In the summer of 1923, Harper's Magazine published an article titled "Grunt's Passion for Smoking" by Dashiell Hammett. The article is a satirical take on the world of organized crime and the criminal underworld. It features the character Grunt, a cigar-smoking hitman who is hired to kill a rival. The article is known for its dark humor and its depiction of the criminal world as a glamorous and exciting place, contrasting sharply with the reality of violence and death.

The article is presented as a series of letters from Grunt to his fiancée, displaying a world of glamour and danger. Grunt describes his life as a hitman for a powerful criminal organization, where he is known for his charm and his smoking habits. He writes about his work, his relationships, and his daily life with a flair that blends reality and fantasy in a way that is both hilarious and chilling.

The opening of the article sets the stage for Grunt's world: "I am in Paris, and I am very well satisfied. To be sure the kitchen is rather small, and there is more room up stairs than we really need, but I can make do, I suppose."

Throughout the letters, Grunt discusses his work, his relationships, and his daily life with a mixture of charm and danger. He describes his work as a hitman for a powerful criminal organization, where he is known for his charm and his smoking habits. He writes about his encounters with famous people, his travels, and his relationships with various women.

The article is a critique of the glamorous image of organized crime, as it was portrayed in the popular culture of the time. It is also a commentary on the dangers and violence of the criminal underworld, and the way in which it was often romanticized in the media.

The article is a classic example of the noir genre, and it has been influential in the development of the genre over the years. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of crime fiction and the noir genre.