SHADOW COMICS

NOV. 1940

10 CENTS

12 PAGES OF THE SHADOW AND THE CREEPING DEATH

Starting THE HOODED WASP

IT'S THRILLING!
LAMONT CRANSTON
NEW YORK
WILL PAY HALF A MILLION DOLLARS FOR YOUR INTEREST IN NEW ERA GOLD MINE,
ARRIVING ON EASTERN LIMITED TO-NIGHT.
MEET ME.
CLIFFORD FORSTER

ODD THAT FORSTER DID NOT ARRIVE. MAYBE HE SENT ANOTHER WIRE TO THE CLUB LAMONT.

I'LL GO THERE, MARGOT. I WONDER WHY FORSTER WANTS THAT WORTHLESS MINING STOCK.
TWO HOURS LATER.
HELLO, CRANSTON...
THIS IS FORSTER...
YES, I ARRIVED LATE...

I'M AT THE HOTEL CLAYTON,
ROOM 806....
MY HANDS--THEY'RE NUMB--I CAN'T HOLD THE PHONE

IT'S GOT ME, CRANSTON, MY ARMS ARE PARALYZED--
IT'S CREEPING TO MY THROAT--

HURRYING FROM THE COBALT CLUB, LAMONT CRANSTON ENTERS HIS LIMOUSINE AND BECOMES THE SHADOW!

The HOTEL CLAYTON--AND HURRY, STANLEY!

FORSTER'S PHONE CALL, INTERRUPTED BY DEATH, CREATES CONSTERNATION AT THE HOTEL CLAYTON.

I'M AFRAID SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO MR. FORSTER.

GO UP TO 806 CASEY AND TAKE TOM WITH YOU.

MEANWHILE, THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN 806.

REMEMBER ME, FORSTER? I'M VIGNETTI. BUT YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ME. YOU'RE DEAD!

HAAH!

I'LL TAKE THAT ENVELOPE.
WHOEVER HE WAS, HE’S GONE...

BUT WHILE WE WERE GRABBING HIM, ANOTHER GUY WENT THROUGH THE WINDOW TO THE FIRE TOWER.

THOUGH VIGNETTI ESCAPED, HIS IDENTITY UNDISCLOSED THE SHADOW GAINED THE ENVELOPE. LATER, IN HIS SANCTUM, HE EXAMINES THE CONTENTS.

A FRENCH GOLD COIN, AND A PARTRIDGE FEATHER!

FORSTER WAS KILLED WHILE PHONING YOU, LAMONT!

SOMETHING HAPPENED EARLIER, MARGOT. I’VE LEARNED THAT THE EASTERN LIMITED MADE A SPECIAL STOP AT WEST FALLS.

I THINK FORSTER GOT OFF AND TOOK A LATER TRAIN. GO TO WEST FALLS, MARGOT...

AND LEARN WHATEVER YOU CAN ABOUT PARTRIDGES.

THE SHADOW INVESTIGATES IN NEW YORK...

SORRY, MR. CRANSTON, BUT MR. GUTHRIE WENT OUT OF TOWN TO-DAY. HE DIDN’T SAY WHERE...

WHILE AT THE STATION IN WEST FALLS...

THIS IS GUTHRIE... YOU CAN SEE ME IN A HALF HOUR?... THANKS, PROFESSOR PARTRIDGE!
OUR PARTRIDGE IS A PROFESSOR. HE'S EXPECTING A FRIEND NAMED GUTHRIE.

AND GUTHRIE IS THE MAN I WANT! STAY CLOSE, MARGOT, BUT BE CAREFUL... I'LL MEET YOU AT WEST FALLS IN

THE SHADOW TAKES OFF FOR WEST FALLS.

WHILE THE SHADOW IS FLYING BY AUTO-GIRO TO WEST FALLS, MARGOT LANE TRAILS GUTHRIE TO THE HOME OF PROFESSOR PARTRIDGE.

IT IS TRUE, GUTHRIE. MY PROCESS TURNS AN OUNCE OF REAL GOLD INTO A POUND OF FALSE THAT WILL STAND EVERY KNOWN TEST!

TO PROFIT FROM THE IMITATION GOLD, I STAMP IT INTO FOREIGN COINS. BUT THAT'S COUNTERFEITING, PROFESSOR!
HERE ARE YOUR GLOVES, PROFESSOR.

THANK YOU, VIGNETTI. SORRY, GUTHRIE. THAT YOU DON'T LIKE MY METHODS.

OF COURSE ALL THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL, GUTHRIE!

WHY--ER--CERTAINLY, PROFESSOR.

NO ONE NOTES THE STRANGE SHADOW FROM OVERHEAD AS IT WINGS ITS WAY INTO THE TOWN OF WEST FALLS.... THE SHADOW OF THE SHADOW!!!

WEST FALLS INN

MAYBE PROF. PARTRIDGE HAS THE RIGHT IDEA. I'LL GO BACK AND TELL HIM SO. BUT JUST IN CASE....

THIS IS LUCK! GUTHRIE IS STOPPING AT THE INN WHERE LAMONT TOLD ME TO COME!

SPYING, EH? I'LL SETTLE YOU!

THE SHADOW! HE'LL SAVE ME--

UNDER THE MERE AIM OF THE SHADOW'S GUN, GUTHRIE'S HAND FALTERS, AND HIS TRIGGER FINGER FAILS HIM.

MY HANDS--MY SHOULDERS--IT'S CREEPING TO MY THROAT--

HE'S DEAD, LIKE FORSTER. GO QUICKLY, TELL NO ONE--EXCEPT CRANSTON!
I JUST ARRIVED, MARGOT. WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?

GUTHRIE IS DEAD, LAMONT. THEY THINK IT WAS A HEART ATTACK, BUT--

IT WAS THE CREEPING DEATH--

THERE'S A CHAP WHO KNOWS SOMETHING. STAY HERE, WHILE I FOLLOW HIM.

THE HOUSE WHERE PROFESSOR PARTRIDGE LIVES! JUST AS MARGOT DESCRIBED IT.

THE RAVINE IS IMPASSABLE. MY MAN MUST HAVE TAKEN THIS PATH.

REACHING A COTTAGE HIDDEN IN THE WOODS, THE SHADOW LOOKS UPON A STRANGE SCENE.
I AM ALFREDO MORALES. YOU MUST BE PIERRE ARMAGNAC.

THAT IS TRUE, M’SIEU. CAN WE NOT BE FRIENDS?

WE BOTH BUY FALSE COINS FROM PARTRIDGE AND USE THEM IN OUR OWN LANDS.

BUT WITH NATIONS AT WAR, OUR BUSINESS IS BAD.

YOU CAN SEIZE ALL OF THE PROFESSOR’S GOLD, M’SIEU?

SI, SENOR. IF YOU LEARN WHERE HE KEEPS IT.

PARTRIDGE IS CLEVER. HE KILLED FORSTER.

AND GUTHRIE. HE NEEDS THEIR MINES TO EXPLAIN HIS STOCK OF IMITATION GOLD.

I, TOO, HAVE A TOKEN. BUENOS! THE PROFESSOR WILL ADMIT YOU.

FOLLOW ARMAGNAC, JOSE. MAKE SURE HE REACHES THE PROFESSOR’S HOUSE.

LA SOMBRA! DEATH TO HEEEM!
IGNORANT OF THE SHADOW'S STRUGGLE WITH JOSE ARMAGNAC HAS REACHED PARTRIDGE'S HOUSE, BY A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE.

BUT WHERE DO YOU STORE THE GOLD, PROFESSOR?

OUTSIDE IN THE BOMB-PROOF ROTUNDA, COME ARMAGNAC.

MILLIONS OF IT, ARMAGNAC, IN METAL AS GOOD AS GOLD!

YOUR GLOVES, PROFESSOR PARTRIDGE.
The Shadow finally arrives outside of Partridge's estate, to witness Armagnac's departure.

Au Revoir, Professor. Adieu, Monsieur Armagnac.

He's going back to see Morales. I'll stop by at the inn.

But your arm, Lamont!

Only a Bramble scratch, Margot. Come, we have no time to lose.

They've gone to the roof. Come on, Margot, quietly!

So the gold is out of the mansion, as I hoped. Buenos! My men are stationed opposite.

This bomb will blast the mansion and everyone inside it!

But they are three to our two, Lamont!

Wait. There will be one less.
YOU MAY LIGHT THE FUSE, SENOR. THE EXPLOSION WILL SIGNAL MY MEN.

MY HANDS-- THEY'RE NUMB--

IT'S PAST MY SHOULDERS-- AT MY THROAT--

THE CREEPING DEATH!

HE IS DEAD, PEDRO. ONE LESS TO SHARE THE GOLD.

READY, MARGOT.

CALL THE FEDS, MARGOT. THEN GO TO THE ROOF. WHEN YOU SEE THE SHADOW--

SOON AFTERWARD, A VISITOR IS ANNOUNCED TO PROFESSOR PARTRIDGE.

LAMONT CRANSTON? CERTAINLY, I SHALL SEE HIM, VIGNETTI.
FORSTER AND GUTHRIE WERE MY FRIENDS, TOO. THEIR DEATHS GRIEVE ME, MR. CRANSTON.

HE HAS GUESSED THE SECRET OF THE CREEPING DEATH. AFTER HIM, VIGNETTI!

THE SHADOW! COME, ALL OF YOU! WE'LL DRIVE HIM INTO THE RAVINE!
LAMONT SAID TO FIRE WHEN I SAW THE SHADOW!

FROM ACROSS THE RAVINE....

MARGOT DELIVERS THE MORTAR BOMB!

THE CREW PLACED BY MORALES IS DRAWN IN BY THE BLAST, TO BE MET BY PARTRIDGE'S MEN, WHILE THE SHADOW REACHES THE ROTUNDA!

THESE MOBS RUINED EACH OTHER LIKE KILKENNY CATS!

THERE'S PARTRIDGE, THE MAN WE WANT!

THE SHADOW BEAT HIM TO THE SHOT!

FALSE GOLD - TONS OF IT!

THERE GOES THE SHADOW; HE CRACKED THIS CASE FOR US!

HAVING SOLVED THE SECRET OF ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ALONG WITH THE RIDDLE OF THE CREEPING DEATH THE SHADOW PROVES THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY!

SUMMONED FEDS ARRIVE TO MOP UP...
LIKE A MISSILE HURLED BY THE HAND OF A WAR GOD, THE HOODED WASP SMASHES HIS WAY TO THE HIDING PLACE OF A LOST TALISMAN OF POWER AND WITH HIM GOES AN AMERICAN BOY, WITH UNBELIEVABLE THRILL-ADVENTURE IN PROSPECT.

ON!

SMACK HIM, BUTCH.

CHEER UP, SON.

WHO-WHO ARE YOU?

YOU'RE TOO MANY FOR ME. LET ME GO.

HEY, SIRTY, COME ON AND FIGHT!
YOU MAY CALL ME BOB, AND I'LL SHOW YOU A WAY TO LICK THAT BULLY.

I WISH YOU WOULD.

JIM QUICKLY LEARNS A FEW TRICKS OF JIU-JITSU.

THE NEXT TIME BUTCH ATTACKS YOU, THROW HIM LIKE THIS.

HERE, SISSY, GIMME THAT DIME!

LET GO, OR...

NEXT DAY, AT RECESS

TAKE THAT, YOU BIG SLUG.

JIM APPLIES BOB'S TECHNIQUE

PILE ON HIM, GIVE HIM THE LUMPS!

I'LL TAKE ON ALL OF YOU.

AND NEXT TIME, I'LL—OH, HELLO, MR. BOB.

WELL DONE, JIM, I'LL BE WATCHING YOU AFTER THIS.

NICE WORK, BOB!
YOUNG MEN, APPLY YOURSELVES.

GEE, I WONDER IF I'LL EVER SEE BOB AGAIN.

JIM MARTIN, HERE'S YOUR DIPLOMA AND SCIENCE MEDAL. CONGRATULATIONS.

THANK YOU, SIR.

LATER, HE GRADUATES WITH HONORS.

JIM STUDIES HARD, BUT WONDERS ABOUT HIS STRANGE FRIEND.

GEE WHIZ - BOB DIDN'T COME TO MY GRADUATION.

BUT WAITING IN THE SHADOWS STANDS A CLOAKED FIGURE.

THE MYSTERIOUS HOODED WASP MURRIES JIM INTO A PLANE BOUND FOR EGYPT.

WAS YOUR FATHER'S FRIEND. TOGETHER WE SOUGHT THE MAGIC SCARAB. WE WERE EXCAVATING AN EGYPTIAN TOMB ONE DAY, WHEN...

ARAB RAIDERS, BOB MAKE EVERY SHOT TELL!

GET IN, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.

THE MYSTERIOUS HOODED WASP MURRIES JIM INTO A PLANE BOUND FOR EGYPT.
YOUR FATHER FOUGHT THE RAIDERS BRAVELY
BUT WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED."

I ESCAPED, WATCHED YOU GROW UP—NOW WE'LL GO
TOGETHER TO FIND A MIGHTY TREASURE—
THE MAGIC SCARAB.

LOOK—WHAT'S THAT STRANGE PLANE?

TOWARD THEM SWOOPS RAZIL, CHIEF OF
A SECRET SOCIETY ALSO HUNTING THE
MYSTERIOUS MAGIC SCARAB.

ALMOST GOT HIM, ONCE MORE, AND—

RAZIL'S GUNS OPEN FIRE ON THE
UNARMED SHIP OF BOB'S.

IF I HAD A GUN, I'D MAKE
RAZIL WISH HE'D NEVER
SEEN ME.

WHAT'S THIS—DYNAMITE?

WHILE THE RIVAL SHIPS SWOOP BACK
AND FORTH—
BOB FORGOT THIS DYNAMITE—I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP HIM.

JIM HURLS THE POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE AT RAZIL'S SHIP.

ALLAH DEFEND ME!

YOU SAVED US, JIM—YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF YOU.

WERE SAFE TO GO ON NOW, BOB.

JIM IS REWARDED BY HONEST PRAISE FROM HIS FRIEND.

CURSE THAT YOUNG INFIDEL!

EGYPT AT LAST—OUR REAL WORK BEGINS, JIM.

NEAR HERE, ANYWAY, LET'S LOOK AT THE MAP.

IS THIS THE PLACE WE HUNT FOR THE SCARAB?

SWIFTLY BOB BRINGS THE SHIP TO A LANDING ON THE DESERT.

YES, WE START DIGGING AT THIS POINT. WHEN WE FIND THE MAGIC SCARAB, WE'LL WIN GREAT REWARD.

WE'LL REACH THE HIDDEN CAVERN SOON. THEN LET'S DIG FASTER.
MEANWHILE, RAZIL HAS GATHERED HIS KILLERS FOR A RAID ON THE EXCAVATION.

THEY DEFEATED ME ONCE AND IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, CLOSE IN ON THEM!

THIS IS THE DOOR TO THE TOMB OF THE SCARAB, SEE, LET'S GET INSIDE!

THE TWO LABORERS UNAWARE OF DANGER HAVE COME CLOSE TO THEIR GOAL.

WAIT UNTIL THEY ENTER THEN RUSH THEM!

INSIDE THE TOMB, THE TWO PUT ON NEW UNIFORMS.

YES FIRST, LET'S DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

LOOK THERE'S THE SCARAB IN THE IDOL'S HAND.

THE HOODED WASP PREPARES FOR ACTION.

ALL SET?

JUST ABOUT

SEIZE THE UNBELIEVING DOGS, BRING THEM TO ME!

SUDDENLY, WITH A YELL AND A RUSH, RAZIL'S MEN ATTACK.

THEY'VE GOT ME COURAGE, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE.

IF I CAN REACH THE SCARAB—

FIGHTING LIKE A DEMON, THE HOODED WASP WORKS HIS WAY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TOMB.
The Hooded Wasp

We Want a Name for the Boy!

Prizes for the Best Fifty Names

Actual Size

50 Horn-Handled Three-Bladed Knives Given for the Best 50 Names

Contest Closes Oct. 31, 1940
NICK CARTER
COUNTER-ESPIONAGE AGENT FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT

Alias Slippery Jack--a high type confidence man-pooses as a benign city parson--comes from a very good family--brother to William Gleason, rich banker and broker. Father was a man of means--is the black sheep of the family--in his late 30's.

Capt. Gray
Dick Gray--captain--companion to Jack Gleason--notorious--still in his 30's--genteel--manly--well dressed--looks like a gentleman of leisure--often poses as an army captain.

Agent of a foreign government--shrewd and--unscrupulous.

Jack Gleason

The three conspirators meet in the lobby of a fashionable hotel in Washington.

Harrison Hilde, the inventor, is making a demonstration of his safety explosive at Elk River in Maryland tomorrow. I want you both to go there with me!

At Elk River that afternoon...

Come on, let's get going!

(See that boat house? It has a runway that leads right to the master's bedroom where Hilde will sleep tonight. Only one guard is on the dock. When it's dark it will be easy!)
LATER THAT NIGHT —  
GET HIM GLEASON!

GRAY ENTERS HILDE'S BEDROOM AND CONCEALS HIMSELF BEHIND A CURTAIN.  
THIS CHLOROFORM WILL HELP HIM SLEEP!

HILDE COMES IN SHORTLY AFTER TO RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT....  
I'LL LOCK THIS PORTFOLIO TO MY WRIST, JUST IN CASE --

OH... Ah...  
TOO BAD OLD BOY, BUT I MUST HAVE THOSE PAPERS!

NEXT MORNING ---  
BANG!

MR. HILDE --- MR. HILDE --- IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG? ... I MUST GET HELP!

A.G.M. REPORTS THE INCIDENT TO COLONEL HART, HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE DEPT., AT WASHINGTON. ... AND THAT'S ALL! I MUST GET HELP, SIR.

... COLONEL HART CALLING --- --- 
NICK CARTER...

... AND THAT'S THE STORY NICK! YOU MUST SAVE THAT FORMULA FOR THIS COUNTRY!

* GOVERNMENT MAN.
Office of Nick Carter, Famous Detective.

Nick Carter issues instructions to his assistants...

...and get these instructions off immediately operator!

Calling all airports, calling all terminals.

...and pressing a button the south wall and most of his office slides back.

Nick arrives at Elk River—

Humph—Looks as though more than one person was in for a swim very recently!

Finding Hilde unconscious, Nick administers a drug.

There you are Hilde, you're all right... what happened?

Who—?—my bag!—the papers!

Hilde, let's go through with everything just as if nothing happened. Maybe the thieves will expose themselves!

Anything you say, Mr. Carter.
At the testing grounds—

Gentlemen—this test will prove the power of this explosive!

That plane—

This plane looks suspicious—

I'll try a little experiment!

Nick studies the crowd carefully. He hears a man say...

Why, there's Hilde!

Ah...! A lead!

They don't seem worried!

Think you got as many papers as the gray one?

Test of the most powerful explosive known to man—

Boom!

The three men hurriedly enter their plane and fly away....

I'm pretty sure we are on the right track, Colonel! Listen!

They examine the stolen papers...

They look all right!

Those papers are the stolen formula, Colonel! We'll follow them!
THE GOVERNMENT MEN WERE PUTTING ON AN ACT TO COVER UP!

WE'LL DELIVER THESE PAPERS TO MY SUPERIOR IN PHILADELPHIA AND COLLECT BIG MONEY!

CALLING PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT TO HAVE THAT SPECIAL TAXI READY, WHICH LEAVES RED TRACING STAIN ON PAVEMENT, PICK UP MEN IN RED PLANE ABOUT TO LAND... I'LL FOLLOW...

A TAXI LEAVING A RED STAIN ON THE PAVEMENT, STOPS AT A HOUSE ON A SIDE STREET...

THIS IS THE PLACE QUICK, LET'S GO!

... SECONDS LATER ... YOU THREE GO TO THE REAR AND BREAK IN... YOU TWO FOLLOW ME!

ALL ACCOUNTED FOR....

LATER IN NICK'S OFFICE ....

I SAW A WET SPOT BEHIND THE CURTAINS, ALSO MUD STAINS, AS IF TWO OR THREE MEN SWAM ASHORE AND ENTERED BY THE PRIVATE STAIRWAY... THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE KILLING OF THE GUARD. NO TRAINS LEAVE EARLY, SO THEY MUST HAVE COME BY AIR... I SPOTTED THE STRANGE AIR-PLANE, PLACED A POWERFUL DEVICE OF MY OWN INVENTION IN THE CABIN TO OBTAIN PROOF AND I GOT IT... THE PLANS ARE SAFE.

THANKS NICK, THE GOVERNMENT MADE A GOOD DEAL WHEN THEY APPOINTED YOU CHIEF OF THE COUNTER-ESPIONAGE DEPARTMENT!

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER NICK CARTER ADVENTURE NEXT ISSUE
POOR MR. RAYMOND! WHAT WILL HARRY AND MRS. RAYMOND LEAVE DO FOR MONEY AND GO TO WORK? AND HE SHOWED PROMISE TOO!

POOR MR. RAYMOND! WHAT WILL HARRY AND MRS. RAYMOND LEAVE DO FOR MONEY AND GO TO WORK? AND HE SHOWED PROMISE TOO!

THE MORTGAGE ON THE RAYMOND HOME IS DUE IN A FEW DAYS - AND IT WILL JUST HAVE TO BE MET. I CAN'T MIX SYMPATHY WITH BUSINESS!

AFTER THE FUNERAL IT'S A TERRIBLE BLOW, HARRY! AND THE MORTGAGE IS DUE - AND YOU'RE FORCED TO LEAVE SCHOOL! POOR DAD! BUT DON'T WORRY, MOTHER, I'LL FIND A JOB!
-AND I MUST FIND A JOB, SQUIRE! I CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU, AND—AH— I'M EXPECTING YOUR MORTGAGE TO BE PAID ON TIME.

-How much you want for small office in dis building? Oh! Come right in! I have several—All very reasonable.

Now this one—top floor is.

Hello, Squire! I was passing here. So decided to drop in and pay my rent. Just saw young Harry Raymond downstairs.

Too bad that boy had to quit school! He's a genius in chemistry! Developing a new kind of blasting powder! He—

Here's your receipt.

Und who iss dis young boy? I—Oh—just a pauper here in town! You can see him any evening in his shed.

Now about that office—Blasping powder! Zounds indescrib.
Harry finally locates a job—as delivery boy for Ross's Grocery.

- And on your way—leave this basket of eggs at Squire Turner's house, Harry! Yes, sir!

Boy! Here's a swell chance for some fun!

- The squire's son!

What a shot! He—wow! Wonder where he went?

You're going to pay for every egg you've smashed! Take your hand off me, you filthy pauper!
ADD INSULT TO INJURY—WILL YOU?

THOUGH OF THE SAME AGE AND SIZE—JAMES TURNER PROVED TO BE NO MATCH FOR HARRY—BUT DID MANAGE TO GET AWAY—AND—

WHAT HAPPENED? HARRY RAYMOND DID THIS TIME, WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING? BEHIND! GOT ME OFF GUARD! AND ALL FOR NOTHING!

BUT BUT I JUST CAN'T! WHAT! YOU DOUBT MY WORD? MR. ROSS! YOU SQUIRE, I—

LATER BUT MR. ROSS! HIS SON SMASHED THE EGGS—AND— I'M AWFULLY SORRY, HARRY, BUT HE'S MY BEST CUSTOMER AND I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIS TRADE! YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER JOB.

IN HIS SEARCH FOR ANOTHER JOB, HARRY DECIDES TO TRY THE NEXT TOWN—AND WHILE CROSSING THE BRIDGE...
- I just happened to be crossing the bridge in a desperate search for a job. When I heard the explosion, I suddenly heard the voice of my father. He's a wealthy mining engineer.

- One hour later, in appreciation of Harry's heroic deed, Mr. Brown intends to find a place for him in one of the several Brown offices but first...

- And now, son, I've been studying chemistry and have discovered a new blasting powder that I can arrange which I am developing accordingly.

- Well, that sounds interesting. Oh, no, sir! I'd be delighted if you'd be interested in this new powder. If you will but come with me to my shed...

- Meanwhile, any reports I hope to have soon...

- But for me to take back, gentlemen!
AND I'M CALLING IT PENTANITE, MR. BROWN! IT EXPLODES GRAIN BY GRAIN—ACTING LIKE MILLIONS OF TINY PNEUMATIC DRILLS—REDUCING STONE AND CONCRETE TO A POWDER.

WHY! THIS IS MARVELOUS, HARRY!

BUT THE SCREAMING ROAR FROM THE PULSE OF EACH EXPLODING GRAIN SO IRRITATES THE SEMICIRCULAR CANALS OF THE EAR THAT A TERRIBLE TEMPORARY PARALYSIS IS CAUSED!

HARRY! THIS IS FAR MORE THAN A MERE BLASTING POWDER! UNCLE SAM WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS! WAIT HERE, I'LL BE BACK!

ACH! UNCLE SAM! DER VATHERLAND MUST HAVE DER POWDER! BUT FIRST! THE POWDER MUST GET OUDT—UND STAY OUDT!

UND IF YOU WILL GET—UND KEEP DER RAYMOND POY IN YOUR OFFICE—MITT OUDT QUESTIONS TO ME—I GIFF YOU FIFE HUNDRED DOLLARS—

WELL! FIFE HUNDRED DOLLARS IS FIFE HUNDRED DOLLARS—

TWENTY MINUTES LATER

HARRY! SQUIRE TURNER JUST SENT WORD FOR YOU TO COME TO HIS OFFICE! THE MORTGAGE IS DUE TODAY! WE CAN'T MAKE THE PAYMENT NOW, MOTHER! I'LL GO AND TALK TO HIM!

I MUST FIND DER FORMULA! DOT UND SOME OF DER POWDER I VANT!
AND EACH EXPLOSION ANYWHERE NEAR ENEMY TROOPS WILL MAKE ALL OF THEM USELESS AT THEIR POSTS, MAJOR.

HURRY! HE HAS THE FORMULA! AND WE'RE TOO LATE!

WHERE WERE YOU, HARRY? YOUR FORMULA HAS BEEN STOLEN!

AND SQUIRE TURNER SENT FOR ME, MR. BROWN! MY Formula COULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN--IT WASN'T IN THE SHED.

SOMEONE WAS HERE, ALL RIGHT, MAKING AN ANALYSIS! BUT IT'S USELESS TO HIM; THE SECRET OF THE POWDER IS ITS BASE--AND THAT HE'LL NEVER KNOW!

THAT'S RIGHT TO ME, HARRY! SPIES! A RELIEF IN OUR MIDST!

BY THE WAY--SQUIRE TURNER MAY BE CONNECTED WITH THIS! HE KEP'T ME IN HIS OFFICE MUCH LONGER THAN WAS NECESSARY AND APPEARED NERVOUS AND KEPT ASKING SILLY QUESTIONS.

AND ALL THE TIME--THE FOREIGNER WAS IN YOUR SHED!

IF TURNER IS INVOLVED WE'LL TAKE ACTION!
I WOULD DEMAND AN EXPLANATION — I’LL LOAN YOU THE MORTGAGE MONEY, HARRY! DON’T LET THAT STAND IN THE WAY!

WELL, SQUIRE TURNER! I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU! I'M SORRY, SQUIRE, BUT THIS CHECK — MADE OUT TO YOU FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS IS NO GOOD!

UPON HEARING OF THE BOGUS CHECK - HARRY'S SUSPICIONS WERE ENHANCED — AND SO HE REPORTED THEM TO THE POLICE — AN INVESTIGATION WAS MADE —

SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN
SQUIRE TURNER INVOLVED IN "FIFTH COLUMN" ACTIVITIES HERE! THE POLICE!

THE TRAITOR! ANYTHING FOR MONEY! HE WON'T GET MY BUSINESS ANYMORE! MINE EITHER! LET'S ALL BOYCOTT HIM! THAT'S WHAT I SAY!

LATER — AND NOW THAT UNCLE SAM HAS YOUR PENTANTITE, HARRY — HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO RESEARCH WORK FOR ME?

OH! THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL, MR. BROWN!

SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE PASSED — HARRY'S PROGRESS IN MR. BROWN'S FIRM AND AT EVENING SCHOOL IS KEEPING EXCELLENT PACE WITH THE MARCH OF TIME — SQUIRE TURNER HAS BEEN MADE PENNiless BY THE BOYCOTT AND IS NOW LIVING ON HIS SON'S EARNINGS AS A —

AND ON YOUR WAY, JAMES, LEAVE THIS BASKET OF EGGS AT MRS. RAYMOND'S! YES, MR. ROSS —

THE END.
FRANK REED 

THE WORLD HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE YOUNG REED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST INVENTORS OF ALL TIME!

FRANK HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A CRUISE WITH HIS FRIEND AND BODYGUARD, BARNEY.

MR. REED? SIGN HERE. SOMEONE'S PRETTY ANXIOUS TO KEEP YOU FROM GETTING THIS TELEGRAM. MY BIKE WAS STOLEN, AND I HAD A FIGHT WITH TWO MEN JUST NOW!

LOOK THIS OVER, BARNEY, AND SEND BACK ONE WORD, "OKAY!"

Hey! Hey! It says "DANGER!"

DURING THE LAST WAR TWO MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF RADON WAS THROWN INTO MUD RIVER BY SORIES. HALF OF IT IS YOURS. IF YOU CAN GET IT, BEWARE OF DANGER.

VENTNOR WILLIAMS, GOVERNOR, STATE.
FRANK DISCOVERED HE HAD TAKEN ON MORE THAN HE THOUGHT. THE RADII IS IN LEAD CASKETS AT THE BOTTOM OF A MUDDY RIVER INFESTED WITH ALLIGATORS. NOR IS THIS THE ONLY DANGER! BUT IN A FEW MONTHS FRANK'S BOAT IS READY.

COME ABOARD, BARNEY, SHE'S THE LATEST IN DIVING TENDERS AND THE FASTEST THING AFOAT!

COMIN' UP, BOSS!

THOSE WERE HIS LAST WORDS, BOSS!

BETTER NOT GO THROUGH WITH THIS JOB, REED!

AFRAID SO! COME ON, LET'S GET GOING!

INSIDE THE 'MARVEL'

WELL, HERE WE GO!

WAIT! DON'T TOUCH THOSE CONTROLS! A TIME BOMB!

BARNEY! SHE'S GOING OFF!!

SAINTS IN HAVIN'!

JUST IN TIME!
The "Marvel" Heads Down Mud River.

What's that gadget, boss?

A radium detector. Faint rays get through the lead containers and I'll pick them up when we get near enough!

I've got it! Stop the boat! Drop the anchor! All hands on deck!

Aye, aye, sir!

Look! Okay, buddy, beat it or we'll blow yer out o' the water!

Saints preserve us, boss, they've a young army!

This is the same gang! They want the radium themselves but can't find it! This'll fix 'em!

What'll we do, boss?

Let 'em have it, boys!

But the thugs meet failure! Frank has set up an invisible wall of force rays, and the bullets bounce back into the river!

Ha ha! Never mind the cannon, Barney! They can't touch us now! Man the air pumps, I'm going down!
Into the muddy depths goes Frank Reed! And for the first time a diver sees clearly in mud river because the infrared rays of his chest lamp are filtered thru special lenses in his helmet!

That radium should be right about here!

Frank turns just in time!

Wow! Come on, boy, free lunch!

It would take three men to open this monster's jaws but anyone can hold them shut.

Remembering an old Florida Indian trick Frank kills the huge beast!

Send down the grapnels, Barney. I've found the radium!

And now back to work. Here's something now!

Clunk Clunk

Praise be! Comin' down, boss!
AN HOUR’S WORK AND—
WELL, BOSS, THAT’S ALL
THE RADIUM! YOU’RE RICHER
BY A COOL MILLION!

I COULDN’T
HAVE DONE IT ALONE
BARNEY, OL’ PAL!

AS THE EXHAUSTED FRIENDS SLEEP, THE
GANG, CRAZED BY THE SIGHT OF THE RADIUM, ATTACK BY NIGHT!

FRANK! THEM SPALPENS
IS UP TO SOMETHING!

WH, OH! GOOD
THING YOU SLEEP WITH
ONE EYE OPEN!

FRANK REED TURNS HIS BIG GUN ON THE BOATS, AND
LOOSES A STREAM OF TINY DRUGGED NEEDLES!

GLORY BE, FRANK, YE EOT
VRY MOTHER’S SON OF ‘EM!

NO HARM DONE! THEY’LL
STAY ASLEEP UNTIL I GIVE
THEM AN ANTIDOTE!

THIS IS THE
LAST OF ‘EM, BOSS!

WE’LL TAKE
THEM TO THE
GOVERNOR AS
SOUVENIRS!

AND NOT ONLY DID YOU
GET THE RADIUM, BUT YOU
CAPTURED EIGHTEEN
DESPERATE CHARACTERS,
CONGRATULATIONS.
MR. REED!

THANKS A ‘MILLION,’
GOVERNOR, IT WAS
WORTH THE FUN
ALONE!

A MILLION DOLLARS AND A GREAT ADVENTURE;
NEXT MONTH FRANK REED INVENTS A TIME
MACHINE THAT CARRIES HIM BACK TO THE
YEAR 200,000 B.C.! DON’T MISS IT!
Iron Munro, Jupiter-born scientist, and his friend Spencer Carlisle, strike an asteroid in space and are hurled into a new universe. There they find the descendants of Earth people at war with a planet of devils helping the Magyans. Iron and Spencer take Magya's two moons and are steering them down on Teef-El. The Tefflan fleet is trying to pull the moons away with tractor-beams.

The fools—They don't know that we can steer the moon like a space-ship.

But the powerful Tefflan tractor-beams slowly draw the moon Ma-Ran out of its course.

Calling Munro... If we blast the Tefflans we'll damage your moon! They're too close to you!
NEVER MIND THAT--DRAW UP CLOSELY TOGETHER, 150 MILES OFF---HOOK UP ALL YOUR RESERVE POWER!

THE MAGYAN SHIPS FOLLOW ORDERS... SMALL TRANSPON BEAMS ACCUMULATE ALL THE RESERVE POWER OF 100 SHIPS AND----


THAT'S THAT--NOW WE HAVE THE FLYING FORTS TO TAKE CARE OF!

ORBITAL FORTS MOVE LIKE TINY MOONS AROUND THE DEVIL PLANET! EACH BRISTLES WITH ARMAMENT! IRON MUNRO HAS SET A COURSE TO CIRCLE TEFF-EL ONCE, SWEEPING UP THE FORTS, BEFORE THE MOON ITSELF FALLS ON THE PLANET.
HEAT AND FORCE RAYS LASH OUT AT THE HURTLING MOON -- BUT CANNOT PENETRATE FIFTY MILES OF SOLID ROCK!

INEVITABLE AS DEATH ITSELF, MA-RAN CRUSHES AND DESTROYS THE FIRST OF THE FORTS!

LUCKY WE HAVE ONLY SIX FORTS TO SMASH, THAT ONE MADE A CRATER THREE MILES DEEP!

MEANWHILE, ON MA-KANEE, THE SMALLER MOON, SPENCER CARLISLE AND A HANDFUL OF SCIENTISTS WATCH THEIR RAPID APPROACH TO THE DEVIL MOON, TEFF-RAN! IF IRON MUNRO'S CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THE TWO WILL COLLIDE AND THEN DROP AS ONE FLAMING MASS ON THE DOOMED PLANET!

ALL RIGHT, MEN, GET TO THE SPACE SHIP -- I'LL BE UP WHEN I'VE SET THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS!

AN HOUR AFTER THE CREW IS SAFELY AWAY, THE TWO MOONS, ONE FROM EACH PLANET, -- COLLIDE!
TEFF-RAN AND MA-KANEE ARE NOW ONE! TOGETHER THEY CIRCLE MORE AND MORE SLOWLY ABOUT TEFF-EL! AND SOON WILL DROP SQUARELY ON IT!

GREAT WORK, SPENCE, NOW BRING YOUR SHIP OVER HERE, BY THE TIME YOU ARRIVE WE'LL BE READY TO GET OFF THIS MOON~!

OKAY IRON!

WE HAVE DESTROYED ALL FORTS BUT ONE IRON MUNRO, THE LAST ONE HAS MOVED A MILE OR SO OUT OF OUR PATH!

IF WE PURSUE THEM WITH THIS MOON WE WILL MISS THE PLANET/OUR COURSE IS SET, WE DARE NOT CHANGE IT!

STICK TO IT, OLD BOY, IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!

SO THE LAST FORT IS UNHARMED BY THE MOON! BUT IN A FEW MINUTES --

THE MAGYAN FLEET ARRIVES, ATTACKS, AND DESTROYS THE LAST OF TEFF-EL'S MIGHTY FLOATING FORTS!
IRON MUNRO'S MIGHTY PLAN IS WORKING! THE COMBINED MASS OF MA-KANEE AND TEFF-RAN WILL STRIKE ONE SIDE OF TEFF-EL JUST AS THE LARGER MOON, MA-RAN, LANDS OPPOSITE! EACH MASS WILL PASS ONCE THROUGH 'TEFF-EL'S ATMOSPHERE. BEFORE IT FINALLY SMASHES INTO THE DEVIL PLANET.

IRON MUNRO WORKS FURIOUSLY IN THE FEW MINUTES LEFT TO HIM BEFORE HE MUST ESCAPE FROM THE MOON!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY OUT! GET INTO YOUR SPACE-SUITS AND WAIT FOR THE SHIP!

RADIO! CONTACT CARLISLE/FIND OUT HOW SOON HE WILL BE HERE TO TAKE US OFF /-ETTI, INSPECT THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS/ SEE THAT ALL IS IN ORDER!

JUST IN TIME, SPENCER CARLISLE BRINGS HIS SHIP ZOOMING TO MA-RAN TO TAKE IRON MUNRO AND HIS SCIENTISTS OFF THE DEATH-MOON!
THERE IS DESPAIR ON TEFF-EL AS MA-RAN SWEEPS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND OUT AGAIN. THE AIR UNDER IT IS FORCED DOWN AND CRUSHES DEVILS AND THEIR CITIES. HUGE EARTHQUAKES CRACK THE PLANET AND ADD TO THE TERROR OF THE DEVILS.

AND AFTER FIFTY THOUSAND YEARS OF FIGHTING, MAN IS VICTORIOUS OVER THE DEVILS! -- TEFF-EL IS DESTROYED -- AND WITH IT ALL ITS PEOPLE! -- IRON MUNRO HAS WON!

THAT'S THE END OF A CROWD THAT GOT OFF ON ITS WRONG FOOT--ER--W-O-R-N-E CLOVEN HOOF FIRST!
LEAVING A GUARD OF SHIPS TO SCOUR THE SOLAR SYSTEM FOR ANY DEVILS WHO MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED, IRON AND SPENCE RETURN TO MAGYA, WHERE --

WELLE, SPENCE OLD BOY, WE DID IT!

YOU MEAN YOU DID IT, FELLER!

WELCOME BACK, IRON MUNRO, -- HOW SHALL WE EVER REPAY YOU --?

AW -- SKIP IT! IT WAS NOTHING!

SPENCE!

Spence!

OH, SPENCE!

YOU STAY WITH US FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES, WON'T YOU?

THANKS, ANDARMIND, BUT WE MUST RETURN TO EARTH --

HEY SKIPPER, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER PASSENGER, -- I JUST MARRIED ANTO RAUL!

GREAT! -- CONGRATULATIONS!

IN A FEW WEEKS THE SHIP TAKES OFF LOADED WITH GIFTS AND RARE TREASURES.

- AND SO ENDS THE MIGHTIEST WAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE, IN WHICH WILL BEGIN A NEW STORY OF THE WEIRD SCIENCES OF THE FUTURE!

THRILLING!

GRIPPING!

FANTASTIC!

SHADOW COMICS OUT NEXT MONTH!
DOC SAVAGE and his two-fisted pals trail Kar the Killer.
There Doc battles fearsome flying lizards, modern guns and fiendish men. There Doc reaches the thrilling climax of his death grapple with Kar. Only his scientific skill and superhuman strength save him in these hair-raising situations.

“AJAX THE SUN MAN”—obtains his strength and agility from the rays of the sun. He uses that gift to trap criminals and killers all over the earth—a truly marvelous character that will thrill every boy. Nine other features.

10 CENTS—SECOND ISSUE NOW ON SALE
D'Artagnan, having avenged himself on the tigerish Milady, was fool enough to reveal to her the trick he had played. Her rage was so terrifying that only with the help of her maid Kitty, was D'Artagnan able to escape disguised in a tight-fitting woman's dress! He runs straight to Athos.....

Ho! Ho! My dear D'Artagnan, Paris never saw a scarecrow to equal this!

Stop! Don't laugh! Milady bears a fleur-de-lis - she is your dead wife!

My God! Then both of our lives hang by a thread! We must exterminate this demon!

Fortunately we leave for La Rochelle tomorrow - the English have invaded...

The next day D'Artagnan and the Musketeers leave for the campaign of La Rochelle and dangers known and unknown!

Don't look yet! The young one leading is your man - see that you get him or...
ON ARRIVING AT THE SIEGE D'ARTAGNAN, NOT YET BELONGING TO THE MUSKETEERS, IS SEPARATED FROM HIS FRIENDS. THE NEXT MORNING THE CAPTAIN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE KING, SPEAKS TO HIS MEN—

I NEED THREE MEN FOR A DANGEROUS MISSION. WHO WILL VOLUNTEER?

D'ARTAGNAN STEPS FORWARD—

I WISH TO VOLUNTEER, SIR!

1, TOO, SIR!

ME TOO...

LATER— ALRIGHT MEN, THERE'S THE BASTION. WE MUST FIND OUT IF IT'S GARRISONED OR DESERTED. I'LL APPROACH IT—IF I AM ATTACKED COVER MY RETREAT WITH YOUR MUSKETS!

WARILY, D'ARTAGNAN APPROACHES THE BASTION WHICH OPENS FIRE!

PARBLEU! THERE IS A SMALL ARMY IN THERE! HELLO! THAT SHOT DIDN'T COME FROM THE ENEMY... MY COMRADES—ASSASSIN—MILADY!

I'LL PLAY DEAD SOLDIER FOR THESE LITTLE PLAYMATES OF MINE!

WE GOT HIM! LET'S FINISH 'IM OFF WITH OUR DAGGERS!
As they approach D'Artagnan rises and springs at them sword drawn! Behind the enemy opens fire!

Now assassins, die!

Oh! I am hit!

His comrade lying wounded by the enemy bullet the other ruffian begs for mercy

Mon dieu! Spare me! I'll tell everything! My comrade got orders from a woman! He has her letter in his pocket.

I will spare your life on one condition. Get the letter!

No, no! Please sir, that's in range of their fire—i'll be shot!

Bah! You poltroon, I shall get it myself!

D'Artagnan reaches the fallen ruffian under heavy fire—

Search him here? No, I'll take him back as a shield!

Well here's an assassin who saves my life! Now for the letter!

Since you have lost trace of Constance Bonacours, and that she is now safe in some distant corner, at least not to miss D'Artagnan. If you do so, you shall pay dearly for the money that I have given you—M. Milady.
WHEN WE RETURN TO CAMP WE SHALL PROBABLY BE HAILED AS HEROES—KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND I WON’T EXPOSE YOU.

THANK YE, SIR, THANK YE!

ON REACHING THE CAMP D’ARTAGNAN FINDS NOT ONLY THE PLAUDITS OF ATOS! Porthos! Aramis! Never have I needed you so much!

LET US GO TO THE NEAREST INN AND CELEBRATE THIS REUNION WITH WINE AND CONVERSATION!

THAT NIGHT D’ARTAGNAN WAS ON DUTY, CONSEQUENTLY THE MUSKETEERS SPENT THE EVENING AT THE COLOMBIER ROUGE INN WITHOUT HIM. AS THEY RETURN TO CAMP ATHOS SPEAKS TO THREE APPROACHING FIGURES ON HORSEBACK—

WHO GOES THERE?

HIS EMINENCE!

THE CARDINAL!


IN HONOR, YOUR EMINENCE!

THEY ARRIVE AT THE COLOMBIER ROUGE INN

I HAVE BUSINESS UPSTAIRS, GENTLEMEN—MINE HOST HERE WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WHILE YOU WAIT FOR ME...

YES, YOUR EMINENCE, I HAVE JUST INSTALLED A NEW FIREPLACE!

THE MUSKETEERS ENTER THE INN

A BIG IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OLD STOVE—SEE THE OLD PIPES ARE STILL HERE...

HELLO! WHAT’S THIS?

SIT DOWN, MILADY, THIS AFFAIR IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

COMMAND ME, YOUR EMINENCE!
MY GOD! IT IS SHE!

YOU MUST LEAVE FOR LONDON IMMEDIATELY AND CONTACT BUCKINGHAM. TELL HIM THAT IF HE DOES NOT WITHDRAW HIS FORCES FROM LA ROCHELLE I SHALL EXPOSE THE QUEEN OF FRANCE AS HIS MISTRESS AND AS A TRAITOR TO HER COUNTRY! I HAVE THE PROOF AND THE POWER!

UPSTAIRS... WHAT IF HE REFUSES?

IF HE REFUSES THERE IS ALWAYS LUCK. BUCKINGHAM IS HATED BY THE PURITANS OF HIS COUNTRY. A CLEVER AND SEDUCTIVE WOMAN MIGHT PUT A DAGGER IN THE HAND OF A FIERCE YOUNG PURITAN WHO IN TURN MIGHT PUT IT BETWEEN BUCKINGHAM'S RIBS! YOU UNDERSTAND?

AMAN FOR A MAN, A LIFE FOR A LIFE, YOUR EMINENCE! THIS CARTE BLANCHE WILL ALSO COVER ANY TRAGEDY THAT MIGHTbefall D'ARTAGNAN AND CONSTANCE BONA-CIEUX, WILL IT NOT?

AVENGE MY POWERFUL ENEMIES, MILADY, AND YOU MAY CONSIDER YOURS ALREADY DESTROYED!

I HAVE NO DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT THAT WILL BE, MY DEAR, SO I WILL GIVE YOU CARTE BLANCHE... FETCH ME PEN AND PAPER!

THE ROADS ARE UNSAFE, YOUR EMINENCE. HE HAS GONE TO PATROL THEM.

THE ROADS ARE UNSAFE, YOUR EMINENCE, HE HAS GONE TO PATROL THEM.

WHERE IS M. ATHOS?

WHEN THE CARDINAL LEAVES ATHOS RETURNS!

WHO IS THAT?

THIS IS A TOUCHING REUNION, MADAME! DO YOU NOT REMEMBER ME?
YOU!
THE COMTE DE LA FÉRE!
YES, YOUR HUSBAND, FROM WHOM YOU KEEP NO SECRETS, I AM AWARE OF ALL YOUR PLANS AND IF YOU TOUCH ONE HAIR OF D'ARTAGNAN'S HEAD I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE A MAD DOG!

NOW GIVE ME THAT PAPER SIGNED BY THE CARDINAL, OR I'LL BLOW OUT YOUR BRAINS!

THE NEXT MORNING THE FRIENDS GATHER AT THE INN FOR BREAKFAST

GENTLEMEN, A WAGER! I WILL BET A MOST EXCELLENT DINNER THAT MY FRIENDS AND I WILL BREAKFAST AT THAT BASTION THE ROCHÉLAINS TOOK FROM US YESTERDAY! IS THERE A GAMBLER IN THE HOUSE?

HE IS MAD, Porthos!

ITS A BET!

YOU'RE ON!

NOT AT ALL! WE NEED A PLACE TO TALK AND THE BASTION WILL HOLD NOTHING BUT CORPSES SO EARLY IN THE DAY!

 ARE YOU MAD, ATHOS?

CORPSES IS RIGHT—THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!

SINCE WE ARE HERE LET US LOAD OUR MUSKETS—THEN THE SECRET...

THE SECRET IS, I SAW MILADY LAST NIGHT!
THE ENEMY! THEY ATTACK!

TO ARMS, GENTLEMEN!

MON DIEU! ATHOS! WHAT HAPPENED!

GOOD SHOOTING GENTLEMEN! THEY RETREAT BUT WILL PROBABLY RETURN RE-ENFORCED!

ERMAUD! KEEP WATCH WHILE WE CONTINUE BREAKFAST!

WE MUST NIP MILADY'S SCHEMES IN THE BUD, ATHOS, OR...

SHE PLANS TO ASSASSINATE BUCKINGHAM! ONCE THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED RICHELIEU WILL GRANT HER ANYTHING, AND THAT IS OUR FINISH!

QUITE A FORCE! WE SHALL HAVE TIME TO RELOAD OUR MUSKETS ONCE! 8 SHOTS = 8 MEN, LEAVING 16, AND THEN THIS PIECE OF TOPPLING MASONRY HERE...

MASTER! THE ENEMY ATTACKS AGAIN!

THE SHOTS TAKE THEIR TOLL BUT THE ROCHELAISS STILL CHARGE!

...THIS PIECE OF TOPPLING MASONRY TOPPLES!
I have it! We'll send Planchet, my valet, to London warning Milady's brother-in-law, Lord de Winter, that she is not only about to murder Buckingham for the Cardinal but also de Winter himself for his inheritance! De Winter has power in England and Milady will be put out of circulation!

Well done, lad! But back to business—what is to be done with Milady?

Bravo!

Oh, Sirs! Now the Rochelais are sending a regiment after us!

Ermaud, prop up the gentlemen who died gloriously last night at the parapets and put muskets in their hands!

Gentlemen, this boy d'Artagnan is a great man!

Now we fire a few shots, the regiment sees men still at the walls and we calmly proceed back to camp and glory!

My boy if the King doesn't make you a Musketeer after this you can have my uniform!

D'Artagnan and the Musketeers have disposed of Milady quite handily in theory but they underestimate her demonic cleverness! Don't miss the final episode in the next issue of Shadow Comics.
Steve Carrain's cold blue eyes were devoid of emotion as he surveyed the swarthy man who had seated himself across the poker table. His youngish, tanned face gave no trace of the torrent of thoughts spiraling through his brain.

Ed Thompson reached into his holster and laid a heavy .45 on the table at his elbow, significantly.

"Deal them pasteboards, sonny," he growled, rubbing a horny hand across his black-stubbed chin.

Mechanically, Carrain shuffled the cards, passed them for the cut, then dealt two cards to Thompson and two to himself. One face down, the other face up.

Carrain did not look at his hole card. He noticed a crowd had gathered around the stud poker table. An expectant, eager crowd. He knew what they were waiting for. Ed Thompson was a killer—a cold-blooded coyote whose favorite trick was to get into a card game and by his murderous reputation scare the dealers into letting him win. Carrain felt the comforting weight of his own Colt snugged against his hip.

On the next turn, Thompson made a pair of fours. An ugly, sneering smile wreathed his face as he tossed a hundred dollars into the pot. Carrain matched it and dealt again. He couldn't help thinking how Thompson, with his sloping, top-heavy shoulders and protruding forehead, resembled a grinning ape.

Carrain laid the deck down as he dealt the last cards. Thompson had the small pair showing. Carrain had an ace, four, six and three face up. He had not looked at his hidden card.

Thompson dug down in his Levis. His huge paw touched the .45 significantly as he drew out a thick roll and pushed two hundred dollars into the center of the table.

Carrain flicked ten double eagles into the pot and raised.

The outlaw reddened, his bloodshot eyes speckled with rage. "Damn you," he shouted, tossing his entire roll on the table, "match that!"

Carrain felt the eyes of the onlookers upon him as he calmly counted the money—a thousand dollars. Covering the bet meant a gunfight with a professional killer. There was already a crooked hump in Thompson's right shoulder. But—Carrain was a Texan.

At last he drawled, "I'll cover that bet, Thompson."

The crowd ducked for cover as the outlaw's hand closed over his .45. Carrain stabbed at his holster and came up with his Colt.

Two guns barked simultaneously. Carrain felt a tug on his sleeve as the cloud of powder smoke bathed everything in a bluish haze.

Thompson remained erect, swaying. A small hole had appeared between his eyes. Then his lifeless body collapsed into a grotesque heap on the sawdust floor.

Carrain holstered his gun and seated himself at the table. The cards, the chips and money were undisturbed. Carrain turned over his hidden hole card. His blue eyes narrowed as he stared at the deuce.

"He'd 'a' won on the square if he warn't yellow," Carrain muttered.

THE END.
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