

MURDER  
*Ballad*



JANE SPRINGER

ALICE JAMES BOOKS



FARMINGTON, MAINE

## *Contents*

### I

Face That Could Pull a Stump	3
What We Call This Frog Hunting	5
Looks Like the Hound Who Caught the Car	7
You Want Fair? The Fair Comes in the Fall	9
You Can't Tell Nobody Nothing Who Ain't Never Been Nowhere	11
Hindsight's Ballad: I'd Go Back & Fix Me, If I Was My Own Daughter	13

### II

Salt Hill	21
Pretty Polly	23
Deepfreeze at the House of Boo—Who Told Me to Meet Her at 6 O'Clock so She Could Beat Me Up for Trying to Steal Her Boyfriend	24
Might Mean Something	27
Pretty As You Please	28
Mules	29
Ether	30
Tying the Knot	34

### III

Nocturne: So Mixed Up She Don't Know Day from Dark	39
I'll Wear the Hound out of That	40
Whiskey Pastoral	41
Don't Let Your Mouth Write a Check Your Butt Can't Cash	43
Calvary Letter	45
Crazing	47
Snow Angel	49

### IV

Ingénue	53
Leave It Lay Where Jesus Flung It	54
Stars, As the Bride Who Could Not Tie the Knot Sees Them	56
Letter to the Dark	63
A Coon's Age	64
The Last Resort	66
Small Cosmos	68