

Minute Mystery Contest

1st prize is a Polo Shirt embroidered with our logo!

Entry Deadline: **May 1st** Contest Day: **May 11th**

Email entries in **Microsoft Word** or *unlocked* PDF format to:

mystery@justinkase.com



Entries should be between 500 and 1000 words in double spaced, 12-point Times or Courier. The entry fee (*which goes to our spotlight speaker fund*) is \$5 payable to Jonna Smith on or before the contest day, May 11th. Entries will be typeset without the author's name, bound in a ballot and handed out at the May 11th meeting at The Woodland's Barnes and Noble. After they have been read aloud, members will mark their ballots and hand them in for scoring. Prizes will be awarded to 1st (Polo Shirt), 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention (tee-shirts with our logo printed on them).

The object of this contest is to produce fiction suitable for submission to **Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine**. Below is a copy of EQMM's submission guidelines from their website.

Writers' 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 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 the address below.

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 United States.

It is not necessary to query *EQMM* as to subject matter or to ask permission to submit a story. All manuscripts should be printed on one side of the paper and double-spaced. If you would like the manuscript returned in the event that we cannot use it, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope of suitable size. If you do not want the manuscript returned, please indicate this and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for a reply; if you live outside the U.S., please use International Postal Reply coupons for return postage.

We regret that we cannot provide criticism with returned stories. Response time is up to three months.

Manuscripts should be sent to: *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* 475 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10016

Write Ingredients Workshop – Join us every Monday at 7pm for free writer's workshops, contests and more, upstairs in the corner overlooking the waterway at the Barnes and Noble in The Woodlands, Texas. Learn more about our organization, members and activities at www.writeingredients.com