

# how tall was bat masterson

**how tall was bat masterson** is a question that often arises among history enthusiasts and fans of the American Old West. Bat Masterson was a legendary figure known for his roles as a lawman, gambler, and sportswriter, whose life story has fascinated many. Understanding his physical stature provides additional insight into his persona and how he was perceived in his time. This article explores Bat Masterson's height and physical characteristics, his background, and the significance of his stature in the context of his career and legacy. Readers will also find details about how his height compares to other notable figures of the Old West. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of Bat Masterson's life, physical appearance, and influence.

- Bat Masterson's Physical Stature
- Early Life and Background
- Career and Legacy
- Comparisons with Other Old West Figures
- Impact of Height on Bat Masterson's Life

## Bat Masterson's Physical Stature

Determining the exact height of Bat Masterson has been a topic of interest due to the many legends and stories that surround his figure. Historical records, eyewitness accounts, and photographs collectively suggest that Bat Masterson stood at approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall. While this height may seem modest by today's standards, it was relatively average or slightly below average for men during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## Evidence from Historical Records

Official documents, such as census records and military enlistment papers, provide some insight into Masterson's height. These records consistently list his height as around 5'6". Additionally, descriptions from contemporaries and newspaper articles from his time corroborate these figures, emphasizing his lean build rather than towering stature.

## Physical Appearance and Build

Bat Masterson was often described as slender and wiry, which complemented his height. His physical presence was marked more by agility, sharpness, and quick reflexes than sheer size. This build was advantageous during his career as a lawman and gambler, where speed and precision were more critical than brute strength.

## Early Life and Background

William Barclay “Bat” Masterson was born in 1853 in Quebec, Canada, before moving to the American West with his family. Understanding his early life context provides a clearer picture of how his physical stature fit into his upbringing and environment.

## Family and Childhood

Bat Masterson grew up in a family that valued toughness and resilience, traits common to frontier life. His upbringing in the rugged territories of Kansas and the American West shaped his character, encouraging physical fitness and adaptability rather than focusing on size alone.

## Influence of Environment on Physical Development

The harsh conditions of frontier life demanded endurance and agility, which likely influenced Masterson’s physical condition. His height, while not imposing, did not hinder his ability to survive and thrive in such an environment.

## Career and Legacy

Bat Masterson’s career spanned several roles, including lawman, gambler, buffalo hunter, and sportswriter. His stature played a role in how he was perceived and how he operated in these various capacities.

## Lawman and Gunfighter

As a lawman, Masterson's height was not a disadvantage. His reputation was built on his quick wit, marksmanship, and strategic thinking. Standing 5'6", he often used his agility and intelligence to outmaneuver opponents rather than relying on physical intimidation.

## Gambler and Sportswriter

Later in life, Bat Masterson became well-known as a gambler and a sportswriter for a New York newspaper. His physical stature was less relevant in these roles, but his sharp mind and personality continued to define his presence.

## Comparisons with Other Old West Figures

To better understand Bat Masterson's height, it is useful to compare it with other notable figures from the Old West, many of whom have been romanticized in popular culture.

### Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday

Wyatt Earp, another famous lawman and contemporary of Masterson, was reportedly around 5'10" tall, taller than Bat. Doc Holliday was also taller, standing about 5'9". These comparisons highlight that Masterson was somewhat shorter but still within the typical range for men of that era.

## Influence of Height on Reputation

While some Old West figures were known for their imposing physical presence, others like Bat Masterson proved that skill and intelligence could outweigh height. His stature did not diminish his legendary status among his peers and in history.

## Impact of Height on Bat Masterson's Life

Bat Masterson's height influenced his life and career in subtle but meaningful ways. Understanding this

impact can help clarify how physical attributes played a role in shaping his legacy.

## **Advantages and Challenges**

At 5'6", Masterson had certain advantages such as enhanced speed and agility, which were critical in gunfights and law enforcement duties. However, he may have also faced challenges when dealing with taller adversaries, relying more on strategy and marksmanship.

## **Legacy Beyond Physical Stature**

Ultimately, Bat Masterson's lasting legacy is not defined by how tall he was but by his actions, character, and influence on the mythology of the American West. His height is a detail that adds dimension to his story but does not overshadow his accomplishments.

- Height approximately 5 feet 6 inches
- Lean and wiry physique
- Average height for his era
- Used agility and intelligence over physical dominance
- Comparable to other Old West figures but generally shorter

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How tall was Bat Masterson?**

Bat Masterson was approximately 5 feet 9 inches (175 cm) tall.

### **Was Bat Masterson considered tall for his time?**

At around 5 feet 9 inches, Bat Masterson was about average height for a man during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## **Did Bat Masterson's height influence his career as a lawman and gunfighter?**

While his height was average, Bat Masterson's skill, reputation, and personality were more influential in his career than his physical stature.

## **Are there any historical records confirming Bat Masterson's exact height?**

There are no definitive official records of Bat Masterson's exact height, but historical accounts generally estimate him to be around 5 feet 9 inches tall.

## **How does Bat Masterson's height compare to other famous Old West figures?**

Bat Masterson's height was similar to many of his contemporaries; for example, Wyatt Earp was about 5 feet 7 inches tall, making Masterson slightly taller.

## **Did Bat Masterson's height affect his presence or intimidation factor?**

Despite being of average height, Bat Masterson's confidence, reputation, and demeanor contributed significantly to his commanding presence.

## **Is Bat Masterson's height mentioned in biographies or movies about him?**

Most biographies and portrayals mention Bat Masterson's general appearance but do not emphasize his height as a significant characteristic.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Bat Masterson: The Man and the Legend*

This biography delves into the life of Bat Masterson, exploring his early years, career as a lawman, and later work as a journalist. The book provides detailed accounts of his height and physical presence, which contributed to his larger-than-life reputation in the Old West. Readers will gain insight into the man behind the legend and the myths surrounding his stature.

### *2. Gunfighters of the Old West: Bat Masterson and His Contemporaries*

Focusing on notable figures of the American frontier, this book includes a comprehensive section on Bat Masterson. It examines his role as a gunfighter and lawman, with particular attention to his physical characteristics, including his height. The book contextualizes his size in comparison to other famous figures of the era.

### 3. *The Life and Times of Bat Masterson*

A detailed narrative chronicling Bat Masterson's adventures, from his days as a buffalo hunter to his tenure as a marshal. The book references various eyewitness accounts and historical records to clarify his height and build, offering readers a clear picture of his physical stature. It also covers his influence on Western folklore.

### 4. *Bat Masterson: Lawman, Gambler, and Gentleman*

This work explores the multifaceted life of Bat Masterson, highlighting his roles beyond the Old West, including his career in journalism. The author discusses how Masterson's height and demeanor affected his reputation and effectiveness as a lawman. The book includes photographs and contemporary descriptions that give clues about his true height.

### 5. *Outlaws and Lawmen: The Real Bat Masterson*

A historical account that separates fact from fiction regarding Bat Masterson's life. The book investigates myths about his physical attributes, particularly his height, using primary sources such as census records and personal letters. It aims to present an accurate portrayal of his stature and personality.

### 6. *The Tall Tales of Bat Masterson*

Examining the exaggerations and stories that have grown around Bat Masterson, this book focuses on how his height has been portrayed in folklore and popular culture. It contrasts these tall tales with verified historical data to provide a balanced view. Readers will learn how his physical image was shaped by storytelling.

### 7. *Western Legends: The True Size of Bat Masterson*

This book specifically addresses the question of Bat Masterson's height, analyzing various historical documents, eyewitness testimonies, and photographs. It places his physical stature within the context of 19th-century standards and compares it to modern measurements. The book provides a nuanced understanding of how tall he really was.

### 8. *Bat Masterson's World: A Visual History*

Featuring rare photographs, illustrations, and artifacts, this visual history offers clues about Bat Masterson's physique, including his height. The accompanying text interprets these visuals to give readers a sense of his physical presence. The book also covers his life story and legacy in the Old West.

### 9. *From Dodge City to New York: The Journey of Bat Masterson*

Tracing Bat Masterson's transition from a frontier lawman to a New York newspaperman, this biography touches on how his height and appearance influenced his career and public image. It provides detailed descriptions and accounts from those who knew him. The book highlights the evolution of his persona over time.

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**how tall was bat masterson: Bat Masterson** Carl R. Green, William Reynolds Sanford, 1992 Chronicles the life of the Western lawman Bat Masterson, who later became a New York sports writer.

**how tall was bat masterson: Vengeance of the Ripper** Steven M Leshin, 2009-06-09 Jack the Ripper, the first famously known serial killer, escapes after his murderous rampage in London and shows up 20 years later in Los Angeles. Three prostitutes are murdered in the span of a few nights. At the same time legendary lawman, Wyatt Earp, settling in the city, receives a letter beyond the grave from his old friend, Doc Holliday. Wyatt and his wife, Josie, are led to the outskirts of the city, where they find more than they bargained for. Soon Wyatt must race against time to stop the Ripper from claiming another victim-Josie. Wyatt enlists the aide of good friend, Bat Masterson, another western legend.

**how tall was bat masterson: The Gunfighters** Bryan Burrough, 2025-06-03 "One hell of a good read." —The New York Times "One of the most important books written on the American West in many years." —True West Magazine From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Big Rich* and *Forget the Alamo* comes an epic reconsideration of the time and place that spawned America's most legendary gunfighters, from Jesse James and Billy the Kid to Butch and Sundance. The "Wild West" gunfighter is such a stock figure in our popular culture that some dismiss it all as a corny myth, more a product of dime novels and B movies than a genuinely important American history. In fact, as Bryan Burrough shows us in his dazzling and fast-paced new book, there's much more below the surface. For three decades at the end of the 1800s, a big swath of the American West was a crucible of change, with the highest murder rate per capita in American history. The reasons behind this boil down to one word: Texas. Texas was born in violence, on two fronts, with Mexico to the south and the Comanche to the north. The Colt revolver first caught on with the Texas Rangers. Southern dueling culture transformed into something wilder and less organized in the Lone Star State. The collapse of the Confederacy and the presence of a thin veneer of Northern occupiers turned the heat up further. And the explosion in the cattle business after the war took that violence and pumped it out from Texas across the whole of the West. The stampede of longhorn cattle brought with it an assortment of rustlers, hustlers, gamblers, and freelance lawmen who carried a trigger-happy honor culture into a widening gyre, a veritable blood meridian. When the first newspapermen and audiences discovered what good copy this all was, the flywheel of mythmaking started spinning. It's never stopped. *The Gunfighters* brilliantly sifts the lies from the truth, giving both elements their due. And the truth is sufficiently wild for any but the most unhinged tastes. All the legendary figures are here, and their escapades are told with great flair—good, bad, and ugly. Like all great stories, this one has a rousing end—as the railroads and the settlers close off the open spaces for good, the last of the breed, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, really do get on a boat for South America, ending their era in a blaze of glory. Burrough knits these histories together into something much deeper and more provocative than simply the sum of its parts. To understand the truth of the Wild West is to understand a crucial dimension of the American story.

**how tall was bat masterson: Bat Masterson** Robert K. DeArment, 2014-04-14 The colorful figures of the western American frontier, the Indian fighters, the mountain men, the outlaws, and the lawmen, have been romanticized for more than a hundred years by writers who found it easier to invent history than the research it. Bat Masterson was one such character who cast a long shadow

across the pages of western history as it has been routinely depicted. A legend in his own time, he was called in a television series produced in the 1960's. A legend he has become—one firmly fixed in the popular imagination. But in his own time W.B. Masterson was a man, a less-than-perfect creature subject to the same temptations and vices as his fellows, albeit one who, through circumstance and inclination, led an exciting life in an exciting time and place. As buffalo hunter, army scout, peace officer, professional gambler, sportsman, promoter, and newspaperman, Masterson's career was stormy and eventful. Surprising to many readers will be the account of Masterson's career after his peace officer days, during his employment as a sports writer and columnist. The gun-toting western peace officer reputed to have killed more men than Billy the Kid (not so, says DeArment) spent his last years happily in New York City, writing for a nationally known newspaper. This book, the product of more than twenty years of research, separates fact from fiction to extricate the story of his life from the legend that has enmeshed it. It is the most complete biography of Bat Masterson ever written.

**how tall was bat masterson:** The Wild West Meets the Big Apple Michael O'Connor, 2016-01-27 What do Bat Masterson, Bill Cody, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, David Crockett, William Tecumseh Sherman, Mark Twain, Elizabeth Custer, and the Statue of Liberty all have in common? They all spent time in New York City! Each chapter in this fascinating book provides a short biography of a Western hero or celebrity and tells how they made their mark on the city that many considered the media and cultural capital of the time. By tracing their path across the city—from casual visits, media campaigns, and political tours to family ties, shopping sprees, and steady employment—author Michael P. O'Connor aptly demonstrates how New York City influenced the lives and livelihood of many familiar names in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Locations around the city significant to the Westerners, including the Old Bowery Theatre, the Market Exchange, Battery Park, the St. Nicholas Hotel, and St. Patrick's Cathedral, are illustrated through historic images and modern photos accompanied by brief histories. A timeline from 1812 to 1933 highlights the settling of the West alongside a history of New York City. An appendix provides a listing of Alamo defenders who had ties to the city, and a bibliography provides an extensive list of further reading and reference materials. O'Connor's meticulous research and passion for the subject make this an informative and entertaining blend of New York City history and Western lore perfect for both tourists and historians.

**how tall was bat masterson:** Dodge City Stanley Vestal, 1998-01-01 In the 1870s and 1880s, Dodge City was known as the wickedest in the American West. But gunmen, horse thieves, and desperadoes of every sort finally lost their bloody battle with vigilantes, troopers, railroad men and heroic peace officers. (Stanley) Vestal astutely plays it soft and quiet, presenting the documented facts, leaving his reader free to make of them what he will. 8 photos.

**how tall was bat masterson:** The American Cowboy Chronicles Old West Myths & Legends Thomas Correa, 2019-12-14 This book is about the real Old West. The research presented here comes from what I've found during my more than forty-five years of researching American history, but especially what I've learned in regards to the other side of the myths and legends of the Old West. In 2010, I started a blog, The American Cowboy Chronicles, to share what I've learned and celebrate the virtues of America. My articles on the Old West have never been meant to dispel the myths or attack legends but to simply explain what I've found after taking a hard look, an honest look, an objective look, at the evidence that's available. Since evidence proves or disproves what we've all been told about the Old West by Hollywood and writers who are not objective researchers, this is my attempt at taking a fresh look at Wyatt Earp, Tom Horn, and others. But mostly, this book is about why the American Cowboy became America's quintessential role model. This book looks at why the American Cowboy represents American toughness, independence, and resilience to the rest of the World.

**how tall was bat masterson:** Wyatt Earp's Cow-boy Campaign Chuck Hornung, 2016-05-12 What can be learned from another retelling of the Tombstone saga? Recent revelations challenge the traditional view of Wyatt Earp's campaign against the Cow-boy confederation as a bloody personal

feud a la western fiction. It was a seek and destroy mission sanctioned by the United States attorney general, the U.S. marshal and the Arizona Territory governor, following a year of corrupt law enforcement in league with the Cow-boys' livestock raids, stagecoach holdups and other atrocities. Presented in three sections, this book establishes the major players involved in the convergence on Tombstone, provides an account of Earp's activities during the 18 months prior to the final action and discusses the provenance and credibility of the Otero Letter. Discovered in 2001, the letter--believed to be written by New Mexico Territory Governor Miguel Otero--offers evidence that Earp's party was given government aid. The author examines the details of the letter, including the shotgun duel between Earp and Curly Bill, the split between Earp and Doc Holliday, sanctuary for the Earp posse in Colorado and Holliday's extradition fight, Earp's covert assault resulting in Johnny Ringo's death, and the controversial courtship and marriage of Earp and Josephine Marcus.

**how tall was bat masterson:** *Why the West Was Wild* Nyle H. Miller, Joseph W. Snell, 2003-03-01 ... collection of material from newspapers, legal records, letters, and diaries, contemporary sources. Includes material on Wild Bill Hickok, Bat Masterson, and Doc Holliday, and such locales as Abilene, Wichita, Caldwell, and Dodge City--Back cover.

**how tall was bat masterson:** *Field & Stream* , 1977-02 FIELD & STREAM, America's largest outdoor sports magazine, celebrates the outdoor experience with great stories, compelling photography, and sound advice while honoring the traditions hunters and fishermen have passed down for generations.

**how tall was bat masterson:** *A Great Feast of Light* John Doyle, 2009-04-24 Celebrated TV critic John Doyle has penned an Irish memoir that gives a portrait of a boy and his country transformed by television. Funny, insightful, and engaging, *A Great Feast of Light* begins in the small town of Nenagh, where young John's father purchased the family's first television in 1962, and ends in 1979 with the Pope's historic visit to the Emerald Isle, the appearance of Dallas on Irish TV, and twenty-two-year-old John's escape to North America. By day, John was schooled by the Christian brothers in the valor of Irish rebel heroes and the saintliness of Catholic martyrs. But in the evenings, television conveyed more subversive messages: American westerns, *I Love Lucy*, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, *Laugh-In*, *The Muppet Show*, *Starsky and Hutch*, and *Monty Python* suggested ways of life that were exciting and free. News coverage of American civil rights and women's rights protests, Irish street riots, bombings, and Bloody Sunday clashed with Catholic conservatism. While the global village was yanking Ireland out of its past, one intelligent and sardonic boy was taking notes. His story, at once a charming coming-of-age tale and a compelling social history, is a welcome addition to the literature of Ireland.

**how tall was bat masterson:** *Bad Guy's Clothes* Tommy Nocerino, 2020-06-26 Who is killing the leading actors on Broadway? Why are they being murdered? Detective Sergeant Dante Lane of the New York City Metropolitan Police Department is assigned to find the killer. With hardly a clue and no witnesses, he has to dig into the odd world of the theater coming across a variety of characters. At the same time he is in a personal battle with the local crime boss operating extortion and vice shielded by the corrupt city political machine. In the tumultuous era known as The Gay Nineties, Lane, under the guidance of his mentor and friend Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt, is empowered to take the mob head on. Can he alone defeat the organized gang's reign of terror? Can he find and bring to justice the killer that's destroying the rising New York theater district?

**how tall was bat masterson:** *Age of the Gunfighter* Joseph G. Rosa, 1995 Joseph G. Rosa's vivid and expertly written tale of this violent time combines contemporary accounts with meticulous historical research and an unjaundiced appraisal of the facts. Telling the story of every major gunfighter, peace officer, and outlaw of the West, Rosa places them within the context of a violent frontier and the coming of law and order. Complementing the text are twenty-seven outstanding color spreads featuring firearms from the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum (Los Angeles) and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (Cody). Many of the spreads contain guns owned and used by such well-known individuals as Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid, Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok, John

Wesley Hardin, Frank James, and Harvey Logan.

**how tall was bat masterson: The Encyclopedia of Lawmen, Outlaws, and Gunfighters**

Leon Claire Metz, 2002 Standoffs, saloons, and sunsets spring to mind when one envisions the rough and tumble early days of the American frontier.

**how tall was bat masterson: A Handful of Dust** Charles Knief, 2022-04-21 It has been twenty-five years since the notorious gunfight at the O.K. Corral when Wyatt Earp and his wife, Josephine, move to Los Angeles. Bringing eighty-five thousand dollars in cash and gold with them, the reward for a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck. By 1910, they are broke and on the verge of starvation, thanks to insatiable gambling habits and inadequate talents. Now sixty-two, the Old West icon is forced to return to his career in law enforcement with the LAPD tracking bail skips. In true Wyatt Earp fashion, he creates an international incident by kidnapping two murder suspects from Mexico and bringing them back across the border while staying two steps ahead of the Mexican cavalry. When he is fired from the LAPD, he is offered a job to run off a group of trespassers from a mine in Searles Valley, California. After partnering with Bat Masterson, his friend of forty years, Wyatt has no idea that he is about to ride into the biggest gunfight of his life. *A Handful of Dust* tells the exciting tale of Wyatt Earp's final gunfight.

**how tall was bat masterson: Son of the Old West** Nathan Ward, 2023-09-05 An epic narrative of the Old West told through the vivid, outsized life of cowboy, detective, and chronicler Charlie Siringo No figure in the Old West lived or shaped its history more fully than Charlie Siringo, as Nathan Ward reveals in his colorful portrait of this epic era and one of its primary protagonists. Born in Matagorda, Texas in 1855, Charlie went on his first cattle drive at age twelve and spent two decades living his boyhood dream as a cowboy. As the dangerous, lucrative "beeves" business boomed, Siringo drove longhorn steers north to the burgeoning Midwest Plains states' cattle and railroad towns, inevitably crossing paths with such legendary figures as Billy the Kid, Bat Masterson, and Shanghai Pierce. In his early thirties he joined the Pinkerton Detective Agency's Denver office, using a variety of aliases to investigate violent labor disputes and infiltrate outlaw gangs such as Butch Cassidy's train robbing Wild Bunch. As brave as he was clever, he was often saved by his cowboy training as he traveled to places the law had not yet reached. Siringo's bestselling, landmark 1885 autobiography, *A Texas Cowboy*, helped make the lowly cowboy a heroic symbol of the American West. His later memoir, *A Cowboy Detective*, influenced early hard-boiled crime novelists for whom the detective story was really the cowboy story in an urban setting. Sadly sued into debt by the Pinkertons determined to prevent their sources and methods from being revealed, Siringo eventually sold his beloved New Mexico ranch and moved to Los Angeles, where he advised Hollywood filmmakers, and especially actor William S. Hart, on their early 1920s Westerns, watching the frontier history he had known first-hand turned into romantic legend on the screen. In old age, Charlie Siringo was called "Ulysses of the Wild West" for the long journey he took across the western frontier. *Son of the Old West* brings him and his legendary world vividly to life.

**how tall was bat masterson: Clint and Zeke: Tales From The Old West (2nd Ed.)** Tom Carter, 2010-07-24 *Clint and Zeke* is a book about the adventures of a Texas gunman and a Tennessee Mountain Man as they travel from Tennessee to California back to Tennessee and then to West Texas. Zeke is rash and impulsive and Clint is more thoughtful. On the travels they befriend an old Indian and a Catholic Nun who is secretly in love with Clint. Throw in an episode of time travel to San Francisco, an encounter in Dodge City with Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, Zeke trying to make friends out of a bear, and the Hatfield and McCoy Feud and you have superb adventure. Then, there is Clint's talking horse Buck, and a strange friendship between a copperhead snake and a red bone hound to mix in with Clint and Zeke's travels. A great read!

**how tall was bat masterson: The Old Ball Game** Frank Deford, 2006-03-02 Focusing on the unusual friendship between John McGraw and Christy Mathewson, *The Old Ball Game* is a masterful chronicle of the early days of baseball from America's most beloved sportswriter. Illustrations throughout.

**how tall was bat masterson: Follow the Money** Bob DeGeorge, 2011-03-22 It appears to be

just another case in a pile of hundreds for seasoned San Jose police detectives Rex Johnson and Kat Sanchez. But when the two detectives open a seemingly standard investigation into credit card fraud, they are soon pulled into the murky underworld of Asian organized crime. Rex and Kat center their investigation on San Jose's card clubs and soon uncover evidence of counterfeiting, loan sharking, extortion, and human trafficking. Led straight to a shadowy Vietnamese underworld figure who views himself as a modern day Al Capone, Rex and Kat find themselves not only immersed in a deadly game with the criminals, but also their own police administration. With the chief of police more focused on his political ambitions than the outcome of their investigation, Rex and Kat have no choice but to follow their gut instincts as they work their way deeper into the case. In a final twist that leads to an explosive life or death confrontation, Rex and Kat come face-to-face with international terrorists who are intent on retaliation regardless of the personal cost to two detectives sworn to serve and protect the citizens of San Jose.

**how tall was bat masterson:** *The Ham Reporter* Robert J. Randisi, Robert Randisi has long been held as a master of the genre.—Michael Connelly Bat Masterson is no longer a sheriff in the Old West. He's moved East to New York City where he gets a job as a sport's writer for *The Morning Telegraph*. But when his friend and fellow-newsman, Inkspot Jones, disappears, Masterson's wife Emma asks if he could look into it as a favor to the man's wife. Old habits die hard, and Masterson enlists the aid of young Damon Runyon to play detective and try to locate the missing Inkspot. It doesn't look hopeful—Inkspot had something on somebody, and that somebody may have decided to play rough. Pretty soon they're up to their eyeballs in crooked politicians, hired thugs and a woman of mystery. And it's before it's done, Bat may have to strap on his Colt again for some old-fashioned Western justice. Randisi gives us the real story. Masterson ended up in New York working on a newspaper as a columnist and reporter. And because he was outspoken he got into one hell of a lot of trouble. Randisi brings the city to real life, high and low alike. There's a particularly good chapter on the street gangs of New York. A fine, rich novel that just about any reader will enjoy and appreciate. —Ed Gorman The astonishingly prolific Randisi . . . may be one of the last true pulp writers. *The Ham Reporter* (1986) is an enjoyable romp through 1911 New York City, in which crime-solving duo Bat Masterson and Damon Runyon's search for a missing sportswriter leads them into a world of thrown fights, crooked cops, and powerful Mob bosses. —Booklist

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