

MURDER AND THE MOVIES

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Yale UNIVERSITY PRESS

New Haven & London

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Set in Janson Roman and Felix Titling types by
Integrated Publishing Solutions.
Printed in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019948577
ISBN 978-0-300-22001-8 (hardcover : alk. paper)

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

This paper meets the requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992
(Permanence of Paper).

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

For Kate

We Were Sitting There Alone

Lady Macduff: Sirrah, your father is dead. And what will you do now?
How will you live?

Son: As birds do, mother.

—*Macbeth*, Act IV, Scene II

If history has taught us anything . . . you can kill anyone.

—MICHAEL in *The Godfather, Part II*

It is the custom on the stage, in all good murderous melodramas, to present the tragic and the comic scenes, in as regular alternation, as the layers of red and white in a streaky side of bacon.

—CHARLES DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*

There is no point in using death to simplify ourselves.

—JOHN BERGER, *and our faces, my heart, brief as photos* (1984)