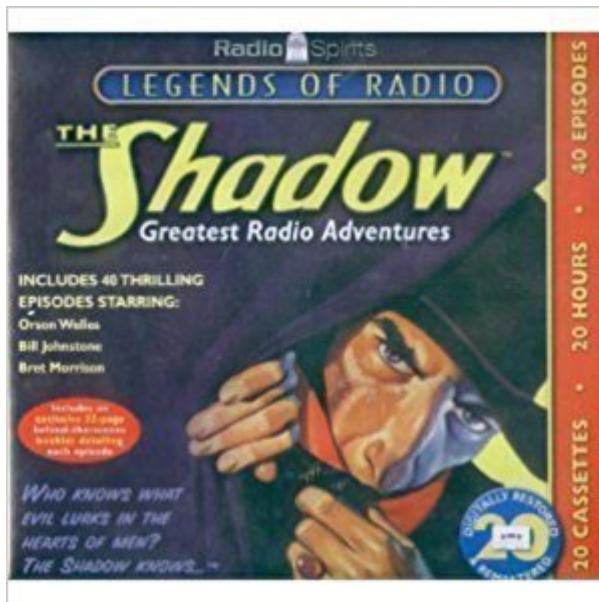


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# Shadow: Greatest Radio Adventures (20-Hour Collections)



## **Synopsis**

includes 40 thrilling episodes.

## **Book Information**

Series: 20-Hour Collections

Audio Cassette

Publisher: Radio Spirits (September 1, 2002)

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## **Customer Reviews**

includes 40 thrilling episodes.

These tapes bring back memories of early childhood when The Shadow scared the living daylights out of me on the radio but I loved it and listened every week. I had no idea that Orson Welles was the original Shadow. I play the tapes for people at the assisted living center where I volunteer and we old-time radio fans share many a laugh. Definitely worth buying a cassette player to listen to these. (For you innocents out there, The Shadow, who years ago in the Orient learned the secret power to cloud men's minds so they couldn't see him, was famous for saying, in a creepy disembodied voice, "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows, hahahahaha.") At 50 cents an hour, this is the bargain of the century.

Having been a fan of the Shadow radio series for over 15 years, I was pleased to discover that this collection contains some episodes that I had never heard before. It is on 20 audiocassettes two shows per tape. I highly recommend this item for anyone who is a fan of the Shadow.

Radio buffs all certainly agree that The Shadow was among the greatest radio shows of all-time. It is

often stated that The Shadow began as a magazine, but that is not quite the case. The character of The Shadow originated as the announcer for Street & Smith's Detective Story, a radio show designed to help sell the magazine of the same name. When listeners began calling in requesting "The Shadow Detective Magazine," something had to be done. Walter Gibson brought The Shadow to life for over a decade in pulp-type novels. The Shadow Magazine made its way to the public for the first time on March 6, 1931. There were two of these novels each month and between 1931 and 1949, Gibson, a former magician turned journalist, churned out 283 of the 325 shows, creating Commissioner Weston and many other characters later brought to life on the airwaves. It may surprise some casual Shadow fans to note that Lamont Cranston was originally only one of The Shadow's many personas. Street & Smith wanted to continue The Shadow as the pulp detective of Walter Gibson's novels, rather than the mysterious announcer and storyteller fans had come to love. But their lack of foresight could not kill, The Shadow. Though a transcribed serial production of 15 minute shows originating in San Francisco, with Carl Kroenke as The Shadow, was syndicated and hung around for 10 years, it wasn't until September 26, 1937 that, The Shadow, as we now know him today, returned to network airwaves via the Mutual Broadcasting System. Orson Welles was the "man-about-town" Lamont Cranston, using a strange power he had learned in the mysterious orient to cloud men's minds so that his alter ego, The Shadow, could fight crime. While Welles' Shadow was very good, and his stint as The Shadow sent people running to his Broadway production of Julius Caesar in order to get a look at the face of The Shadow, I have always been partial to Bill Johnstone's portrayal of Lamont Cranston. One of my favorite shows ever, The Chess Club Murders, is included here and stars Bill Johnstone as The Shadow. Over the years, Lamont's constant companion, Margot Lane, would be portrayed by Agnes Moorehead, Margot Stevenson, Marjorie Anderson, Judith Allen, Lesley Woods, and Grace Matthews. Margot Stephenson was the beautiful Broadway actress who had actually inspired the character of Margot Lane. This is one of the best collections around of The Shadow, and while by no means definitive, a ton of terrific shows are here to enjoy. Since the individual shows have already been listed, I will only list what I believe are the most enjoyable from each of the three men who portrayed the greatest single figure in the history of radio.

**ORSON WELLES**--Welles was only 22 when he starred in The Shadow. He managed to strike a deal with the sponsor, Blue Coal, which allowed him to do the show "cold" without rehearsal. It served to give his performance as The Shadow an edge. Welles would show up a few moments before airtime, perform a few magic tricks for the cast, then bada bing-bada boom, he would grab the script and run with it. What Welles could not do, however, was the signature and sinister laugh of The Shadow. Frank Readick (the voice of The Shadow on Street & Smith's

Detective Story) continued to both open and close the program.FAVORITE SHOW---SOCIETY OF THE LIVING DEADBILL JOHNSTONE---He began as The Shadow on September 25, 1938. He had trouble with the laugh also, but finally managed to perfect it. My favorite Shadow.FAVORITE SHOW---THE CHESS CLUB MURDERSBRET MORRISON---He became The Shadow in 1943, was replaced by John Archer a year later, then returned as Lamont Cranston late in 1945.FAVORITE SHOW---A TIE---PREVIEW OF TERROR and THE PHANTOM OF THE LIGHTHOUSEThis great collection comes with a stunningly researched booklet by Anthony Tollin, who uses a number of sources to give a far-reaching look at the history of radio's greatest man of mystery, both in print, on radio, and in film. There are marvelous program notes on each episode included in the booklet, supplemented by photos of many of the key players. For fans of radio, the theatre of the imagination, this Shadow collection is not to be missed!

This is the largest collection of Shadow radio shows released so far. Contains the following shows:Orson Welles as The Shadow:The Death House Rescue 9-26-37The Circle of Death 11-28-37The Death Triangle 12-12-37The Society of the Living Dead 1-23-38The Plot Murder 2-27-38The White Legion 3-20-38The Hypnotized Audience 3-27-38Message from the Hills 5-22-38Bill Johnstone as The Shadow:Traffic in Death 9-25-38Night Without End 10-16-38Appointment with Death 3-12-39Can the Dead Talk? 3-19-39Mansion of Madness 11-5-39The Shadow Returns 11-19-39The Sandhog Murders 11-26-39The Voice of Death 12-8-40Joey's Christmas Story 12-22-40The Shadow Challenged 1-19-41The Chess Club Murders 2-23-41The Ghost Walks Again 3-16-41The Case of the Three Frightened Policemen 11-16-41The Ring of Light 11-23-41The Wailing Corpse 11-8-42Bret Morrison as The Shadow:The Gibbering Things 9-26-43Death to The Shadow 3-12-44The Living Head 2-10-46The Valley of Living Terror 10-13-46Blood Money 10-20-46Gang Doctor 11-24-46The Devil Takes a Wife 12-8-46Scent of Death 2-2-47Spider Boy 6-1-47The Phantom of the Lighthouse 9-7-47The Curse of the Gypsies 10-5-47Murder and the Medium 11-30-47The Chill of Death 1-4-48The Bones of the Dragon 1-11-48Death and the Black Fedora 1-18-48One Dead and Two to Go 2-1-48Preview of Terror 6-5-49Plus: this release also contains a 32 page 'behind the scenes' booklet

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