


The End

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# Rich, Rough, and READY

## Great Hero's, During the Great Depression

Derrick Shaw

# INTRODUCTION

Based off the characters displayed in this Zine, they all sure similar commonalities. Not affected by the hardships of the great depression, these characters rise above, and use their wealth, army intelligence, and loyal companions to fight off the evil forces stopping them. As most of them resided in New York, they saw firsthand what Post War Veterans had to go through in order to handle such a rough time in America's history. It was by far the most traumatic experience. On the other end, these war Vets became detectives and used their powers to change the image of veterans around this time. Some writers wanted to display people of color in a positive light, putting emphasis on the idea that people of color were indeed seen in these images. Some wanted to touch more on army intelligence, and how many different armed force branches provided people with a way to build cognitive behavior, allowing them to fight more efficiently and affectively. Some even wanted to make light on the idea of how these people were alone, doing the unknowing to live up to the expectations one admired before. In the end, everyone has a background and we see this in these comics.










The characters connected in a positive level as well.

First, they were all associated with the service, and all worked as detectives for the most part.

They were always determined to put their enemy's in jail or defeat them.

They were all very rich.

They all knew what it felt like, family wise, to feel alone.



# Black Jack's Arron Day



Arron, a black man in his twenties was a solider and a human target. He resides in Manhattan, and is living in one of the racist neighborhoods, so people have little to no respect for him.

Arrons mom and dad were shot down in Spain when Aaron was 15 years old. Arron and his sister, went to live with a until until 1920. As he returns to his hometown in NYC, him and his sister lose contact, as he follows his father ideals and she does not agree.

**But how did he survive such a harsh time**

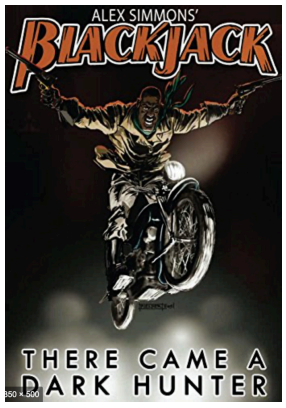
# The Great Depression

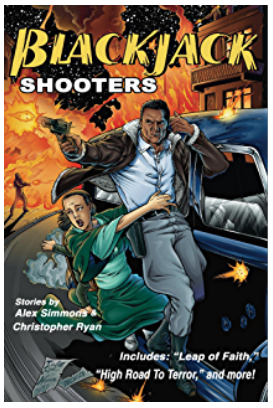


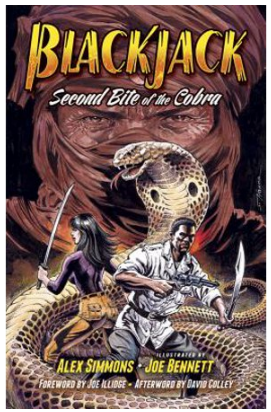

During this time frame, the United States was financially hit when the stock market crashed, causing chaos for all Americans. Bank accounts were cleared, businesses were forced to close, loans were left unpaid, and life as we knew it, went into the DARK AGES!

Men were usually the bread winners in the family, on the other end, now that was not longer the case...

So why was Arron's character so important...






# The Creators

The creators really focused on trying to depict these individual on a post war basis.



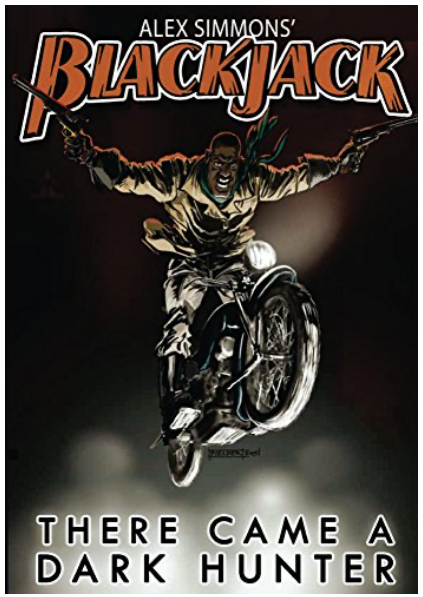

Making strong emphasis on many idea;

How did war build their cognitive abilities?

How they used war tactics to protect the individuals they rescued.

Touching on how the financial hardships of New York made it easily accessible to navigate if your hand the resources.
















# Alex: The Creator

In a YouTube Interview, Alex states, “More importantly, I knew that in that era, we (black people) were there. We weren’t just shoe shiners, and we were just porters.” ”Where are the stories were black men went to Europe for war and never went back.”

His goal was to have many people of different colors going into different areas that aren’t depicted in people of colors history, African-Americans were able to go into this spaces, and Blackjack validated that.



# Not Your Average Character

Blackjack is definitely not what you think he should be as an African-American in the 1930's. He's complexed and complicated, but he's not Blaxploitation's John Shaft. Both are educated, attractive, and tough, but Blackjack instills fear and provides a fluid prospective of what it means to work with his surroundings. Being economically advantage in this era. He allows no one to question his reliability and does not entertain the adversity he faces. He pushes through and completes the missions.



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# Lee Falk



Lee Falk, born in New York. Falk produced the idea of The Phantom through many avenues. First, he was fascinated by myths and legends, including King Author, and Greek folklore heroes.

He also mentioned that characters like Tarzan and Mowgli, the Thugs in India, which inspired his first comic, "Singh Brotherhood", and even Robin Hood were the bases of his inspiration.

> The connection to India and The Spider and Phantom shows the inspiration component.

# The Phantom

Unlike the others, Phantom is married to Diana Palmer; they met in the United States. He also owns a wolf named Devil, and lives in a Skull Cave. Some say that Phantom is a "transitional" character, mirroring some of the most iconic, The Shadow and Spider. Also, Tarzan, and as we know, Blackjack and Tarzan had done some work back in the olden days.











# After Math of The War: Race Relations 1930's

Though Aaron fought in war, he was not faced with many hardships African-Americans had to face. Many whites called for African-American's to lose their jobs to replace them with whites.

On the other end, Aarons wealth put him in a more socially acceptable position, though he was discriminated against. On the other end, he was an honorable WW1 solider, and someone that everyone can count on.

His missions took him to Japan, Europe, the Middle East, and many other places, making him a character to live against all odds.






The Spider was created in 1933 created by Harry Steeger. Published through Popular Publications, it was created to be a competitor against Street and Smith. Publications honorable hero, “The Shadow!” Let’s see how Spider’s alter ego, Richard Wentworth lived up To the standards and expectations Of one of the most important Characters in history.

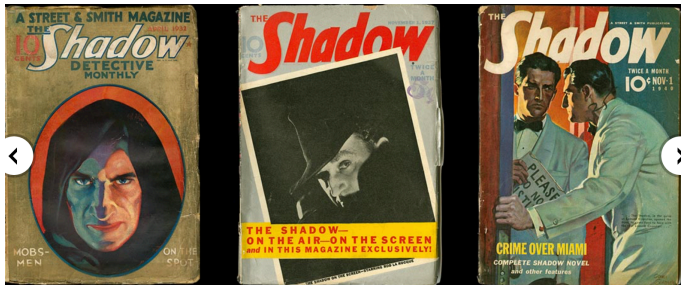




# The Phantom



Roaming through the fictional streets of Bangalia, Africa, this fluid character has been mentioned in video games, film, and television. Though Phantom has no superpowers, just as well as Blackjack, Phantom relies on his strength, intelligence, and the forces of evil to keep him booked and busy.




# Creepy Cops

Likewise Spider was later revamped with a more sinister look, taking on the look of a vampire to make him appear scarier. This change came from the icons Shadow. This way, Spider would be the lady's man, but also, "instill fear", in the people he encountered.

On the other end, back to the Damsel idea, Shadow covers his eyes to attract attention to his lips, which ultimately sexualizes his character. The Shadow covers most of his face to ensure there's a space and some sort of secretive image associated with him.



# Who Is Richard?



Richard (Spider) was a heart stealing millionaire who had served in World War I but moved to New York soon after. He was the last surviving member of a rich family. During his earlier debut, his disguise could be described as a black domino mask, black hate, and cape, however, adapted to a more Vampire in Brooklyn look, appearing with a face mask, and grizzled hair. He was also an outstanding pianist, and very fluent at Hindi.

# Harry Steeger



Henry "Harry" mentioned once, "The competition between pulp publishers was fierce. Imitations of successful titles by rival publishers was a way of life."

Harry, the creator, talked about how in his writing, he liked the idea of putting stress upon the issue of a young man getting himself into mysteries, that essentially happening every minute of his life. It's not only unusual, but it's very interesting and add suspense, and kind of a cult horror aspect that he'd soon work on. Harry always worked on project that were weird or menace to create a ravishing front cover to sell comics!



Gibson wrote many books on magic, true crime and psychic phenomena, that it was not surprise his character would have psychological powers.

He explains that, "before he became the mystery man who strikes terror in the hears of sharpsters, lawbreakers, and criminals", he was a normal detective with an uncanny voice, who happened to be on radio.

His idea to branch out and expand the brand was because of his fans interest.

"Once I got the tempo, I would suddenly get a new idea, like getting up a new trick."



# Walter B. Gibson

POST WAR POWERS

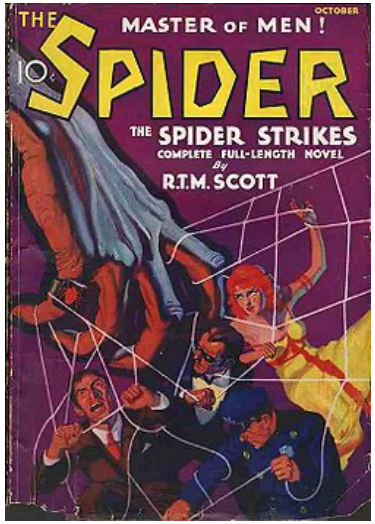
Four Hundred forty-eight issues later, Shadow showed combat skills. Some include, adaptivity, abilities to hide and escape well, intellect, and leadership. He favors the other two hero's, as they all are well respected, and understand that nothings more important that the mission at hand.




Both Arron and Shadow carry pistols.

Shadow is really looked at as an unhuman character because he's able to control his body through his mind and consciously override parts that sometimes are involuntary, however, he finds a way to control it.






# "The Master Man"

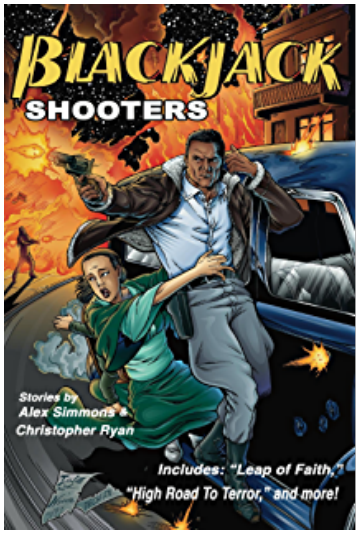
Spider resembles Blackjack. They are with skilled in for combat, which helps them complete missions successfully. They both have access to money and are very well seasoned when it comes to traveling, language, and building trust with the people they work with.

Blackjack is also on his own because his sister and him do not contact each other. They both are used to not having any family, which makes them more motivated to help others, and pushes them to save the lives of the individuals they come across. They are loyal and trustworthy.




Though these two-look similar, but all know that Spider is a lady's man. He likes to save the women and get with the women if possible. The damsel is almost falling into the blades because she's falling in love with his eyes.

## The Damsel In Distress




Blackjack knows that he's hear to complete the mission. He's very combative, and is not there for the glorification, but more so there to save lives.

Let's see if The Shadow worth the competition...



# The Shadow



Kelly Ward, was a spy in World War I. He was airmen who one day crashed in the jungle and ran into a fortune of gold. After, he returned to New York with a new identity and a new look on life. Shadow worked with many agents. Shadow was a little different from the other two mentioned before. He had any powers, including telekinesis, and hypnosis.