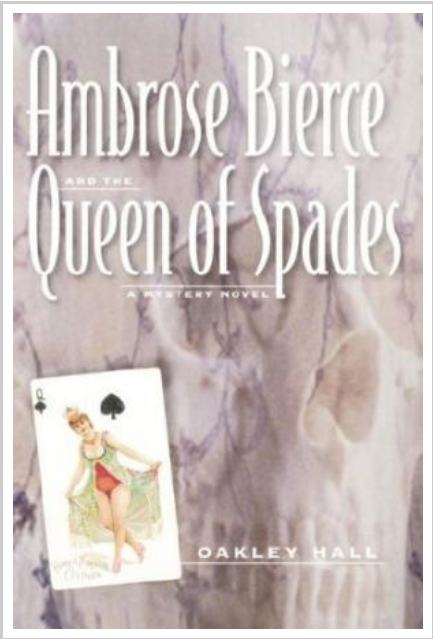


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Ambrose Bierce and the Queen of Spades: A Mystery Novel (Hardback)

By Oakley Hall

University of California Press, United States, 1998. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 229 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Morton Street Slasher has been leaving the corpses of his victims around San Francisco s Union Square. On the women s naked bodies are spade playing cards. The city s infamous newspaperman, Ambrose Bierce, blames the rash of murders on his old enemy, the Southern Pacific Railroad. A naive reporter at Bierce s Hornet pursues the case, uncovering conspiracy at every turn. In a fast-paced novel that is a combination of murder mystery, historical fiction, and quirky biography, Oakley Hall draws the reader into 1880s San Francisco and the changing world that was California in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Local and state politics, the exploitation of the Chinese, the power of the mining and railroad barons, and San Francisco s colorful history provide a backdrop for this irresistible thriller. The novel s chapters are introduced by appropriate excerpts from Bierce s The Devil s Dictionary and narrated by the young reporter Tom Redmond. Redmond is interested in the murders because of his attraction to a woman threatened by the Slasher, and Bierce encourages him...

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