*, were made into feature films.

While most of Richard Powell's novels disappeared from publishers' lists during the 1970s, his work is currently experiencing a well-deserved revival, with at least three books in addition to *The Philadelphian* currently available in new editions or soon to be reprinted. More, it is to be hoped, will soon follow.