

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

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**various : Shadow: Greatest Radio Adventures (20-Hour Collections)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadow: Greatest Radio Adventures (20-Hour Collections):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not evil, wonderful! By Swamiyakananda 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.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Shadow Radio show, 20 hour collection By Blake 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.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Still Lurking in the Hearts of Radio Lovers By Bobby Underwood 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 sale 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 DEAD****BILL 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 MURDERS****BRET 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 LIGHTHOUSE** This 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!

includes 40 thrilling episodes.