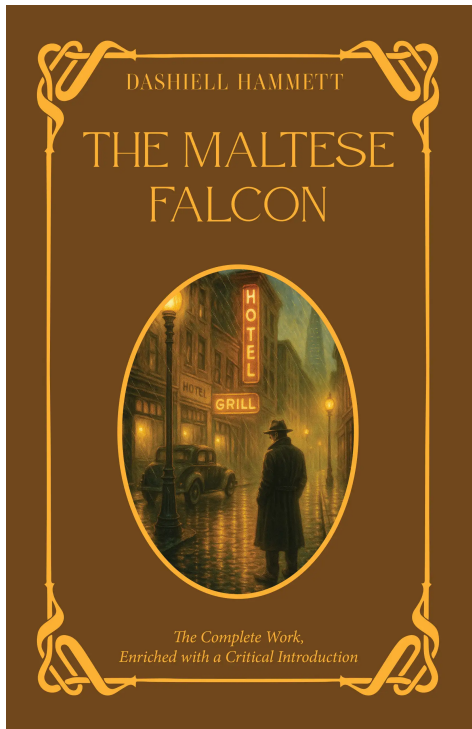




The Maltese Falcon

Dashiell Hammett

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“The Complete Work, Enriched with a Critical Introduction”

ABOUT THE BOOK

A LANDMARK OF AMERICAN NOIR FICTION • The novel that defined the hard-boiled detective and reshaped twentieth-century crime writing.

Sam Spade is tough, cynical, and unflinching. When a mysterious woman hires him for what seems like a simple case, he is drawn into a deadly hunt for the Maltese Falcon—a jewel-encrusted statuette that men will cheat, betray, and kill to possess. As the lies deepen and the bodies fall, Spade is forced to navigate greed, corruption, and desire with nothing but his own ruthless code to guide him.

First published in 1930, Dashiell Hammett’s *The Maltese Falcon* broke new ground in American literature. It stripped away the genteel polish of earlier mysteries and introduced readers to the gritty realism of noir. With clipped dialogue and relentless pace, Hammett created the archetype of the hard-boiled detective—a figure whose shadow still falls across novels and films today. “I won’t play the sap for you,” Spade declares, in a line that captures the hard edges and moral ambiguity of the genre.

This Feel Classics edition makes Hammett’s masterpiece accessible for a new generation. With a thoughtful introduction, explanatory notes, glossary, and a detailed chronology of the author’s life, it is ideal for students, first-time readers, and crime fiction enthusiasts alike.

A sharp, unforgettable classic that still speaks to anyone drawn to the shadows of greed, loyalty, and the price of truth.

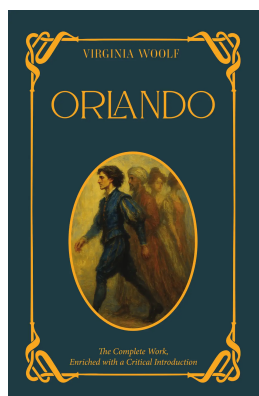
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dashiell Hammett (1894–1961) was an American writer who revolutionized detective fiction with his hard-boiled style and morally complex characters. Born in Maryland, he worked for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency before turning to writing in the 1920s. His experience as a private detective deeply influenced his fiction, which appeared in pulp magazines such as *Black Mask*.

Hammett's major novels include *Red Harvest*, *The Dain Curse*, *The Maltese Falcon*, *The Glass Key*, and *The Thin Man*. With the creation of iconic characters like Sam Spade and Nick Charles, he helped define the American crime novel and laid the groundwork for film noir.

He also contributed screenplays in Hollywood and was active politically during the 1930s and 1940s, which led to his blacklisting during the McCarthy era. He served in both World Wars, and his later years were marked by declining health and limited literary output. Hammett died in New York City in 1961. Today, he is celebrated not only as a master of detective fiction but also as a major figure in 20th-century American literature.

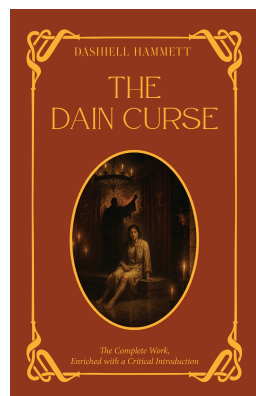
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FEEL CLASSICS (A sister concern of FeelBooks)
4381/4 Ansari Road
First Floor, Daryaganj
New Delhi 110002

Email: information@feelclassics.com
Phone: +91-1147472600