



A criminal passion

TRUE crime magazines were a peculiarly American phenomenon. An artful mix of sex, violence and crime made them an instant hit in the Twenties, and they were still going strong until the Sixties. With implausible plots and improbably endowed women, often semi-naked and bound, the stories

evoke chain-smoking private eyes, hoods and sinful cities. *True Crime Detective Magazines*, by Eric Godtland and edited by Dian Hanson (Taschen £24.99 / £22.50 inc p&p 0845 155 0713) has an informative text, but more importantly it includes 450 iconic covers like these.

