

Dashiell
Hammett's
THE OP

Adapted and Illustrated by K. Kingston

Based on "The Gutting of Couffignal" by Dashiell Hammett

Chapter 1
REAL AS
A DIME

1925. A FEW MILES OFF
SAN PABLO BAY.



COUFFIGNAL IS NOT A
LARGE ISLAND.

ITS MAIN STREET IS CAREFULLY
ARRANGED AND PRESERVED.



THE STORES HAVE GOODS TO
MATCH THE BEST CITY STORES.



THE HIGHER THE
ROADS CLIMB, THE
LARGER AND FARTHER
APART THE HOUSES.
HERE LIVE THE
OWNERS OF THE
ISLAND, WELL-FED
OLD GENTLEMEN.



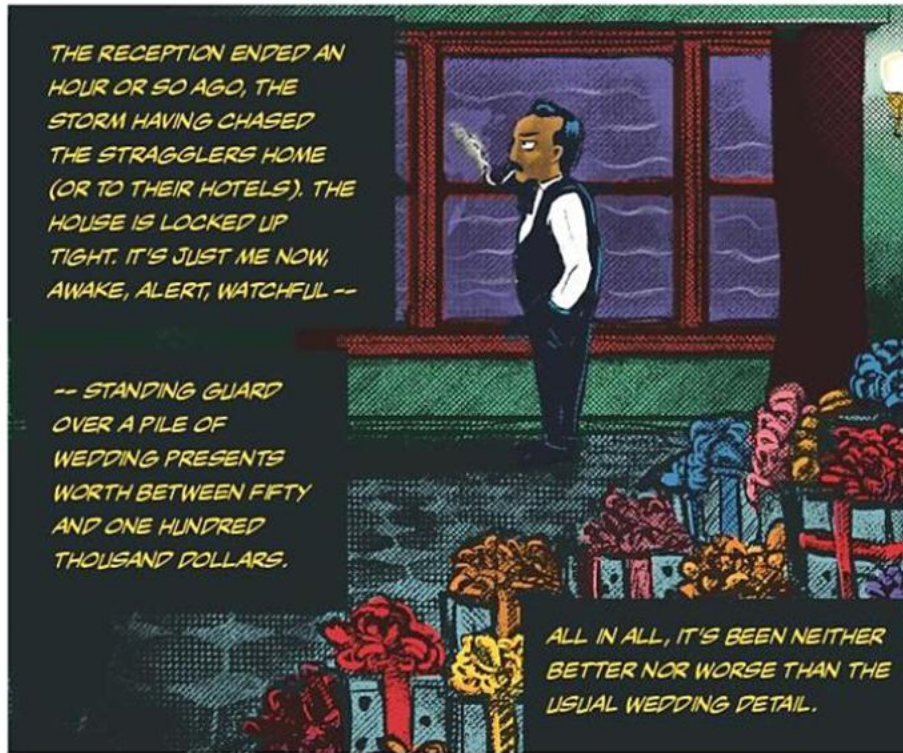
THEY ADMIT TO COUFFIGNAL
ONLY THOSE WORKING
RIFFRAFF NEEDED TO KEEP
THEM COMFORTABLY SERVED.



OF ALL THE WORK THAT
COMES TO A
DETECTIVE,
I LIKE WEDDINGS AS
LITTLE AS ANY. USUALLY,
I CAN AVOID THEM.

THIS JOB HAD BEEN
FOLEY'S, BUT HE GOT
HANDED A BLACK EYE
BY AN UNFRIENDLY
PICKPOCKET. THAT LET
HIM OUT, AND ME IN.

THE RECEPTION ENDED AN
HOUR OR SO AGO, THE
STORM HAVING CHASED
THE STRAGGLERS HOME
(OR TO THEIR HOTELS). THE
HOUSE IS LOCKED UP
TIGHT. IT'S JUST ME NOW,
AWAKE, ALERT, WATCHFUL --



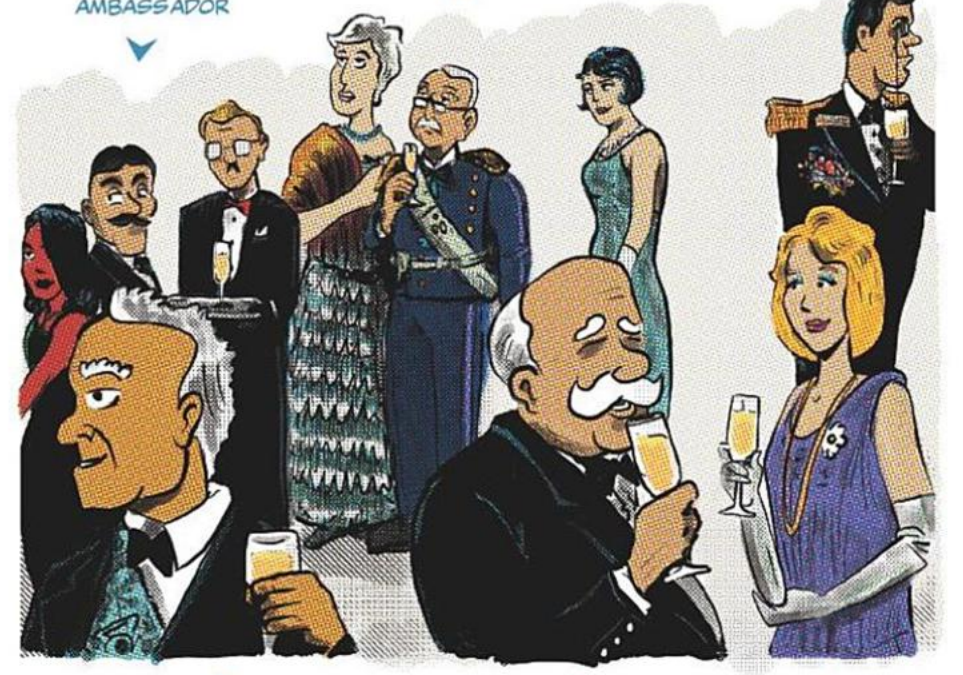
-- STANDING GUARD
OVER A PILE OF
WEDDING PRESENTS
WORTH BETWEEN FIFTY
AND ONE HUNDRED
THOUSAND DOLLARS.

ALL IN ALL, IT'S BEEN NEITHER
BETTER NOR WORSE THAN THE
USUAL WEDDING DETAIL.

Earlier --

THE BRIDE AND GROOM
DISAPPEARED FOR THEIR
EAST-BOUND TRAIN AROUND
MIDNIGHT. THE GUESTS OF
HENDRIXSON MANOR BARELY
TOOK NOTICE.

THE WORLD HAD BEEN
WELL REPRESENTED AT
THE RECEPTION.



CENTRAL EUROPEAN
AMBASSADOR

DANISH
BARON

BRITISH
ADMIRAL

SOUTH AMERICAN
EX-PRESIDENT

U.S. SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE

RUSSIAN PRINCESS
(IN EXILE)