



The Fourth Side of the Triangle

Ellery Queen (Pseudonym), Avram Davidson, Frederic Dannay (Outline)

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The Fourth Side of the Triangle Ellery Queen (Pseudonym) , Avram Davidson , Frederic Dannay (Outline) Sheila, young international leader of haute couture, is found murdered in her Park Avenue penthouse. Two floors down, the distinguished middle-aged millionaire-Ashton McKell-is hauled off to jail. Next to go, Lutecia, his shy patrician wife. And then-Dane, their handsome, sensitive son. Together, a triangle of murder suspects. Ellery, immobilized, can trick the police into becoming his "legmen" if he discovers The Fourth Side of the Triangle.

The Fourth Side of the Triangle Details

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Author : Ellery Queen (Pseudonym) , Avram Davidson , Frederic Dannay (Outline)

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From Reader Review The Fourth Side of the Triangle for online ebook

Lawanda says

Audiobook performed by Mark Peckham

Jim Hager says

Well thought out and keeps you guessing

Kate says

Slow to start, and despite being an Ellery Queen mystery, the detective himself doesn't show up until about a third of the way through the book--and during every appearance, he makes time to lust after a Swedish nurse. HO HO, SEXUAL HARASSMENT HUMOR, HOW CHARMING! Other timeworn tropes include ethnic stereotypes and the "he's got a temper and assaults people but he's really a good guy" line.

The story did keep me guessing, but in retrospect it was because I didn't understand how or why "we" (the reader [me], the narrator, and Ellery Queen) had ruled out the most obvious suspect. The characters were well-sketched but almost impossible to like.

tl;dr: Skip it.

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

Plot was a bit twisted for me. Dane's "solution" to the predicament with his father is disgusting to me. The story kept me entertained enough to finish it but I can not say that I really enjoyed it.

Donna says

Father and son share the same mistress. Mistress, a fashion designer, ends up dead. Everyone has a motive; no one has a verifiable alibi.

Has similarities to Nero Wolf since Ellery Queen has broken two legs skiing and is immobilized requiring others to do the investigating for him. Also similarities to Perry Mason with courtroom drama and dramatic testimony.

This story was going along remarkably but lost a star, maybe two, for the last two pages. Good set-up, lousy conclusion.

Christopher Rush says

I'm fairly certain this should be filed under "the author wanted to be a 'real' author but wanted money and/or a foot in the biz so he temporarily laid aside his principles and wrote an EQ mystery," which may require an unusual size label, for which I'm sorry. I'm not very familiar with EQ, but surely the real ones have to be better than this, and I'm pretty sure this is not by the two creators of EQ, but I could be wrong. This served as the basis for the TV series pilot with Jim Hutton, but fortunately the movie-episode is far superior to this non-EQ story masquerading poorly as an EQ mystery. It's just a mid-'60s psychological profile novel (and not a good one, either). To make it even worse (beyond how dull it is and offputting the premises and "motivations"), the portrayal of EQ himself is wretchedly done: he's irritable, yells at his father in front of people, gets the case almost wholly wrong, and is hardly even in the story. But of course that was the point of the "real" author trying to make a "real" story without EQ. The only potentially redeeming aspect of this is how intelligent Inspector Queen is shown in the last five pages (after being shown a fool for 100 pages prior), but it's not enough to redeem it after all. Watch the show's version instead.

Shane says

Very good mystery, nicely paced but the ending was a little lazy, I think he painted himself into a corner on how to end this and took the easy way out. The print in this copy looks to be a xerox copy of the original 1965' printing. The print looks like it was typed on a old manual typewriter and the ribbon was wet and sloppy, print is smeared and sometimes blurred too much to read comfortably but this posing a problem also gave me the feeling that I was reading the original fresh of the press. I have read Ellery Queen short stories in the old Pulp magazines but this was my first Queen novel and I enjoyed it enough to put me on the hunt for more of his books. Good read, good read indeed!

Steven Freeman says

Started slow, but then got me hooked with plenty of plot twists to keep you guessing until the very end.

Bob says

This was my first Ellery Queen mystery. I may not read another.

The plot was good and kept me interested. The characters, however, were not very interesting or worthy of sympathy. There were not many suspects. It's one of these stories where the author could easily have written different endings. In fact, he sort of did.

It strikes me as a rather old-fashioned detective story, even though it takes place in 1965. There is an apartment where various people enter and depart in a small period of time and someone is killed. Each person seems to have an alibi.

There is no depth to the characters, nor is there the strong central character of the detective. The detective

here, also called Ellery Queen (weird), is sort of a wimp. I much prefer Ross McDonald's Lew Archer series, the detective story as philosophical tragedy; or Gardner's Perry Mason, the detective as heroic genius fighter. In either series, there are much more complex plots too.

Randy says

these seemed to have been ghost written.

Meg says

Disappointing, in a word.
