

The Curious, Clever and Collectively Convolutd Case of
Detective Ebeneezer Maissonette

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INT. LONDON HOUSE - MORNING

A woman stands nervously looking at an empty space.

BEDDINGTON

I hope you don't mind, Inspector but with a dilemma this pressing, I have taken it upon myself to hire an extra hand on this case.

The inspector's face, who she is with, drops.

INSPECTOR LARRY

You can't possibly mean him?

BEDDINGTON

I have heard good things from my Fiance's friends. He's efficient, intelligent, has a cunning eye for crime and a surprisingly good-looking hat.

The door suddenly swings open and in the silhouette of the door stands a tall slim man in a top hat. The door swings back just as quickly and hits him in the head.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Ouch, shit, bugger.

He creeps the door back open and they watch as he drags a chair across the room and places it in the way of the swinging door.

He now stands up like nothing happened for a moment in the frame and then comes forward for a handshake.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

I am Detective Ebenezer Maisonette, of private hire and this is my good pal, Mr Percival Farley, who has given valuable incite on many of my cases.

Percival Farley now comes into the room and tips his hat.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Good to meet your acquaintance. What can we help you with?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Stop!

He throws his coat off dramatically onto Farley.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Before we begin I must announce the first thing I have deduced in this

room.

Everyone watches him in utter intrigue.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

I have spotted with my keen intuition
and observational eye a complete and
utter twat.

He now points directly at Inspector Larry, who sighs in
disappointment.

BEDDINGTON

Mr Farley, to answer your question I
must ask both of you for your complete
discretion for it is a delicate
matter.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Indeed.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Nothing will leave this room.

He peers over at the chair holding open the door and he
points at it, looking at Farley.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Farley!

Farley quickly moves the chair so the door swings shut.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Now nothing will leave this room.

BEDDINGTON

I've recently been asked by Lord
Kensington for his hand in marriage.
Before leaving for Peru, he gifted me
with a treasured ruby that was
recovered from an Aboriginal tribe by
his great grandfather. This beautiful
jewel was stolen from me and I must
have it recovered before my beloved
returns home.

She turns dramatically at the empty space that she was
looking at before. Maisonette steps forward to take a closer
look.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

You want me to find your precious ruby
and return it to you?

Beddington goes to speak but Maisonette puts his finger to
her lips.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

That was rhetorical.

He flicks down the magnifying glass attached to his spectacles and starts to look at the room carefully. He spots a massive footprint on the carpet. He takes out some tweezers and picks up a tiny piece of rock from the print. He holds it up to his eye and changes to a closer magnifying glass.

INSPECTOR LARRY

What do you expect to determine from that?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Oh my dear Inspector Larry you do not see the intricate details of life as I do. This footprint contains a red rock that can only be found in precisely one part of the Thames, 'The Arbitrary Abattoir'. Home to some of the most wanted criminals in this city.

BEDDINGTON

That is incredible, how did you know?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

They don't call me a genius for nothing.

INSPECTOR LARRY

(Under his breath)

They don't call you a genius.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

When will your fiance return?

BEDDINGTON

A week Tuesday.

Farley checks his pocket watch.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Then we better get started Ebenezer...

Maisonette coughs. Farley rolls his eyes.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Detective Ebenezer Maisonette. Time is pressing on.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Precisely Farley.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

It's Percival Farley.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
We shall depart at once.

He places his hat back onto his head dramatically.

EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY

They step out of the front door and Maisonette raises his arm.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Cab!

The horses gallop past them.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Cab!

Same again so he hurries up the road a little more.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Cab!

No luck.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
We shall depart on foot.

He strides off dramatically.

EXT. LONDON - DAY

They walk through the smokey streets on London.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE (V.O)
It's crucial to remember Farley in
order to catch a criminal you must
think like one.

*This is where the head of the top
crime in London comes to roll off some
steam and gamble. If you need a job
these are the men to ask.*

EXT. LONDON ALLEY - DAY

They stroll along some back alleys to a door. Ebenezer lifts his cane and knocks it in a rhythm pattern. The hatch slides open and a man pops his head round. Farley steps back to the side to not be seen.

DOORMAN
You know you're not welcome here
Maisonette.

He slams the hatch shut.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

And was that part of the plan?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

I thought this may happen. You knock this time and make your way in, they won't know you. I'll find another way in and search for the jobs record book.

Ebenezer walks away and Farley knocks again on the hatch. It slides back open.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

I hear you have a spot for high gambling.

DOORMAN

What about it?

PERCIVAL FARLEY

I'm quite nifty with them cards if you let me show you.

DOORMAN

You got enough money?

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Oh, more than enough.

DOORMAN

Let's see what you're made of.

INT. GAMBLING DEN

Farley sits at the table of other men. He picks up his cards and examines them. One man tugs his ear and scratches his nose: 'Why'd you let the posh guy in?' The original gambler replies with a scratch of the head and a wink: 'Let's play the money out of the posh ponce.'

The cards hit the table. Each man is in deep concentration. They stare at each other with no emotion on their faces; raised eyebrows, scows. A woman appears with drinks.

WOMAN

Drink?

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Yes, I'll have a whiskey.

WOMAN

Ice?

Farley takes his eyes off his cards and looks up at the woman standing next to him. He takes a double-take when he notices

that it is in fact Maisonette in a dress, wig and makeup and a paper fan. He is still wearing his top hat. He turns to a man sitting next to Farley.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

(Female voice)

Hello boys.

ROUGH MAN

You alright pretty ?

He fans himself saying, 'Come take my dog from me.' Everyone around the table looks very confused.

The man goes to touch Maisonette's hair but Maisonette punches him across the face. Suddenly the other man at the table jumps up and swings for Farley.

The fight begins and Maisonette sneaks off to the side and looks through a collection of books.

Meanwhile, Farley is being heavily thrown around and beaten up.

Maisonette is flicking through pages and pulls out his magnifying glasses from under his blouse and attaches them back onto his glasses.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Aha, here we are.

He tears out the page and places it under his top hat.

DOORMAN

(OFF)

Where did that woman go?

Maisonette panics and runs off.

Farley gets punched one more time which knocks him out.

EXT. LONDON ALLEY - DAY

Maisonette steps out of the door back in his normal attire with no scratch on him. Farley is sitting waiting covered in blooded tissue with a black eye that he can hardly open.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Well done Farley that was a perfect distraction. I managed to get the information I required.

Maisonette lifts up his hat and takes the paper from it and hands it to Farley. He takes it from Maisonette and only grunts from the pain.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
I can always count on you.

He just grunts again.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Now we must lay the trap for our
cunning thief by sending a wire to
meet at Fairy Lane this evening.

Maisonette raises his arm.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Cab!

It just gallops past him.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
On foot.

He walks off.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Come on Farley we don't have time to
sit around.

Farley slowly gets himself up from the floor in pain.

EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY

They both walk down the street.

PERCIVAL FARLEY
So how do we get back the ruby if we
have only invited the thief?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Ah, Farley, he is most assuredly to
bring it with him for I have offered a
hefty sum for it.

PERCIVAL FARLEY
You proposed to buy it from him.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Precisely Farley.

PERCIVAL FARLEY
It's Percival Farley.

They are both stopped by a street seller.

STREET SELLER
Gentlemen I have been trying to
contact you regarding your cart's
extended warranty.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

We don't own a cart or a horse for that matter.

STREET SELLER

Ah, but have you been injured by a horse at work and it wasn't your fault?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Will you tell us if you've seen a suspicious-looking man hanging around these streets at all?

STREET SELLER

Oh yes, all sorts around here.

They start to walk away, Farley in front.

STREET SELLER

There is one thing sir.

Maisonette stops.

STREET SELLER

Have you recently been miss-sold a pie?

Farley takes out his gun and shouts over.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Ebenezer!

He runs down the alleyway and fires five times. Maisonette follows.

EXT. LONDON ALLEY - DAY

Farley's gun clicks out of bullets.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

I saw a man flee.

Maisonette sees a man led on the floor.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Oh god.

He leans down to check his pulse.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

He's dead Ebenezer.

Maisonette coughs.

PERCIVAL FARLEY
Detective Ebenzer Maisonette.

The man has a gun in his hand and blood on the floor.

PERCIVAL FARLEY
What happened here?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
It is quite obviously a suicide,
Farley.

Maisonette searches the body and finds the ruby in his pocket.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
If he was murdered then that person
you proclaim to have seen would have
taken this from him.

He holds up the diamond in the light.

PERCIVAL FARLEY
Time to go collect our reward.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Oh Farley, you know we don't do it for
the money. Lets go make Lady
Beddington's day.

Farley is annoyed.

INT. LONDON HOUSE - NIGHT

Beddington returns the ruby to its glass case and she turns with Maisonette, Farley and Inspector Larry for a photo.

INT. MAISONETTE FLAT - DAY

The newspaper with their image sits on the front page of the paper on the coffee table.

Farley pours himself a cup of tea and sits down in a large armchair. Suddenly from his side comes the sound of a didgeridoo. Farley turns to see Maisonette playing it in the corner of the room.

Maisonette stops to see Farley's glare.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
You know it helps me focus my mind.

Farley goes back to sipping his tea when the sound starts again. Farley tries to ignore him by opening up a newspaper.

He folds it back down and Maisonette stops.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

What is it you could be thinking about
my dear fellow?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Something seems off about the case,
Farley. It wrapped up in an elegant
bow. Like someone knew how my cases
always end.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

I'm sure you are just overthinking. Be
happy, Ebenezer...

He pauses.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Maisonette you solved it once again.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

I'm sure you are right Farley.

He goes back to his didgeridoo.

EXT. LONDON CANAL - NIGHT

The canal is smoky and dark. Farley steps out the shadows to
a man in uniform.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

One seat to America.

CONDUCTOR

Lets see.

He looks in a tiny book.

CONDUCTOR

Just your luck, there is one seat left
but it'll be 100 pounds, sir.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

An expensive ticket. Fortunately, I've
just sold something of great value and
ready to start a new life where I am
better treated.

CONDUCTOR

Docking will be over there when your
ready. Don't be late mind.

Farley hands over the money and he is given a paper ticket.
The man then walks down the canal.

Farley goes to step forward when a gun cocks from the shadows
and out steps Maisonette.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

I knew you were up to something Farley. That's why I took your gun. I noticed when we entered the alley you shot five times out of six. Furthermore only you knew where we were to meet. You always know precisely how one of my cases normally comes to a close. My question is the diamond we found was it a fake?

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Precisely. You always say to think like a criminal and I did.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

But why Farley?

PERCIVAL FARLEY

You never take a penny and we always struggle to pay rent. I just want to get away from your constant ridicule of me.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

But I'm the amazing, incredible, vastly intelligent Detective Ebenezer Maisonette. Your just Mr Farley.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

I can't just be Mr Farley any longer.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

But you murdered a man. You can't just murder a man!

PERCIVAL FARLEY

I did what I had to do.

They hear a man running towards them and the sound of a police wistel.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

You called Inspector Larry?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

What else was I to do?

The two of them lock eyes in tension. Farley points.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

Look a !

Maisonette looks over. Farley runs off into the darkness. Inspector Larry runs up.

INSPECTOR LARRY
Which way did he go?

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
This way.

They run off after him.

EXT. LONDON ALLEY - NIGHT

Farley runs down the alleyway.

Maisonette still with the gun and Inspector Larry run together and then stop.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Let's split old twat... I mean chap.

They both run in opposite ways.

EXT. LONDON CANAL - NIGHT

Farley runs out of the alleyway but Maisonette stands across the street.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Farley stop!

PERCIVAL FARLEY
I'm sorry Detective Ebenezer
Maisonette that it had to end this
way. Let me go.

They both look at each other. Maisonette thinks deeply and steps forward.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
Cab!

Suddenly a load of horses with carts are heard going past but none of them stops. Farley knows this is his chance to leave.

Inspector Larry runs up behind Maisonette.

INSPECTOR LARRY
Where'd he go?

The horses are still blocking the way.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE
He's gone, Larry. We'll never catch
him now.

Farley continues running down the canal to freedom.

INT. MAISONETTE FLAT - DAY

A painting of a boat sits on the wall. Maisonette enters and picks up the post from the tray. One letter catches his eye. He uses a letter knife to open it.

PERCIVAL FARLEY

(V.O)

Dear Detective Ebenezer Maisonette. I am writing to you to say thank you for our time together. I have met a lovely woman and have settled down happily. I will never forget the good times even if they were few and far between. Yours precisely, Percival Farley.

P.S. Remember to tell Inspector Larry he's a twat.

There is a knock at the door. Inspector Larry comes into the room.

INSPECTOR LARRY

There has been a murder. This one left a calling card.

He hands him a small card with the letters 'V' on it as a fancy stamp.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Intriguing.

INSPECTOR LARRY

We require your assistants.

He places on his hat and coat.

EBENEZER MAISONETTE

Of course, you do Larry you're useless a twat.

Larry rolls his eyes and he follows him out the room.