

# ELLERY QUEEN

THE WORLD'S LEADING MYSTERY MAGAZINE

## WRITER'S GUIDELINES

As of February 14, 2011 EQMM will be using 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 submissions be made electronically, using this system, rather than on paper. Our online submissions form for fiction asks for your name, e-mail address, cover letter, story title, and story. Your cover letter should state the length of your story, your publishing history (briefly!), and any other relevant information. If you have not been previously published, let us know that your story should be considered for our Department of First Stories. We ask for the same information for poetry. Please fill out a separate form for each poem submitted for consideration. All stories and poems should be in standard manuscript format and submitted in .DOC format. At this time, our system does not support .DOCX, .RTF, or .TXT files. For information about standard formatting, see [William Shunn's guide to Proper Manuscript Format](http://www.shunn.net/format/story.html). After you have submitted your work, a tracking number will be displayed and an automated e-mail confirmation containing this information will be sent to you. If you have not received this e-mail within twenty-four hours, please notify us by [e-mail](mailto:elleryqueenmm@dellmagazines.com). Your tracking number will allow you to monitor the status of your submission through our website, so please don't lose it.

*NOTE: Yahoo.com occasionally treats our e-mails as spam, so please keep an eye on your spam folder.*

We will continue to accept paper submissions only from established authors who do not have the technical capability to submit electronically.

*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 hard-boiled 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. We encourage writers whose work meets these general criteria to read an issue of *EQMM* before making a submission. *EQMM's* range in the mystery genre is extensive: 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. It is not necessary to query *EQMM* as to subject matter or to ask permission to submit a story. *EQMM* does not accept stories previously published in the United States.

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.

All paper submissions should be mailed to  
Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine  
267 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-2352