



## Inspector Queen's Own Case

*Ellery Queen*

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## Inspector Queen's Own Case Ellery Queen

Aka November Song

For years, Inspector Richard Queen had been outshone by his writer son. Now, with Ellery away, he had a case all his own--or did he? The verdict had been accidental death, and only the victim's nurse had seen the one thing that made it murder. Recruiting a Senior Citizens corps of retired cops, Dick Queen tracked a murderer--and found himself courting his only witness! No wonder he kept muttering, "What's Ellery going to say...?"

## Inspector Queen's Own Case Details

Date : Published December 31st 1978 by John Curley & Associates (first published January 1st 1957)

ISBN : 9780893401047

Author : Ellery Queen

Format : Hardcover 408 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Detective, Cozy Mystery, Crime

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# From Reader Review Inspector Queen's Own Case for online ebook

## Jimmy Lee says

This book sat on my pending pile for a while - a mystery starring Inspector Queen just didn't seem as enthralling as one starring Ellery. But I'm glad I finally picked it up.

Retired, Inspector Queen is at loose ends. Visiting friends, he meets a nurse to the baby of one of the millionaires on a nearby island. When that baby mysteriously dies (our nurse friend cries murder), Inspector Queen predictably is hot on the trail, even if he is out of his precinct and out of a job.

The cousins did a great job of telling this story from the police inspector's point of view, shifting their style from the usual 90% Ellery Queen story. The Inspector, with Nurse Jessie by his side for her safety (and for other interests), investigated this mystery as if he was still on the police force - and managed the case just as he does when usually in the background of the Ellery Queen mysteries: identifying the most suspicious / prime candidate, using his (fellow retired) police force resources to wear that candidate down and keep his evidence safe, and (here's where Ellery usually comes in) ultimately determining the real criminal.

Except in this case, Ellery never appears - he's off traveling in Europe. So the inspector is left to his own devices, and has to figure out who the perpetrator is all by himself, and what to do with his nurse friend. Great story, and not without a few twists.

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## Greg says

BOOK 96 - Mid-20th Century North American Crime Readathon - Round 3

HOOK=2 stars: A baby is taken from a hospital by a mother and handed to a family, all in broad daylight. Is this a crime or a legal adoption or a kidnapping of a baby? If this had not been an Ellery Queen novel, I would have stopped right there: babies/children in danger isn't my thing.

PACE=2: A developing love interest takes much too long. This might have been better as a novella.

PLOT=3: There are 3 murders along the way. All rather bland.

PEOPLE=4: Richard Queen, 63 years old and retired is traveling (without his son) in Europe and is interesting alone, as is Jessie, a nurse. But most memorable is the mother of the baby who sadly had the wherewithal to raise the baby but she is single: society at the time did not allow for that. Times have changed!

ATMOSPHERE=3: There's an island for the rich (desperate for privacy) opposed to bachelor and bachelorette apartments, plus cozy cottages. But with all this, the denouement occurs in a much-too-lengthy basement scene: one supposes the author's point is that deep in the dark are answers to be found, but we often don't want to go there.

SUMMARY: My rating is 2.8. I've read far better novels by Ellery Queen in past years. Perhaps I've read the best already.

"Calamity Town" - 1942 - 3.4

"There Was an Old Woman" - 1943 - 2.8

"Inspector Queen's Own Case" - 1957 - 2.8

Ellery Queen author average - 3.00

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## **Sally Taylor says**

3.5 stars. I think this was a good book and story, but it was written in 1957 and some "old" ideas came through (sexism type things) not a lot but every now and then. I like a good cozy mystery right before I read a really scary book, which is one reason I read this. The other reason was because I was doing a spell out and this got me the "q" and the "i" I needed to finish... so bonus!

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## **Kate says**

"The murder weapon was a white lace pillow soiled by the mark of a grey, dirty hand. The victim was a soft, gurgling baby. The trail led Inspector Queen to a vicious racket that preyed on unwed mothers and to a deadly encounter with a desperate killer."

~~back cover

A nice, gentle mystery -- an American cozy, in fact.

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## **Renee Wolcott says**

I had heard of Ellery Queen -- the name of the detective character in all his books, as well as the purported author -- but had never read any of his novels until last summer. This was the second I read, featuring the fictional Ellery's father: a police inspector who is feeling useless after his retirement. This novel features just what he needs to perk him up: a long-unsolved kidnapping and murder mystery as well as a handsome middle-aged nurse.

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## **Jessi says**

Now retired, Inspector Queen is finding life to be a bit boring. He's visiting some friends when he gets stranded on the beach of a millionaire's island. The man's newborn son has a nurse who helps the Inspector out (and maybe even flirts a bit with him.) When the child the nurse is watching gets murdered, the Inspector gets pulled into a mystery involving an illicitly adopted baby, a series of murders, and a touch of romance. I missed Ellery but was glad that the Inspector finally got to show that he is a competent investigator in his own right.

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## **Chazzi says**

This was definitely a different Queen story.

Inspector Queen has been retired by the police force but he can't stop investigating. While on vacation he is drawn into the mysterious death of a two month old baby of a Boston Brahmin family. He also becomes

acquainted with the baby's nurse, who claims it is murder and not accidental death.

No longer having the NYPD forces available to assist in the solution of this mystery, he calls up some of his buddies that are also retired from the force. They may be retired but they are still able to investigate and still have their old contacts for information.

The threads to this mystery are tight and the ends hard to unravel, but Inspector Queen keeps at it with the help of his team and the lovely nurse he has become attracted to. The solution is not without many twists and turns and the outcome is a shocker.

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### **Flo Tinsman says**

#### **Enjoyable**

Very good story and I made it almost to the end before I realized that I had the wrong killer. On to the next book

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### **Athena says**

the ending wasn't as good as i thought it would have been, left me with a dead buzz from the fast pace of the plot. everything is good for over half the book but after that things get a bit blan

don't get me wrong it's still a good book and i would read it again, but it just could have ended better. the romance is sweet if you like that kind of thing, not too much and doesn't over do it

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### **Roy says**

This was one of the most fun reads I did all year. It is part of my project to read all the EQ mysteries in order (those written by the cousins, at least), but this one was an unexpected surprise. And it didn't even have Ellery in it once! The story of Inspector Queen being retired, but pulled into a case at his summer retreat reminded me of the best of Poirot stories in structure. The mystery had enough twists to really interest me (while still living up to the EQ tradition of a "fair play" mystery). And I enjoyed seeing the previously unflappable Inspector Queen face uncertainty and doubt once he was retired (by legal age requirement) from the NYPD he had served all his life.

The mystery solutions -- and like most EQ novels, there are several discoveries that change the mystery across the course of the novel -- were almost always a surprise to me. But always a surprise I thought I should have figured out before I got to them. That may be the epitome of what draws me to the EQ mysteries.

The potential romance between Inspector Queen and Nurse Jessie Sherwood was done well enough, and tied well to the sense of "what does my life mean when everything is changing" that seemed to be the book's theme for every character. I don't read EQ for romance, but this worked as part of the story and theme. Reminded me of the introduction of Nikki Porter in *There Was an Old Woman*, which I remember being done very well.

Most critics feel that by the 1950s, these novels represent the more sophisticated late period of EQ stories. I do think the story-telling and characters are more satisfying than the earlier puzzle stories, but they still retain the amazing ability to give me a sense of time and place that the cousins are always good about. For novels written over a 40-year period, each novel seems to be set in a very year-specific now (even if Ellery and Inspector Queen never seem to age, at least until this book).

There are a few strange things in the writing. The perspective seems to change several times, sometimes purely from an omniscient observer, sometimes from Inspector Queen's viewpoint but third party narration, and sometimes purely from Jessie Sherwood's internal narration. Given the skill the cousins had by this time, I think this was deliberate, not sloppiness. For me it worked.

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### **Rick Mills says**

Besides the story line, there are two other big themes lurking here. First, the murder of a baby - and children in general - has long been off-limits for mystery writers - but in 1956 that was still happening, so we must overlook the revulsion factor. Second, the theme of persons being seen as outdated and useless to society as they age is ever present in Richard Queen's thoughts; as he considers being pushed out of his organization to make room for younger ones; and collects up his other retired buddies to operate a sub-rosa investigation.

This novel shows the turning point in writing away from the Golden Age [loosely defined as between WWI and WWII] style, and into the gritty too-much-detail 1960's style. The Golden Age never discusses things like the appearance of bullet holes, or menstruation! This is what attracts me to the writing of the Golden Age.

The case progresses and is somewhat predictable, with the obvious suspect being eliminated at the last minute. The steady progression of the Queen/Sherwood relationship is handled well and leads to a satisfying conclusion.

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### **Kathy says**

Even though Ellery himself didn't make an appearance in this book, this was a terrific Queen mystery! The authors got the inner dialogue of Nurse Sherwood just right. The mystery was satisfying and the characterizations were superb. 4-1/2 stars!

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### **4cats says**

I really enjoyed this. Ellery is on holiday and Richard Queen is feeling lost, retired and on holiday with friends he feels alone and without purpose. However, he meets Jessie, a nurse and soon the two of them are

investigating the death of a baby.

I loved the writing in this, it really captures the sense of loss a retiree often experiences and the plot moves along well.

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### **Donn Lorber says**

My first Ellery Queen case, very enjoyable. I will do more, a great discovery at the Penn State book sale

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### **Gypsi says**

Inspector Queen (Ellery's father) has retired and is not happy about it. While visiting friends, he becomes involved in the possible murder of an infant. The baby's nurse, Jessie, appeals to him for help and they form a partnership to investigate the case.

This is my favorite Ellery Queen mystery, despite Ellery not appearing in it at all. Richard Queen has a wonderful personality, and Jessie was a delight as well. The mystery was engaging and the writing good. Overall, it's an excellent book and just barely falls short of 5 stars.

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