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Sommario/riassunto	A pioneer in "'hard-boiled fiction,'" James Mallahan Cain achieved fame with his first novel, The Postman Always Rings Twice. His Double Indemnity and Mildred Pierce soon followed, as did successful movie versions of all three novels. With his seventeen other novels and numerous short stories, Cain remains one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century. This reference guide to Cain's oeuvre offers a chronology detailing his life as reporter, Hollywood scenarist, and best-selling author. Entries for his fiction follow, with plot synopses, identification of more than 900 characters