

The Amazing Mr. Malone

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Murder and Mr. Malone, starring Frank Lovejoy as Chicago's mystery-solving lawyer John J. Malone, debuted on January 11, 1947 over ABC. Sponsored by Guild Wines through the Honig-Cooper agency, week after week Mr. Malone found himself involved in trying to solve a wide variety of killings that often involved blackmail, mistaken identities, and gambling. In the spring of 1948 the sponsor announced they were cutting ties with Mr. Malone, while at the same time changing the title of the series from *Murder and Mr. Malone* to *The Amazing Mr. Malone* as of April 24, 1948. At the time of the change the series was being carried over 63 stations of the ABC network. As *The Amazing Mr. Malone*, Lovejoy's series ran for almost another year until March 1949.

On September 21, 1949 attorney John J. Malone returned to the airwaves, this time with Gene Raymond in the lead role. This edition of the show lasted for one full season before leaving the airwaves again. Finally, Malone returned a third and final time as a summer replacement series in 1950, running from May to July. George Petrie played Mr. Malone in this final incarnation.

Attorney John J. Malone was created by Georgiana Ann Randolph Craig under the pseudonym Craig Rice; his first appearance was in a 1939 novel. Although Craig was credited with writing some of the early scripts in notices and articles, most of the run was penned by and credited to Eugene Wang who was also a primary writer for *The Falcon*.

After his first novel in 1939, Malone would go on to be the feature in more than a dozen novels, 50 short stories, a radio series, a single-season television show, and three motion pictures.