

The Rondout Reader

From Eddyville, New York



therondoutinternationallibrary.blog

In Search of Enemies And Friends!

By Kevin Ahearn

JULY 31, 1930



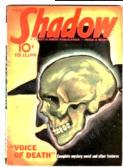


































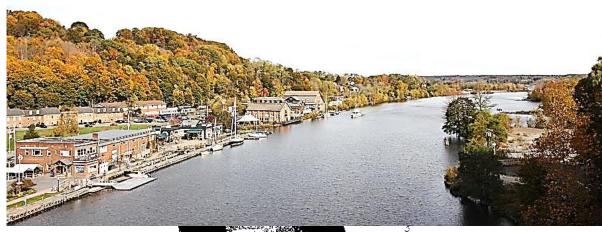






For Zahala

Part 5 2010





"Ah, the Rondout! From either shore, I feel its aura, taking me back to Eddyville and the best of times with my immortal creator!"







"But I cannot stay long, for the SHADOW lives by killing evil. As I no longer have weapons, I must find other ways!"

Back to the big city...



When the **SHADOW** searches up and down, the highbrows and the lowlifes, his eyes always find...



The dark underbelly of humanity!





"Who do we have here?"



"An easy one! A confessed child molester! He gave it up, before I even read him his rights including the nastiest details!"



"Yes, I'm guilty, GUILTY, GUILTY! Lock me up...solitary! I want protection!"

"'Protection'? From what?"

"From, from, from...Him!"



"Who?"



"The, the SHADOW!"



"A pedifile scared of his own shadow! I like it!"

The news traveled fast to...

ONE POLICE PLAZA







"So now we're on the look out for a comic book character?"



"Not so. **The SHADOW** started out on radio!"

"A best-seller all around!"



"And then became a magazine!"

"A vigilante back in business?"



"Not in my watch!"

DAILY F BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Stalking Our City!



GHOST@LARGE!

By JJ Jameson



'Third-rate punks and cowardly thieves...
no fun at all!'





'Gang members one day...Cellmates the next!'

ONE POLICE PLAZA









'Commissioner, a reporter is here.'

'Very well. Let's get this over with!'



'You're here about this **SHADOW**, aren't you?' 'Substace or sensationalism?'

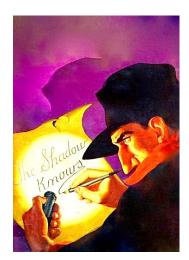


'The Public wants to know!"

'You tell me, sir."









'This "Master of Darkness" is a myth, a New York legend is desperately trying for a comeback!

'But can you take the voice to coutrt?'



"As what? Our officers only heard a whisper in the dark. The voice led them to a host of arrests!"

'That's the rub! Are we going to need a judge who believes in ghosts?'







'Mister Kent, mild-mannered reporter that you are,

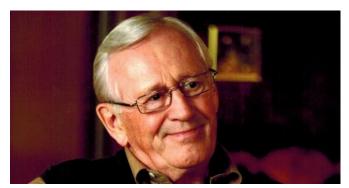
The New York City Police Department will not comment
on alleged apparitions or sensitive coversations have had
with this, this...SHADOW!'

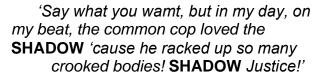






'Understood, Commissioner! The Daily Planet takes great pride in its unbiased honesty, but please, tell us what's going on!'







'Yeah, Pop, but this is the 21st century! Blasting all the bad guys pointblank is not how the NYPD does business!'



'This is just crazy!"

"Comes with the territory, Boss!"

'Yes, but if NYPD takes this "voice" seriously, no one will take us seriously!' 'Only until we shed some light on the "Master of Darkness"!'









'This **SHADOW**/Ghost "voice" will never fly in court! The DA's office will be a laughing stock!'

'Aha! Not a PR problem, Mr. Kent! You can interview whatever this **SHADOW** is to the Daily Planet's heart's content **after** the trial of thoise he implecated!'



"But if this "voice" is that of a ghost, the city, the country, the whole world wants in on it!"

"Thank you, Mrs. Reagan, but I am not subserviant to the **New York PD**! I'm going to "tell it like it is" as soon as I've got the story!"







'Enough of this comic book nonsense!
From the reports I've read, we've got plenty
of evidence on these **SHADOW**-tipped suspects
that we don't need a ghost to testify!'







Bottom of the rung losers! I refuse to go on like this! I need very special help from a very special crimefighter!.

'I can only hope he'll be happy to see me again!'









TWENTY YEARS GONE...



https://www.facebook.com/rockcliffhouse/

COME BACK TO US!





Or Just...HIS GHOST?

BY CLARK KENT









https://www.facebook.com/people/High-Falls-Flea-Market/100063534472569/





'Gotham City is like too many fading stars Looks best at night and from a distance.'







'I do hope he's home!'



'His incredible car's here. A good sign!'





'Good evening, Bruce! It's been too long!'











"My creator passed and most of me went with him!



to you?'











'I got lucky! **BATMAN** kept making money! In movies, on TV and in the toy stores!'









'Batman is timeless and so many different things to so many different people!



'Success strongly influenced by my own!'

'But what kept **BATMAN** fresh and new year after year was a series of creators, each blessing me with an unexpected twist! And the artists!'

I wasn't 'created' in the usual way. Young Walter Gibson was given my name, a 'catch-phrase' and a haunting laugh!

'From just that my...neither creator nor novelist...disguises for what he truly was...a magician!

'And I'm what's left of his greatest trick!'







'Alone and looking for a purpose!
I can almost feel Sir Walter looking
down on me with disdain!

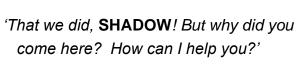
'But Bruce, we did have come good times togther, didn't we!'













'Good question, Bruce! Perhaps I should follow your lead!'









'Times keep a changin' **SHADOW**! New blood keeps rising! Endless compdetition! Evderybody wants to be costumed hero!'



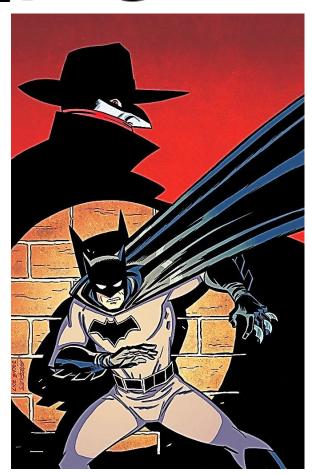




Then the SHADOW must aim high, above the make-believe antagonists who overpopulate our mass-produced fantasies!

'America Enemy #1!"

The Gotham Times "HE'S BAAACK!"



"MASTER OF DARKNESS"

Stadow





"I am being scooped on the **SHADOW**! And I don't like it! We are going to catch this "ghost" and interview him! Aren't we, Parker?'



'But Jay-Jay, suppose this "Master of Darkness" is a fake, a two-bit Mysterio!"









'The **SHADOW**'s "ghost" is real because I, your employer, said so! Now do you believe?'







"But if he's...then I gotta call..."







'Parker, understand! This "SHADOW-belief" is a disease that must have been unleashed by a supernatural spell! This story requires a doctor!'













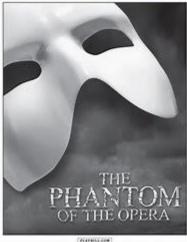
'A unique doctor!'

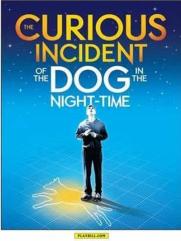
New Year 2015

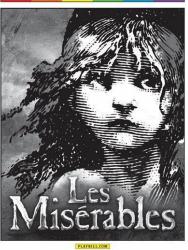












Public entertainment has come a long way since my glorious ten-cent magazine!









"Mr. Wick, in your next chapter... Maybe a nod."



""Done, **Shadow**! Consider it a 'professional courtesy.""

725 FIFTH AVENUE





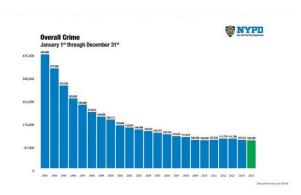
'Gentlemen, today we begin our patriotic quest! Not to take over a company or a corporation, but our weak and incompetent government!'



"Burn this liberal disaster down to the ground!"



"Bus millions of uneducated and unskilled migrants back home!"





'But we must be very careful! Crime is down in the city for one reason – the **SHADOW!**'







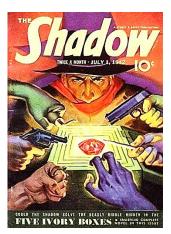


'An urban legend of a vengeful spirit hunting crooks big and small for the last couple of years!'



"Hmmm...Maybe we should buy the firm rights. Comic book movies are a billion-dollar business!"











'We are going to lead the greatest movement America has ever known! We will rally the millions left behind by an irresponsible government ripe for revolution!'

'And if whatever this **SHADOW** is, trust me, well deal with him!'







'We shall become an irrepressible, irresistible force bent on restoring the greatest country in history back to its rightful place at the top of the global pyramid!

'Victory or death!'













Times like these take me back to the Rondout and the home of my magical creator, in historic Eddyville!



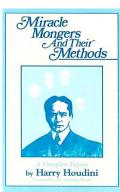




'I can almost feel Walter's presence! What he must think of this desperate spirit, once "The Master Darkness" and now the epitome of weakness!







'Harry Houdini, the greatest magician who ever lived, attacked the so-called "spiritualists" as frauds duping the innocents!'







"But if the afterlife doesn't exist, then how do !?

'And what do I have to do to keep going?'

Bay Ridge, Brooklyn...







'Sunday dinner, but I don't think the Reagan family saved a seat for me!'





"Dinner with family! Eat, drink and be merry 'cause it gets no better than this!"



"Here and now, let us celebrate the greatest crimefighting comeback in New York history!"





SHADOW-Mania!BACK FROM THE DEAD?

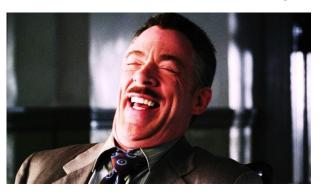


"Oh, no, Pop, no! "Fake news" looking for another **Spider-Man** or **Batman**!



'The "Voice in the Dark" is a hoax, has to be. Like **NYPD** needs help from a ghost!'











'But he's cool! I believe in the SHADOW!'

'Me, too.'





'Now wait just a minute! The **SHADOW**, whoever or whatever he was, disappeared or whatever, he died before your grandfather was born!'

'Is that so, Commissioner? Hahahahah!'









'Good evening, dear Reagans! Thanks, but I've already eaten!'





'OMG!'

'It can't be!'

'The SHADOW!'

'Like I was sayin'!'



'Ha! A toast to the ghost with the most!'



'My pleasure, detective!'



'Oh, boy! Really going real here!'

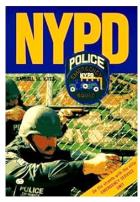


'Why, "Master of Darkness. WHY?'

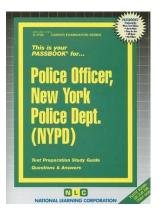




'Nearly a century ago, I rewrote the crime-fighting book! This century, I'm rewriting it yet again!"







'What? How?'



'I will be the most helpful "confidential informant!"!

No criminal organization will be secure with the "Master of Darkness" on the job!'







'Well, thank you so much for your altruistic proposal, but the **NYPD** has no room in its budget for anyone completely unsupervised! Insurance and legal costs would be prohibitive!"

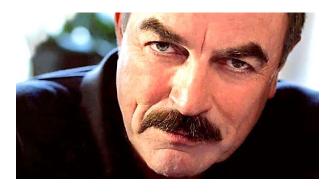








'Commissioner, you don't have a choice!'



'Is that a fact, Mr. "Master of Darkness"?

'Get this straight! **NYPD** doesn't want your haunted help nor will **NYPD** accept it! Not now, not ever.

'Now get the hell out of my house and never come back!'







Incorruptible, incorrigible Frank Reagan who doesn't get the irony. In a number of lesser Hollywood versions of me, the New York City Police Commissioner was my uncle!

'And not you or anybody else will stop from being the SHADOW!'



'I will, but only if you make me.'



'Understand, all of you! Difficult times lay ahead. But don't get down, don't give up hope! And should there come a case of unhinged horror, and you don't have a single clue, you must always remember this...'





HaHaHaHaHa!

NEXT

