ELLERY QUEEN

THE WORLD'S LEADING MYSTERY MAGAZINE
WRITER'S GUIDELINES

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine welcomes submissions from both new and established writers. We publish every kind of mystery short story: the psychological suspense tale, the deductive puzzle, the private eye case—the gamut of crime and detection from the realistic (including the policeman's lot and stories of police procedure) to the more imaginative (including "locked rooms" and "impossible crimes"). We need hardboiled stories as well as "cozies," but we are not interested in explicit sex or violence. We do not want true detective or crime stories. With the exception of a regular book-review column and a mystery crossword, *EQMM* publishes only fiction. We are especially happy to review first stories by authors who have never before published fiction professionally. First-story submissions should be addressed to *EQMM*'s Department of First Stories.

EQMM has been in continuous publication since 1941. From the beginning three general criteria have been employed in evaluating submissions: We look for strong writing, an original and exciting plot, and professional craftsmanship. Almost any story that involves crime or the threat of crime comes within our purview. However, like all magazines, *EQMM* has a distinctive tone and style and you can only get a sense of whether your work will suit us by reading an issue. To receive a sample copy send a check or money order for $5.00 to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Attn: Sandy Marlowe, 6 Prowitt St., Norwalk, CT 06855.

EQMM uses stories of almost every length. 2,500-8,000 words is the preferred range, but we occasionally use stories of up to 12,000 words and we feature one or two short novels (up to 20,000 words) each year, although these spaces are usually reserved for established writers. Shorter stories are also considered, including minute mysteries of as little as 250 words. Our rates for original stories are from 5 to 8 ¢ a word, sometimes higher for established authors. *EQMM* does not accept stories previously published in the U.S. It is not necessary to query *EQMM* as to subject matter or to ask permission to submit a story.

EQMM uses an online submission system (http://eqmm.magazinesubmissions.com) that has been designed to streamline our process and improve communication with authors. We ask that all future submissions be made electronically, using this system, rather than on paper. All stories should be in standard manuscript format and submitted in .DOC format. We cannot accept .DOCX, .RTF, or .TXT files at this time. For information about standard formatting, see William Shunn's guide to Proper Manuscript Format (http://www.shunn.net/format/story.html).

We regret that we cannot provide criticism with returned stories. Response time is up to three months. Please do not send a query about a submission until at least three months have passed.