



## The Shade

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James Robinson returns to the world of his acclaimed STARMAN series in this new graphic novel starring the antihero known as The Shade! An attack at the Starman museum kicks off a globe-hopping, centuries spanning quest that will irrevocably change The Shade's life, and ultimately shed light on his true origin!

THE SHADE features art by some of comics' most acclaimed talents, including Darwyn Cooke (*DC: The New Frontier*), Frazer Irving (*Batman & Robin*), Gene Ha (*Superman: Action Comics*) Jill Thompson (*The Sandman*), Cully Hamner (*RED*) and Javier Pulido (*Spider-Man*). A must-have for any fan of STARMAN!

## The Shade Details

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James Robinson , Cully Hamner (Illustrator) , Javier Pulido (Illustrator) , Frazer Irving

Author : (Illustrator) , Darwyn Cooke (Illustrator) , J. Bone (Illustrator) , Jill Thompson (Illustrator) , Gene Ha (Illustrator)

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**Download and Read Free Online The Shade James Robinson , Cully Hamner (Illustrator) , Javier Pulido (Illustrator) , Frazer Irving (Illustrator) , Darwyn Cooke (Illustrator) , J. Bone (Illustrator) , Jill Thompson (Illustrator) , Gene Ha (Illustrator)**

## From Reader Review The Shade for online ebook

### **Melki says**

This one has more talk than action, and some mighty pissed off Egyptian gods. Definitely MY KIND of graphic novel.

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### **Rosa says**

I really enjoyed this. When it first came on interlibrary loan I was a little confused, mainly b/c I had no memory of requesting it but I am glad that I did. The Shade is more of an anti hero then a hero. This volume goes back and forth between the current time period and the past. The stories from the past involve the Shade's interactions with various family members, related by blood and not. All of this leads to finding out how his family is connected to the current plot on his life.

I loved La Sangre and wish she had a book of her own. I would totally read it and yes that does have something to do with her operating in Spain but it also has to do with how selfless and tough she is. I would also read more about most of the other heroes that made an appearance like Montpelier. They seem so much more subtle and interesting then some of their American counterparts.

The historical tales that showed the Shade's interaction with his family were great. They showed a human side that the Shade's human side was never totally lost, and I loved them.

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### **Francorum Martinezku says**

en las paginas de The Shade Robinson , nos devuelve un poco de la magia que extrañamos tanto de Starman, es un recorrido una búsqueda propiamente dicha en la vida que fue y sera de Shade, con la vieja galería de personajes tales como Bobo o Von Hammer y algunos nuevos como "la Sangre", es entretenida atrapante y cada dibujante aporta un talento acorde a cada capítulo.

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### **Shannon Appelcline says**

Robinson's only latter day writing to even approach the quality of his Starman run. It's great to see some of the old Starman characters, but this volume really stirs based on its look at family and history.

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### **Sesana says**

To me, this doesn't feel like it was intended to be a finite series of twelve issues, and maybe it wasn't. For a finite series, it's awfully meandering, and spends an awful lot of time laying down groundwork for future stories. I don't have a problem with that. Shade's travels, ostensibly to find out who's trying to kill him, are

interesting enough, as are his memories. Robinson introduces some interesting new characters and mythology into continuity. And La Sangre is a gift to the DCU, one that I dearly wish somebody would try to work with. A Spanish vampire who's also a devout Catholic and dearly beloved protector of her chosen city? Yes, please. She even has a mysterious and interesting archenemy. But for people who loved Starman, possibly the best thing I can say about the Shade series is that it feels like it belongs with the rest of Robinson's Starman.

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### **Joshlynn says**

Once upon a time there was a British comic book writer named James Robinson. He wrote many fine works and saw that they were good. Beautiful books such as Starman and The Golden Age ensured he was regarded as a fine writer of modern superhero fantasy. Then a dark time came. A pall came over Robinson's pen and DC Comics and Cry for Justice came into the world. And the fans wept.

In that time there were rumblings in the DC offices, and a new paradigm—a New 52—was born. Many great writers would fall into mediocrity: Milligan, Lemire, Snyder, Morrison. It seemed no one was safe. Who better to reemerge in this dark age than the master of darkness himself?

Richard Swift. The Shade. Enemy and later ally of the Starman dynasty, known for his dapper mode of dress (he's an immortal holdover from the Victorian era) and his relentless clever quips in the face of danger. He could be compared to a higher-class John Constantine, and like the Hellblazer he takes on outsized supernatural foes with finesse and wit. His circle of friends is diverse. The blue-skinned, proudly gay Mikael Thomas, the Irish wizard Silverfin, the teen vampire hero La Sangre who calls him father, police heiress Hope O'Dare, master of disguise Madam Fatal, and Charles Dickens are among those close to him, and despite his seeming amorality, he would give his life to protect any of them. He doesn't really have to worry about that though, the fucker's hard to kill.

Robinson is back in form it seems. Cry for Justice was a turgid misstep that I didn't think anyone could recover from, but he's made a solid and worthwhile book here. All of the artists are up to the task and the results are lovely. So what happened between Cry for Justice and this? I'm not sure. This story is firmly couched in the Starman idiom, so maybe he's just on autopilot because he's comfortable here. I'm fine with that if the rest of his work is up to par with this. I have yet to read Earth 2, his other contribution to the new DC featuring the JSA, but I'm actually willing to check it out now.

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### **Anna (Literary Exploration) says**

A less fantastic version of Sandman in my opinion. Slow-moving, boring, confusing. DNF.

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### **Alan says**

If anything is going to make me regret James Robinson's decision to leave DC Comics it is this collection. During his arguably classic run on Starman Robinson took a minor Golden Age villain and turned The Shade into a (for me) fun and interesting anti-hero. This is Robinson's second mini-series go round with Dickie Swift and it is much better than the first.

Perhaps it is because Robinson has gotten The Shade's origin out of the way. We get a glob trotting adventure that covers decades (via flashback). The Shade goes to Australia and Spain before getting to

London and Robinson gets to have some fun and haul out characters who had only one or two panels during his brief tenure on Superman that featured Mon-El.

Is a vampire protector of Barcelona exactly an original idea? No, but Le Sangre and her nemesis The Inquisitor are well played. Von Hammer is trotted out again and Robinson introduces new characters for the Australian portion of the tale.

Through it all The Shade's attitude and dialogue would fit in a Joss Whedon television show.

Props to Robinson to trying to add new characters and some diversity to the DC Universe. And, props to DC for doing this collection, as poor sales nearly doomed the 12 issues to an early death (around issues 8-10).

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### **Otherwyrd says**

I can remember the Shade as a semi-villain from the days of Jack Knight as Starman in the 1990's. Since then I haven't really followed comics to any great degree, so it was a pleasant surprise when I discovered this Graphic Novel in the library.

The story follows the Shade through a series of adventures at various points in his life, and with varying characters who have meant something to him. Along the way, we learn a lot about his history, his life, and how he became the Shade in the first place. There are so many good bits in this story that it is hard to pick a favourite bit, though I always have a fondness for aliens masquerading as Egyptians Gods (I loved the Stargate series).

There is a beautiful range of artwork available in this book as well, and I would love to have some of the artwork in here on my wall (the Black Swan is particularly lovely). You don't need to know any of the back story either, but if you can find some of the original Starman series from this era, I would recommend you to read them as well. They were part of an era of storytelling that DC seems to have mostly forgotten how to do these days.

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### **jordan says**

I am well aware that James Robinson isn't to every readers taste. That said, much of his style about which others complain are exactly the things I most love. He focuses on the basics of story telling -- character, setting, mood -- and never forgets that the excitement of action remains directly proportional to how much a reader cares about the characters. No where has he so demonstrated his gifts (and here fans of Golden Age may reasonably disagree) than on his magisterial Starman. "The Shade" gives readers the chance to revisit with some of Robinson's finest characters -- not the least of which being the Opal City, which while he wasn't the author to name, he was certainly the magician who brought it to life.

As with Starman, Robinson demonstrates in "The Shade" the extraordinary depth of his knowledge of the Golden Age. I'm pretty good on the topic, but even I found myself needing Google to locate Madam Fatal (a man who fought crime dressed as a woman! Who said that comics only turned mature recently?). And even Robinson's newer characters, such as the Spanish crime fighting vampire La Sangre, possess a wonderful flare that kindles some light from the Golden Age.

Getting deep into the plot of the book would be giving too much away. Suffice to say that when Richard Swift (the Shade), a man alive for more than a century finds his past catching up with him, he must delve back into his own earlier days to solve the mystery. A rip-roaring great read!

A word about the artists of this book. I'm not usually a fan of multiple artist books, preferring the continuity of a single pen and brush. Yet if anything the array of artistic talent only adds to the books excellence. Each artist somehow finds his place in the story and makes the world his own. Gene Ha of Top 10 fame is as always excellent. Cooke captures a certain wonderful Golden Age sensibility. Hamner's thick brush strokes bring The Shade's shadow tendrils to life.

If you're just starting in Robinson's world, you'll need a few pages to gain your footing and then love this book. *Starman* fans will find here the delight of a party where you get to again encounter friends too long absent. Either way, you'll want to step into the Shade.

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### **Joseph says**

an amazing addenda to the *Starman* series. too bad this didn't sell so well. it's worth the money to have read both in monthlies and in trade form. it would be nice to get a hardback, but doesn't look like it will. if you liked *Starman*, this is for you.

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### **Thomas Moudry says**

James Robinson and Tony Harris's *Starman* is one of the best comic book series of the 1990s—easily head-and-shoulders—and likely torso-and-legs—above much of the dreck that overpopulated the racks during the era's speculator boom. *Starman* has since been collected in its entirety in the six-volume *Starman Omnibus*, and it remains one of my favorite comic book series of all-time.

One of the many reasons to enjoy *Starman* was the stellar (no pun intended—well, maybe a little) supporting cast, and the Shade was a standout among that lot. An immortal since the 1830s, Richard Swift, aka the Shade, has been everything from devoted husband to complete lout to snide dandy to pernicious super-villain to likable *bon vivant* to selfless (somewhat) guardian. In short, the Shade is one of the most interesting characters to have been reimagined by Robinson and Harris in their *Starman* run.

So, when *The Shade* was announced as a twelve-issue series by Robinson and a who's who of great comics artists (Cully Hamner, Javier Pullido, Frazier Irving, Darwyn Cooke, Jill Thompson, and Gene Ha), I was overjoyed because I knew that a collection would be coming at some point. Resisting the urge to buy the individual issues was tough, but I stayed strong. (I'm trying to be a trade paperback-only guy, but it's difficult.)

At any rate, Robinson and company do not disappoint in *The Shade*. Not only do we catch up with what the Shade's been doing since *Blackest Night*, but we also dig into his origin and other bits in a couple of "Times Past" chapters. Robinson's language is rich, making the main character come off as one of those people you just want to sit and listen to because everything he says is beautifully structured and genuinely brilliant. There's superhero action, to be sure, and it's a lot of fun watching the Shade unravel a mystery that's a bit close to home.

The artists' work is stunning. Each chapter seems tailored to each artist's style, and that's fun to behold. It's too difficult to pick a favorite, so I won't.

You don't need to know about *Starman* to enjoy this, but, if you do, your experience will be...*enhanced*.

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### **Seth says**

4.1 if you live starman you'd at least really like this one.

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### **Jeff says**

This one caught me by surprise.

Sometimes I'll go into the library and just pick out titles I've never heard of or a book featuring a character that I know very little about, so it was this hit and run strategy that led me to end up with this volume.

The Shade that I'm familiar with is the villain from the DC animated universe who's a member of Lex Luthor's Injustice Gang and wields a stick/cane that is the source of his shadow-like powers. This Shade's powers are organic and here, he's a much more nuanced character – urbane, erudite, witty, ruthless when he needs to be and loyal to his friends. He also kills if the situation demands it which is why he's tagged with that tired label, "antihero".

This was slow going at first. Robinson has a certain rhythm with Shade's dialogue and it wasn't until the sex scene (or maybe the dismemberment scene) that I was fully up to speed and in sync. The story bounces around from the present, to his backstory and his origin (he was best buds with Charles Dickens and given his name by Oscar Wilde), and to key adventures in his past, but it's well handled (it helps that a different artist works on each time period).

Although he does reference a few popular DC characters, it's the strategic incorporation of unfamiliar (to me) but interesting and colorful secondary characters, that puts this a cut above some of the other DC chaff. You have Madam Fatal (the original "dude" dressed up as a lady), the cowboy Vigilante, Jack Knight, Deathstroke, William Von Hammer and teenage vampire La Sangre.

This smartly done series is self-contained, so you have the entire run here.

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### **Tyler Kroon says**

Full to the brim with action, adventure, and magic while packed with loads of exciting characters and plot points: pentagrams, secret societies, Egyptian gods (or aliens?), shadows, heroes, vampires, Deathstroke, lizard gods.. the list goes on. VERY reminiscent of the Sandman comics in both style and substance. Overall a solid, entertaining story!

