

The Shadow – Rail Freight Fracas

Shadow: Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men? The Shadow knows...Hehehehaha

(Music plays through intro.)

Announcer: Now, a new thrilling adventure of The Shadow, and his relentless fight against the forces of evil, demonstrating to young and old alike that crime does not pay. The Shadow, mysterious character who aids the forces of law and order, is in reality Lamont Cranston, wealthy man about town. Years ago, in the Orient, Cranston learned a strange and mysterious secret; the hypnotic power to cloud men's minds so they cannot see him. Cranston's friend and companion, the lovely Margot Lane, is the only person who knows to whom the voice of the shadow belongs. Now, listen to "Rail Freight Fracas"

[SFX: SOUND OF THE WATERFRONT]

Harry: Johnny! Johnny Fresno! It's a long time since you came down to the waterfront. Come on in Johnny.

Johnny: Same old Harry McCarty.

[SFX: DOOR CLOSSES]

Johnny: What's on your mind Harry? Why did you call on me?

Harry: Help yourself to a drink Johnny. We can talk about old times. How's the freight business going over at the rail yard?

Johnny: It's goin' great Harry, just great.

Harry: Yeah, you got quite a set up there. *(Voice fades as the scene changes)* Well, you always were a guy with big ideas...

[SFX: SHADOW MUSIC INTO RAIL YARD SOUNDS]

[SFX: PHONE RINGS, DOOR OPENS]

Man: Fresno Overland Freight Agency. Yeah...YEAH...Yes sir, It's been picked up and is already on the road.

[SFX: PHONE HANGS UP, DOOR OPENS]

Eddie: Yes sir, can I – Shipwreck!!

Shipwreck: Eddie! Eddie Sarconetti! They said you quit the mob! Watcha doin' in Fresno's office?

Eddie: I work for Fresno now.

Shipwreck: You're still one of his boys, eh?

Eddie: Johnny's clean now.

Shipwreck: Johnny Fresno clean? You oughta be a comic Eddie.

Eddie: *(Hesitantly)* So, what brings you here Shipwreck?

Shipwreck: Well...I'm ah, doin' somebody a favor. After this, I'm going off someplace to take it easy.

Eddie: What do you mean Shipwreck?

Shipwreck: An, nothin' personal Eddie. It's just a job I'm getting' paid for. I gotta rough ya up a bit, Eddie.

Eddie: Rough me up! What for? I done nothin'!

Shipwreck: Eddie, I won't make it too bad on accounta we used to be good friends.

Eddie: No! Please!!

[SFX: FIGHTING SOUNDS, GRUNTS AND SHOUTS]

[SFX: FURNITURE CRASHING]

Shipwreck: See Eddie, that's all it has to be.

[SFX: SHADOW MUSIC INTO SOUNDS OF AIRPORT]

Margot: Well, it was a nice trip, but I'm glad to be back home.

Cranston: And look who's here to greet us!

Margot: Commissioner Weston! Oh, you shouldn't have come all the way down here just to meet us!

Commissioner: Why not? I've got nothing else to do.

Cranston: So you've got crime under control, eh Commissioner?

Commissioner: What crime Mr. Cranston? Ah, yes Sargent, what is it?

Sergeant: Trouble at the freight office, somebody beat up Eddie Sulkin, the clerk!

Commissioner: See what I mean Mr. Cranston? All right, Sergeant, let's go to what we call the scene of the crime.

Cranston: Mind if we come along?

Commissioner: Be my guest.

(SHADOW MUSIC AS SCENE CHANGES)

Commissioner: Sulkin, Who did it? Why? Who was it?

Eddie: *(Almost incoherent)* Ship...Shipwreck.

Commissioner: We'd better get him to the hospital.

(SHADOW MUSIC)

[SFX: SOUND OF CAR IN BACKGROUND]

Margot: And to think that I was afraid that Shreevy would forget to pick us up at the airport.

Cranston: You wouldn't forget about us, would you Shreevy?

Shreevy: Oh, me, Mr. Cranston? No, I wouldn't forget. Say what happened to Eddie Sulkin? I heard he got roughed up.

Cranston: Yes, I wonder why?

Shreevy: Sounds like someone wants to sell Johnny Fresno protection like in the old days, it sounds.

Margot: What some people will do to make a living.

Cranston: Shreevy, what's become of Shipwreck Malone?

Shreevy: Shipwreck? What made you think of him? Did Eddie put the finger on him?

Cranston: No, not actually, but I think he was going to before he lost consciousness. Where is Shipwreck these days?

Shreevy: He lives at the hotel St. John on Lowe St. Three blocks from here.

Cranston: Would you mind dropping me off at the next corner?

Margot: *(Quietly)* Oh No!

Cranston: *(Hushed)* Margot, I think it's time for the Shadow to make a social call.

(SHADOW MUSIC)

Shipwreck: Hawaii, here I come! Yeah! Yeah, me on one a'dem islands. I can see it now.

Shadow: Going somewhere Shipwreck?

Shipwreck: Who's that? Why can't I see ya?

Shadow: The Shadow!! *(Laugh)*

Shipwreck: Oh no! Not you!

Shadow: You remember me?

Shipwreck: What d'ya want with me? Listen, I'm outta the rackets. I retired!

Shadow: You weren't retired an hour ago, Shipwreck. You were very much in business at the rail yard.

Shipwreck: What're you talkin' about? I haven't seen Eddie in years!

Shadow: Who hired you to do the job?

Shipwreck: Nobody...nobody hired me!

Shadow: Sometime today, Eddie will recover consciousness, and he'll identify you.

Shipwreck: Listen, I got a plane to catch.

Shadow: Before Eddie identifies you?

Shipwreck: That's where you're wrong Shadow. Eddie won't finger me. He wouldn't do dat. Dat's not da way we do things. So get lost, I gotta finish packin'.

Shadow: Think it over Shipwreck. When Eddie identifies you, you'll get no help from your boss. Think about it.

[SFX: DOOR OPENS]

Shadow: *(Laugh)*

[DOOR CLOSES]

Shipwreck: He's gone. He said I'd be fingered. No, the boss wouldn't let me take the rap. But I'd better make certain.

[SFX: PICKS UP THE PHONE, DIALS]

Harry: Hello?

Shipwreck: McCarty! This is Shipwreck. I wanna talk to you!

(SHADOW MUSIC)

Johnny: Always somethin' happenin' when you try to go straight.

Shadow: Hello Johnny.

Johnny: What? Who's that?

Shadow: *(Laugh)*

Johnny: Shadow! You?

Shadow: How are things going Johnny?

Johnny: I guess you know, or you wouldn't be here.

Shadow: Running into problems with McCarty, eh?

Johnny: So, you know that too.

Shadow: Why don't you tell the police?

Johnny: I don't know. McCarty can ruin my business. He wants in.

Shadow: If you don't let him in?

Johnny: If I don't, I may as well close up shop. You can't fight it. I know that. Sooner or later, this had to happen.

Shadow: You have brains Johnny, and you were convinced that you should put your brains to good purpose instead of wasting them on a life of crime.

Johnny: Maybe I was scared of you.

Shadow: You're not scared now.

Johnny: No.

Shadow: Because you're a part of decent society now. Doesn't that make you feel good?

Johnny: I want to stay this way, Shadow, but...

Shadow: *(Interrupting)* Did McCarty give you a time limit?

Johnny: Yeah, 24 hours.

Shadow: Call him Johnny. Set up a meeting at his office on the waterfront at 11:30.

(SHADOW MUSIC)

[SFX: WATERFRONT SOUNDS]

Margot: Well I didn't expect to be down on the waterfront our first night back.

Cranston: That's Johnny Fresno's car over there. He must have gone into McCarty's office.

Margot: So I'll drive around the block a few times, and pick you up here at exactly ten after the hour.

Cranston: I notified Commissioner Weston, and he'll be getting here in just a few minutes. Don't let him see you.

(SHADOW MUSIC)

Harry: Johnny Fresno. Right on time. Oh, meet Shipwreck, one of my advisors. Say hello to Mr. Fresno Shipwreck.

Shipwreck: Hello Mr. Fresno.

Johnny: Yeah.

Harry: You carry a gun Fresno?

Johnny: I never carried one Harry, not even in the old days.

Harry: Ha, just askin'.

Johnny: You figured you needed a bodyguard for this meeting, eh Harry?

Harry: No Johnny! Shipwreck here, he got worried about a little matter, so I told him to come on over.

Johnny: How do you see things Harry? I oughtta know your point of view.

Harry: Simple. You build a nice front. Legitimate business, coast to coast. You're smart. So, Johnny, how soon you figure we can make it really pay off? Contraband. Smuggling. You and me together, Johnny, we can make it big.

Johnny: Harry, I'm big enough.

Harry: Hey Shipwreck, you hear dat?

Shipwreck: It sounds like Mr. Fresno don't want you as a partner, maybe he oughtta have his mind changed.

Johnny: And here I thought we were going to have a cozy little chat.

Harry: OK Shipwreck, take him. *(PAUSE)* I SAID TAKE HIM!!!

Shipwreck: *(Struggling)* Ah...somethin's got ahold of me!

Shadow: *(Laugh)*

Harry: Who's that?

Shadow: The Shadow Harry. It's time to even the odds.

Shipwreck: The Shadow! The invisible guy!

Harry: Now, take it easy Shipwreck! Everybody, just take it easy. I got a gun, see, now don't move Johnny, or I'll blast ya!

Shadow: Do as he says Johnny.

Harry: That's it. Everybody cooperative. OK, Shadow, I don't see ya but I know where you are. You got hold of Shipwreck, but you're a sittin' duck!

Shadow: But, if you pull that trigger, you may hit Shipwreck. Be careful about that.

Shipwreck: Yeah, don't shoot, Mr. McCarty. You could hit me!

Shadow: So why don't YOU hit HIM, Shipwreck? Suppose I give you a push?

(FIGHTING SOUNDS)

Commissioner: All right! Hold it! Police, grab them!

Policeman: All right, come on. We got em'.

Harry: What? Lousy cops!

Commissioner: You OK Fresno?

Johnny: Never better Commissioner.

Commissioner: You're alone?

Shadow: *(Laugh)*

Shadow: Not quite. But you can take over now, Commissioner.

Commissioner: I should have known you were here. All right McCarty, you and your muscle friend better get the advice of counsel, because we have a lot of questions for you.

(MUSIC)

Shadow: The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. Crime does not pay. The Shadow knows...

(SHADOW LAUGH)

(MUSIC: FADE OUT)