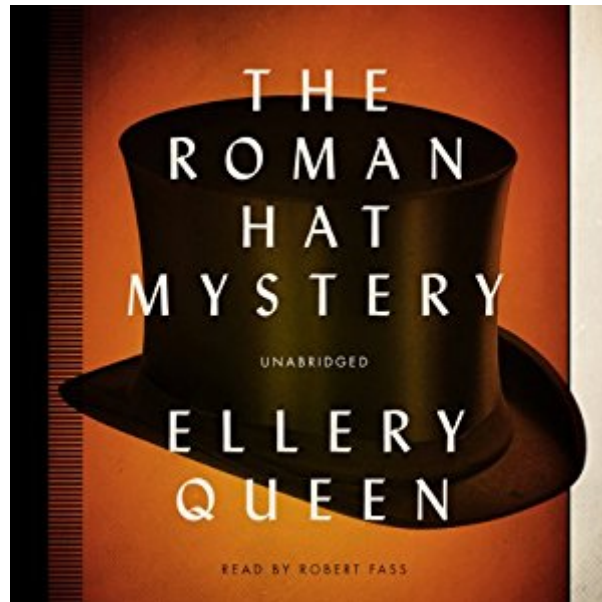




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# The Roman Hat Mystery



## Synopsis

Despite the dismal Broadway season, Gunplay continues to draw crowds. A gangland spectacle, it's packed to the gills with action, explosions, and gunfire. In fact, Gunplay is so loud that no one notices the killing of Monte Field. In a sold-out theater, Field is found dead partway through the second act, surrounded by empty seats. The police hold the crowd and call for the one man who can untangle this daring murder: Inspector Richard Queen. With the help of his son Ellery, a bibliophile and novelist whose imagination can solve any crime, the Inspector attacks this seemingly impenetrable mystery. Anyone in the theater could have killed the unscrupulous lawyer, and several had the motive. Only Ellery Queen, in his debut novel, can decipher the clue of the dead man's missing top hat.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Audible.com Release Date: September 15, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## Customer Reviews

Maybe the writing produced the one-dimensional characters or maybe they've just become stereotypes as the noir novel has been repeated over the years, but I just couldn't enjoy any of the characters. The plot was fun, with a few good twists, but anyone who enjoys mysteries will have figured it out before the end. Still glad I added this to my library, as Ellery Queen is the granddaddy of the genre!

outstanding! edition and a classic! jm.

Excellent

awesome old deductive sleuthing! Excellent real life scenes and characters. Real life reasoning too!  
Helpful for my job in corporate america

This is the first in the long series of Ellery Queen stories- it's quaint, very dated, and enjoyable, and mostly significant for its place in the history of the genre- old school mystery. In other words, nobody gets punched in the jaw or uses bad grammar. Revolving around a setting- the theatre- and a prop- a top hat- that symbolize Ellery Queen's place in time very well, this one takes a little while to get going, but it's a worthwhile and enjoyable read. I'm going to take advice from the reader from Kansas (below) and give these guys (uncredited authors Dannay and Lee) another chance with a later entry in the series. If you can possibly lay hands on Otto Penzler's beautiful facsimile of the first edition, by all means do so.

great book

WOW!

This book, the first of the Ellery Queen mysteries (published by various writers) portrays Ellery, the son of the police inspector, as a combination of Oscar Wilde and Lord Peter Wimsey. It is a police procedural complete with cringing criminals, saucy tarts speaking mob slang, and the beautiful heiress who faints during interrogation. The solution is mailed in from Ellery to his father while the former is off on vacation with friends. At the time it came out, it might have been more interesting, but to a modern, jaded mystery reader, it was pretty dull. Its historic value outweighed its read.

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