

[Mobile book] The Maltese Falcon (Read a Great Movie) (English Edition)

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Von Dashiell Hammett

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Von Dashiell Hammett : The Maltese Falcon (Read a Great Movie) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Maltese Falcon (Read a Great Movie) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Dead gamblers don't have any friends." (Sam Spade)Von expressHammett began his writing career with short stories for pulp magazines and his eight years as a Pinkerton detective, first in Baltimore and notably in San Francisco enabled

him to add authenticity to his stories. Cool, tough, and hard-boiled in attitude, his narration resembles that of early Hemingway with spare, realistic dialogue. While writing regularly in *Black Mask*, the best of the pulp magazines, Hammett also learned his craft. According to Chandler's famous remark, he took murder out of the settings of polite society and put it into a corrupt urban environment which gives his novels a kind of purity. Raymond Chandler developed his hero as the character he wanted to be himself - valiant, a romantic idealist with a moral code and as a master of the wisecrack - while Hammett had a different and more complex vision, he also steered clear of "style" and reinvented the mystery story in five books written between 1929 and 1934. *The Maltese Falcon* (1930) is considered the birthplace of one of the most famous detectives of the hard-boiled genre - Sam Spade. The book influenced the mystery genre and even paved the way for film noir. The novel offers no biographical background for Spade but readers will recognize the author's experience and radically independent worldview, his cynicism about any code of ethics except the one he has created. He is idealistic but has no qualms to break the law, but only to bring a criminal to justice. Hammett begins the novel in a way that has become classic: a dame is walking into Spade's thinking emporium. In this case the dame is the statuesque lovely Brigid O'Shaughnessy, not that names mean anything here. Shortly afterwards Spade's partner, Miles Archer, is found murdered, Spade however conveys not a shred of pain or grief, and we learn that Spade was having an affair with Archer's wife, and didn't even like the man. Hammett is setting his hard-boiled sleuth to work in the nighttime streets of San Francisco, where he becomes involved with an assortment of shady characters, each searching for an antique statuette of a falcon from Malta that is encrusted with a fortune in gems. As hard-boiled fiction, *The Falcon* offers everything: tall tales, deception, betrayals, misdirection, violence, brutality, and a breathtaking coldness. Spade lies to clients to squeeze them for as much money as he can, routinely breaks the law as he seems willing to overlook the murder of his partner and a number of homicides for sex and a few thousand bucks. And there's a lot of tough-guy dialogue, probably Spade's most famous line is his answer to a dame with whom he has slept and is getting booked for murder pleading that he loves her: "Suppose I do, what then? Maybe next month I won't. If I send you over I'll be sorry as hell. I'll have some rotten nights but that'll pass. If that doesn't mean anything to you, forget it." The novel was filmed no less than three times in ten years. The first version was released in 1931 by Roy del Ruth, starring Ricardo Cortez, Bebe Daniels and a remarkable Dudley Digges. The *New York Times* called it "The best mystery thriller of the year." Yet, it was the third version (1941) that put the *Maltese Falcon* on the map and made it an American classic, directed by John Huston and featuring Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre. It shows the difference between excellence and brilliance, it follows closely the novel and the cast is perfection. The film is so skillfully constructed and admirably photographed that after many years and many viewings, it has the same brittle explosiveness - and some of the same surprise - that it had in 1941.

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KurzbeschreibungOne of the greatest crime novels of the 20th century.Sam Spade is hired by the fragrant Miss Wonderley to track down her sister, who has eloped with a louse called Floyd Thursby. But Miss Wonderley is in fact the beautiful and treacherous Brigid O'Shaughnessy, and when Spade's partner Miles Archer is shot while on Thursby's trail, Spade finds himself both hunter and hunted: can he track down the jewel-encrusted bird, a treasure worth killing for, before the Fat Man finds him?.deSam Spade, Dashiell Hammett's archetypally tough San Francisco detective, is more noir than L.A. Confidential and more vulnerable than Raymond Chandler's Marlowe. In The Maltese Falcon, the best known of Hammett's Sam Spade novels (including The Dain Curse and The Glass Key), Spade is tough enough to bluff the toughest thugs and hold off the police, risking his reputation when a beautiful woman begs for his help, while knowing that betrayal may deal him a new hand in the next moment. Spade's partner is murdered on a stakeout; the cops blame him for the killing; a beautiful redhead with a heartbreaking story appears and disappears; grotesque villains demand a payoff he can't provide; and everyone wants a fabulously valuable gold statuette of a falcon, created as tribute for the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV. Who has it? And what will it take to get it back? Spade's solution is as complicated as the motives of the seekers assembled in his hotel room, but the truth can be a cold comfort indeed. Spade is bigger (and blonder) in the book than in the movie, and his Mephistophelean countenance is by turns seductive and volcanic. Sam knows how to fight, whom to call, how to rifle drawers and secrets without leaving a trace, and just the right way to call a woman "Angel" and convince her that she is. He is the quintessence of intelligent cool, with a wise guy's perfect pitch. If you only know the movie, read the book. If you're riveted by Chinatown or wonder where Robert B. Parker's Spenser gets his comebacks, read the master. --Barbara Schlieper.comSam Spade, Dashiell Hammett's archetypally tough San Francisco detective, is more noir than L.A. Confidential and more vulnerable than Raymond Chandler's Marlowe. In The Maltese Falcon, the best known of Hammett's Sam Spade novels (including The Dain Curse and The Glass Key), Spade is tough enough to bluff the toughest thugs and hold off the police, risking his reputation when a beautiful woman begs for his help, while knowing that betrayal may deal him a new hand in the next moment. Spade's partner is murdered on a stakeout; the cops blame him for the killing; a beautiful redhead with a heartbreaking story appears and disappears; grotesque villains demand a payoff he can't provide; and everyone wants a fabulously valuable gold statuette of a falcon, created as tribute for the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV. Who has it? And what will it take to get it back? Spade's solution is as complicated as the motives of the seekers assembled in his hotel room, but the truth can be a cold comfort indeed. Spade is bigger (and blonder) in the book than in the movie, and his Mephistophelean countenance is by turns seductive and volcanic. Sam knows how to fight, whom to call, how to rifle drawers and secrets without leaving a trace, and just the right way to call a woman "Angel" and convince her that she is. He is the quintessence of intelligent cool, with a wise guy's perfect pitch. If you only know the movie, read the book. If you're riveted by Chinatown or wonder where Robert B. Parker's Spenser gets his comebacks, read the master. --Barbara Schlieper