

Craig Rice
Ryan Ellett

Born Georgiana Ann Randolph Craig on June 5, 1908, the future Craig Rice began writing for radio in the very early 1930s after gaining experience publishing in *The Milwaukee Journal* and *The Chicago American*. Rice spent many of her formative years living with family in Wisconsin and as a young woman went to work as a writer, performer, and time seller for WCLO in Janesville, WI. Around the same time she also penned continuity for the Beacon Syndicate.

In 1939 Rice's first novel featuring crime fighting attorney John J. Malone was published in 1939. Another half dozen novels about Malone's exploits were published before he reached the airwaves in 1947 in *Murder, Mr. Malone*, later changed to *The Amazing Mr. Malone*. Frequently credited with scripting his early radio stories, it's very likely she was mostly consulted about the content while the actual writing was left to Eugene Wang who is credited with penning most of the series.

At the peak of her career from the mid-1940s to mid-1950s Rice collaborated with a number of other mystery and detective authors including Stuart Palmer and Ed McBain on novels, short stories and screenplays.

Sadly, Craig Rice's personal life was not any more stable than some of her fictional creations. She was married multiple times, reportedly drank too much, and died of an overdose of alcohol and barbiturates when she was only 49. Rice was also experiencing deteriorating vision and hearing by that time.