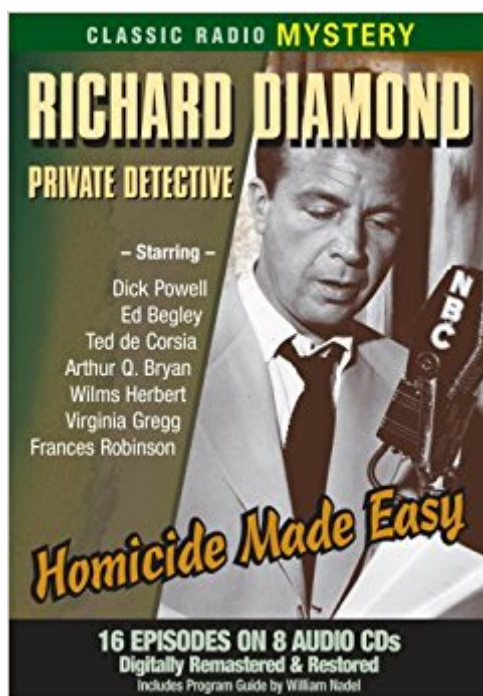


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Richard Diamond: Homicide Made Easy (Old Time Radio) (Classic Radio Mysteries)



Synopsis

Richard Diamond, Private Detective was one of the great gems of the last decade of commercial network dramatic radio. Tailor made for star Dick Powell, the sleuth is an amalgam of elements of Philip Marlowe with Powell's own boy singer past. Diamond is a tough detective and while he often faces long odds and takes his beatings, he always rebounds with humor and style. This collection includes 16 digitally remastered and restored episodes of Powell starring as the hardboiled singing gumshoe mixing it up with thugs, shake-down artists, and murderers in New York City -- as well as his former compatriots in the Fifth Precinct, friend Lt. Levinson (alternately played by veteran radio actors Ed Begley, Ted de Corsia, and Arthur Q. Bryan in this set) and nemesis Sergeant Otis as portrayed by Wilms Herbert. Tightly scripted, with strong performances from the series stars and supporting actors, this collection is sure to please enthusiasts of classic radio drama and detective mystery entertainment. Also features radio actors Joan Banks, Harry Bartell, Jeanne Bates, Raymond Burr, William Conrad, John Dehner, Don Diamond, Paul Dubov, Herb Ellis, Bill Forman, Frank Gerstle, Virginia Gregg, Bill Johnstone, Lou Krugman, Peter Leeds, Sheldon Leonard, Junius Matthews, Lucille Meredith, Sidney Miller, Ann Morrison, Jay Novello, Frances Robinson, Herb Vigran, Barton Yarborough, Carleton Young and many more. Included in this collection is a Program Guide by radio historian William Nadel with photographs and background information about the shows. INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING EPISODES: CD 1--Picture Perfect Killers - 8/6/1949, Cop Killers - 2/26/1950, CD 2--Private Eye Test - 3/19/1950, Paddy Clark - 4/19/1950, CD 3--Ralph Baxter Case - 4/26/1950, Insurance Matter - 8/23/1950, CD 4--The Kidnapped Policeman - 10/18/1950, Death and the Letter - 11/8/1950, CD 5--The Eight O'Clock Killer - 11/22/1950, The Caspary Case - 2/2/1951, CD 6--Lady In Distress - 2/23/1951, Red Rose - 3/2/1951, CD 7--Butcher Shop - 3/9/1951, Eddie Burke Case - 2/8/1952, CD 8--Dixon Case - 3/14/1952, Hollywood Story - 8/23/1953

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a really good set of recordings. Clear and crisp sound. Sometimes these old radio shows can be pretty hard to hear due to poor sound, but this is a good batch. I have many in the Diamond Series, and these are all great shows to listen to. LOVE his singing at the end of each show.

Dick Powell never faded into a Hollywood memory like many stars did when their careers began to fade because he simply morphed into another area. He became a star in the extravagant Busby Berkeley musicals now considered classics. Later as that genre of film faded he continued crooning on radio in Hollywood Hotel and Campana Serenade and other series. On film the lavish Busby Berkeley musicals had run their course and the studio didn't know what to do with him. Powell knew he could do serious roles so bought out his contract at Warner Brothers to freelance. Audiences wondered if they were actually seeing the same guy when he revived his career as the star of noir vehicles like *Murder My Sweet* and *Cornered*. Powell had found a new life in pictures. He never forgot radio, however, and the wildly popular detective who could sing a song, Richard Diamond, was born. Debuting in April of 1949 it ran until the end of June in 1952. It was so popular the reruns were broadcast during 1953 as the summer replacement show for *Amos 'n' Andy*. Powell moved behind the camera in 1952, hooking up with Charles Boyer and David Niven to create *Four Star Playhouse*. *Climax* and the very popular *Zane Grey Theatre* would come later, but radio's Richard Diamond was not forgotten. Like Powell, he would have a long career. David Janssen was picked by producer Powell to star in the television series which gave a young Mary Tyler Moore a break as the leggy voice you mostly never saw. But it all went back to radio, and it was there that Richard Diamond, *Private Detective*, made his mark. Powell wasn't done yet in front of the camera or behind the microphone and played Richard Diamond himself during its entire run on radio. He was simply terrific as the detective who always had time for a song. It was the perfect brew and audiences drank it up. Scripted by Blake Edwards, who would become famous for creating *Peter Gunn*, the stories were tight and entertaining. Cartoon fans know Arthur Q. Bryan as the voice of Elmer Fudd, but Diamond fans knew him as Lieutenant Levinson. Ed Begley also portrayed Levinson in many

episodes. Virginia Gregg was Helen Asher, Diamond's girlfriend. Diamond has had a couple of nice cassette collections available in the past, but this new one is on compact disc. The sixteen episodes are as follows: Picture Perfect Killers -- Cop Killers -- Private Eye Test -- Paddy Clark -- Ralph Baxter Case -- Insurance Matter -- The Kidnapped Policeman -- Death and the Letter -- The Eight O'Clock Killer -- The Caspary Case -- Lady in Distress -- Red Rose -- Butcher Shop -- Eddie Burke Case -- Dixon Case -- Hollywood Story. With over eight hours of radio entertainment, this is homicide and mystery which is fun to listen to while working around the house on a weekend. While long-running radio series like The Shadow and Suspense deserve their reputations, shows which had shorter runs such as Alan Ladd's Box Thirteen, and Bold Venture, starring Bogie and Bacall, were incredibly fun and entertaining. Diamond falls into this category also and is a great show radio fans will love.

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