



## **Julius Katz Mysteries**

*Dave Zeltserman*

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These award-winning Julius Katz mysteries have delighted thousands of mystery fans since first appearing on the pages of Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine in 2009. Julius Katz introduced readers to Boston's most brilliant, eccentric and possibly laziest detective, Julius Katz, as well as his sidekick, Archie, a tiny piece of whizbang computer technology with the heart and soul of a hard-boiled PI. In Julius and Archie's second adventure, Archie's Been Framed, the little guy is framed for murder and Julius needs to use all his wits to keep his inimitable assistant out of the slammer. Julius Katz attracted a devoted following from mystery readers when it first came out, and won the Shamus Award for best story from the Private Eye Writers of America, as well as the Derringer Award for best novelette from the Short Mystery Fiction Society. Archie's Been Framed won 1st place in Ellery Queen's Readers Choice Award, with their readers choosing it as their favorite story published by the magazine in 2010. If you haven't had a chance to meet Julius and Archie yet, now's your chance to get caught up in these charming, delightful and very unusual mystery stories.

## **Julius Katz Mysteries Details**

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Author : Dave Zeltserman

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# From Reader Review Julius Katz Mysteries for online ebook

## Philip says

I really liked this story! Years ago I devoured most of Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe books and could hardly wait to get ahold of the next one and I've tried a few of the Robert Goldsborough's continuation of the series, which were OK, but this really takes the cake - no pun intended! And Julius is probably a better cook than Nero, though not as good as Fritz! And it's an even money bet on beer vs wine! But this Archie is not quite as good with the ladies as Nero's Archie was!

A bit of curiosity, though -- Why did Cramer get demoted from Inspector to Detective ????

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## Josh says

In the Julius Katz Mysteries, we're introduced to the eccentric and lazy PI in the form of two novellas told from the unique POV of a miniature computer device designed by Julius to aid his investigations by means of research (hacking) and analysis. The POV is something that took a good 30% of the book to get my head around and I eventually ended up liking it far more than I thought I would. It modernises the classic PI structured story (the key element being the unveiling of the wrong doer once all suspects are gathered in a central location slightly preceding the conclusion- you either like this set up or you don't. I love it). Often, at times, I thought I was reading a novella written by Duane Swierczynski - it had his trademark look and feel to it, just goes to show how good a writer Zeltserman really is. The stories themselves flowed well and were very easy to read (probably 1.5hrs max start to finish) and kept me interested the whole time - Archie's (the device) Been Framed was funny and smart while the first involved a family squabble over money leading to murder, equally enjoyable - 3.5 stars.

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## Jl says

Archie, the narrator, is frustratingly foolish. His boss, Julius, is the brilliant detective who solves any case, but Archie keeps doubting Julius' (obvious) tactics. Even if Archie isn't smart enough to understand what his boss is doing, he should at least have learned from experience to trust Julius' superior sense. I didn't like Julius, was vexed by Archie, and bored with all the wine. The mysteries themselves were fine; I just wish there had been more mystery and less focus on the foibles of Julius and Archie.

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## Whistlers Mom says

I picked this up last year and it seems to have been replaced by a Kindle edition called THE JULIUS KATZ COLLECTION. By either name, these are well-written, very entertaining stories.

It's not really a "spoof" of Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe books so much as an affectionate nod to them. In Zeltserman's stories, the Nero Wolfe character has been transformed into a handsome man-about-town lady-killer (as we used to say) and his side-kick Archie is a small, highly advanced robot. And the setting isn't

Nero Wolfe's 1930's New York City, but trendy Boston in the late 20th Century.

They are well-plotted stories with good characters. The humor (and sometimes much of the plot) centers around Archie's unique take on the world - which is both enhanced by his ability to hack into any data base and gain information and limited by his ignorance of human emotions. However, he's definitely advancing in that sphere, too. At one point he even gets a girl friend, although (predictably) the affaire ends badly.

These books are fun, especially for fans of classic mysteries. The references to Dashiell Hammett's Continental Op are particularly appreciated. He's one of my all-time favorites. Any writer who likes the Op is OK with me.

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### **Wendy Hines says**

I used to get my grandpa's Ellery Queen magazines every month and relished them from cover to cover. Now I'm lucky to get one or two a year since he moved in a different state. Unfortunately for me, the one or two I received didn't have these wonderful stories in them from Dave Zeltserman. But, luckily for me, I got to review them!

Julius Katz is probably one of the laziest investigators I've ever seen, but also shrewd, cunning, and intelligent. Not alot gets by Julius, it's almost like his mind is a computer. But Julius likes to live the high life, but he doesn't like to work for it. He spends his days wooing women, drinking wine, and gambling. When his bank account is low, he takes on a case.

"Archie", as that is what he is called, is a two inch piece of technology, twenty years into the future. Archie is much like a computer, always analyzing, compiling data, doing the leg work for Julius's cases. He's also the secretary, setting up appointments, making calls, and lending his own spin on the investigation. Archie envisions himself about five feet (as that is how high he is resting on Julius's tie as a tie tac), chubby and with thinning hair. He talks too, and lately has picked up quite a few human traits like sarcasm.

There are two suspenseful reads in Julius Katz Mysteries, and even though Julius and Archie may be working the same case, they come at it from different perspectives. Archie may have a revelation, and so may Julius, but Julius is constantly surprising Archie - whose probability is almost never wrong. A dynamic duo that I would love to read more adventures of. The characters are so multi-dimensional, you can envision them in your mind, with quirks and antics that give them a life of their own. Mr. Zeltserman pens a superb mystery; I couldn't figure out who the culprit was until Julius and Archie led me to them. Absolutely fantastic! I highly recommend this series to any mystery suspense reader. Julius and Archie remind me a bit of all of the great sleuths, but uniquely their own.

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### **Eric\_W says**

Humorous yet perversely authentic homage to the Rex Stout stories. Marvelous idea to make Archie a small advanced computer-like entity,\* acquired somehow by Julius Katz, antithesis to Nero Wolfe. He chases women and gets plenty of exercise. Not to mention he loves gambling, and that's where Archie's sophisticated analysis of the odds helps immeasurably. And, Julius hates to work taking only cases when the bank account gets low and his betting is off. Charming. This book contains two novellas. I hope the series

continues.

*\*So that's what I am, a two-inch rectangular mechanism weighing approximately one point two ounces. What's packed inside my titanium shell includes visual and audio receptors as well as wireless communication components and a highly sophisticated neuron network that not only simulates intelligence, but learning and thinking that adapts in response to my experiences. Auditory and visual recognition are included in my packaging, which means I can both see and hear. As you've probably already guessed, I can also speak. When Julius and I are in public, I speak to him through a wireless receiver that he wears in his ear as if it were a hearing aid. When we're alone in his office, he usually plugs the unit into a speaker on his desk.*

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## **Larry Marshall says**

I'm a big fan of Rex Stout and his Nero Wolfe books. I'm not a big fan of authors who try to write pastiches to famous works. So, I was unsure whether I'd like Dave Zeltserman's Julius Katz (name relates to Nero Wolfe) and his sidekick Archie (after Archie Goodwin).

But Zeltserman changes things up so much that all thought of it being a rip-off of Stout's books vanished. Julius Katz is a genius detective like Wolfe but he's not fat, doesn't grow orchids, is happy as a clam to leave his house, and he really enjoys the ladies and they him. But the most unique part of this duo is Archie, who is a 2" cube super-computer that Katz wears as a tie tack. And as odd as that sounds, it works. In fact, it works very well and the two stories that make up this book were a joy.

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## **Karen Hubbard says**

First off, I don't like Archie. And I didn't really like Julius. And the way the mysteries were "solved" - bogus. Archie at least talks about his theories. Julius just 'thinks' about his ideas and then poof! The mystery is solved. No clues or foreshadowing at all. Even Mrs. Fletcher let you see all the things she saw when trying to solve the murder. Julius did all his solving inside his head and then announced it. I assume this was supposed to be something akin to Sherlock Holmes. Nope. Note even close.

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## **Barbara says**

Great fun mysteries in the Sherlock Holmes and Watson model, but set in the almost-plausible near future. The stories are told from the viewpoint of the loyal sidekick, in this case a cutting-edge AI PA called Archie. The detective is the cool and clever Katz, a man of great intellect, dedicated to a life of pleasure (mainly in the form of fine food and wine), with as little work as possible. On the side, he keeps fit and maintains formidable martial arts skills. The police, of course, are bumbling and the perpetrators, of course, are fairly predictable if you know what to look for in the narrative flow, but that makes it no less fun. There are only two stories in this little package - I hope for more soon.

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## **Mary says**

Julius Katz is a reluctant detective who works when he needs to support his lifestyle. He has an assistant, Archie who keeps trying to get Julius to take more cases but he's not always successful. Oftentimes Archie has to find ways to convince Julius to take a case. There's a reason Archie needs Julius to take more cases - Archie's an advanced computer program that is working on his processing and understanding. Archie is named for Archie Goodwin from Rex Stout's, Nero Wolfe assistant. The story was a little like a Nero Wolfe story but it's like a faded version of a technicolor hit show.

This was a quick read but I ended up feeling rather like Julius did on a case, I really didn't care. The story so strongly stressed Julius' lack of involvement in a case, merely thinking about it and a little computer/phone help from Archie that I ended up not getting involved in the story.

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## **Jan says**

Two long short stories (novellas?) about Julius and Archie. The ideas (and there are more than one) behind these stories are in themselves unique and fascinating. Archie is a mere tiny robot, or is he? He is determined to figure out the answers to the puzzles brought to Julius when Julius is so short of cash that he has to work as a PI for a while. But Julius is a genius himself, and can figure out the cases before Archie. But will Archie beat him in one of these stories? Read them and find out! I know you won't be disappointed. Fun stuff.

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## **Betty says**

I read Dave Zeltserman's first Julius Katz and Archie story, titled simply "Julius Katz", a couple of years ago in EQMM, before it won the Shamus Award. I missed the second tale in the series, "Archie's Been Framed". Luckily for me, and for you if you haven't sampled this series yet, both stories are now available in the e-book JULIUS KATZ MYSTERIES.

Julius Katz, for those of you who don't know, is a brilliant detective from Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose personality, but not his appearance and habits, is modeled after Nero Wolfe. Archie, in this case, is not Katz's flesh-and-blood assistant and legman, but rather a two-inch square computer chip that has an artificial intelligence of its - or his - own. Katz wears Archie as a tie clip, and Archie narrates the stories.

Obviously, this series started out as a pastiche of/tribute to Rex Stout's classic body of work featuring Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin, but even before the first story was over Zeltserman had molded it into something more by giving Julius and Archie their own personalities and capturing them so perfectly. Julius isn't as eccentric and infuriating as Wolfe, and Archie the computer doesn't have Archie Goodwin's wiseass self-confidence. The dynamic between their characters and the voice that Zeltserman develops make for a very appealing combination. The stories are well-plotted traditional mysteries, to boot, a form that's not nearly as common as it once was.

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## Nichelle says

Mystery books are some of my favorites and I really enjoyed the characters in these. Because these are a collection of two shorter stories, I realized it wouldn't be able to get in depth about how Katz (the genius detective) figured things out but I thought it came too quickly at times. I like to try to play detective too and you really don't get the chance to do that in these shorter versions. I would read a longer version though as the two characters, Julius Katz and Archie, are a lot of fun to read!

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## Annette says

If you were looking for the definition of the strong silent type, Julius Katz's picture would be what you would see.

This is a detective that seems to be all seeing, all knowing, even when "Archie" isn't giving him hints. Archie is an electronic encyclopedia in a 2" package. He knows all and wants to tell all, whether Julius wants to listen or not. Archie can provide information on anyone and anything.

The mysteries were interesting. The deductive reasoning was quite amazing. At times the reader does not get the same information that Julius has, so we are unable to follow to the same conclusion. But, these are fun books and very quick reads. Julius is a sophisticated genius who has chosen to become a detective. And we are lucky enough to be able to go along for the ride. I would recommend any of the Julius Katz books, and I would definitely tell Mr Zeltserman thank you for creating such an interesting pair.

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## Kevintipple says

In the award winning novelette "Julius Katz" the latest client for Boston's most famous and eccentric detective Julius Katz is the 53 year old Norman Brewer. Accompanied by her slightly younger sister, Helen Arden, she wishes to discuss a family matter. A family matter she refused to tell Archie, Julius' artificial intelligence sidekick, about over the phone thus preventing any real planning by Julius prior to their meeting.

The issue involves their 83 year old mother, Emma, who is suffering from the beginnings of Alzheimer's. While provisions were made for various things by their father six years ago before he died from cancer, their brother Lawrence has taken over all of the legal aspects of their mother's situation. Julius does not like family disputes and wants no part of this situation. However, like many a detective before him, he does need the money and Norma Brewer is willing to pay. He takes the case with some stipulations including meeting their mother so that he and Archie can assess her condition. While very reluctant at first, soon Julius is hard at work in a case that quickly takes a dark and sinister turn.

Also included in this book is the award winning story "Archie's Been Framed." As this one opens Julius has plenty of cash in the bank. That means he is not going to be inclined to take a new case for several months. What Archie sees as being lazy, Julius sees as enjoying the finer things of life. Work is not the priority for Julius, but for Archie work helps him refine his neural network.

With his current love interest Lily Rosten out of town visiting her parents in upstate New York. Julius is in a bit of a funk. A funk that a case would help lift. There is no sign of that until Archie discovers that Denise

Penny, a 27 year old woman Archie has been in contact with, has been murdered. Unfortunately, Archie quickly becomes a suspect in her murder. Though he can easily be cleared if the true nature of his existence were revealed, it can't be disclosed. Julius does not have a choice – he has to investigate and clear Archie.

Both award winning stories are good ones and feature interesting characters and cases. Humor, subtle and overt, is occasionally present in sharp contrast to the darker side of human nature. The dark side of human nature keeps many a detective and his sidekick employed and such is the case here in the very enjoyable Julius Katz Mysteries by Dave Zeltserman.

Julius Katz Mysteries

Dave Zeltserman

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