

*In my many years as his agent,  
his companion and his confidant...*

*...I had witnessed more than my share of the eerie, the  
brutal and the macabre. I too would come to glimpse  
"WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN".*

*Yet no series of events were as  
unsettling and had such devastating  
impact on my soul...*

*...as the baffling case of  
**THE RED EMPRESS.***



For years, crime among the Tongs of Chinatown had been reduced to a street-level nuisance.



But a new and aggressive presence had arisen of late, sparking a bold wave of violent offenses, even encroaching on mob-controlled territories.



Despite his many contacts within the Asian-American community, **THE SHADOW** found his efforts stymied on every front.





The mysterious head of this nefarious surge-- the rumored Red Empress-- proved as elusive and deadly as his former nemesis.



The imperious despot, Shiwan Khan.





But the Khan had perished years ago.

ANY LUCK, LAMONT?

ANOTHER DEAD END, I'M AFRAID. EVERY LEAD PROVES EMPTY. EVERY WELL COMES UP DRY.



SORRY TO HEAR IT, BOSS. Y'HEADED BACK TO JERSEY?

NO, WE'LL STAY IN THE CITY TONIGHT. THE WEST-SIDE APARTMENT PLEASE, SHREVVY.

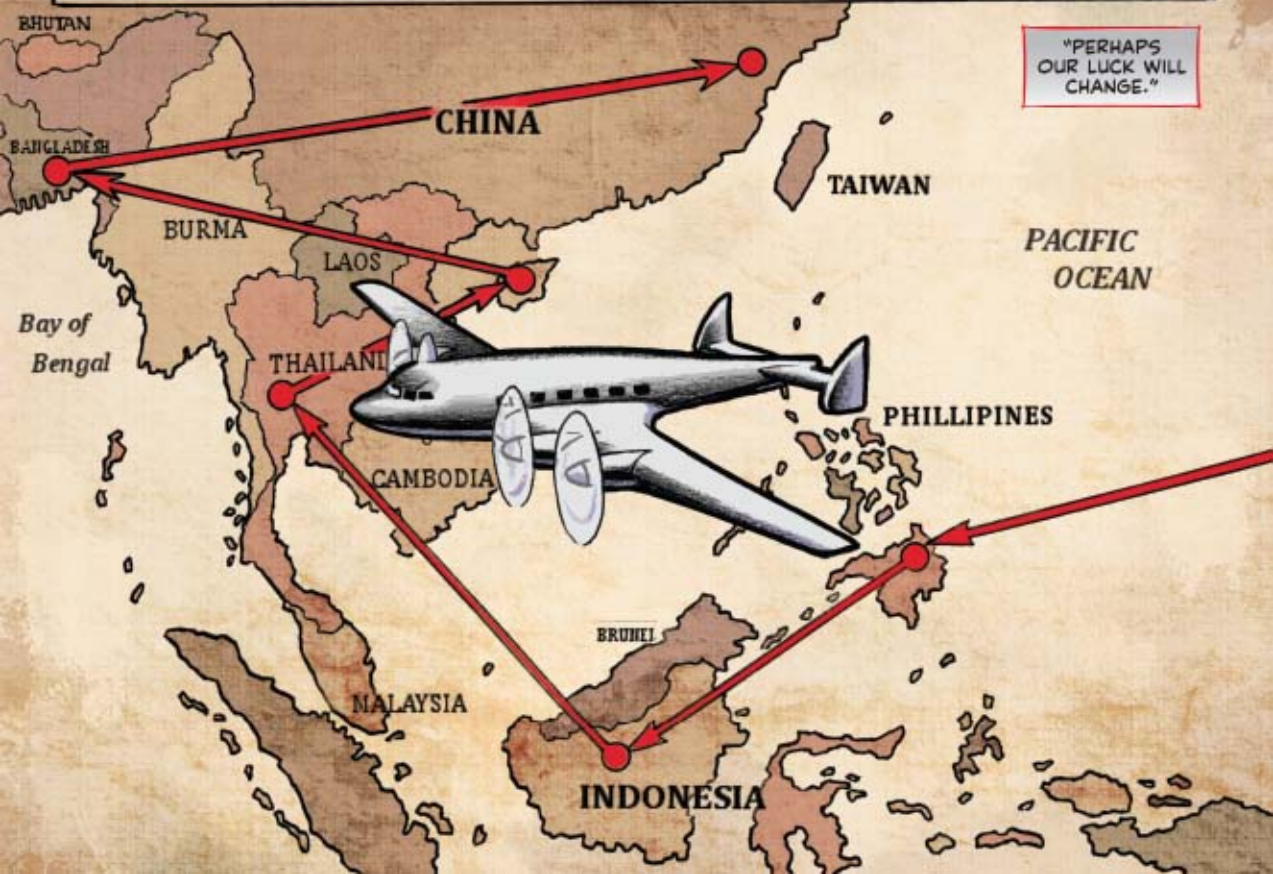


I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO CHOICE, MARGO.

WE'VE GOT TO TRACK THIS SCOURGE BACK TO ITS VERY ROOT.

YOU MEAN... CHINA?!

YES... I HAVE MANY CONTACTS AND RESOURCES IN THE FAR EAST.



"PERHAPS OUR LUCK WILL CHANGE."

CHINA

TAIWAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

PHILIPPINES

INDONESIA

MALAYSIA

BRUNEI

CAMBODIA

THAILAND

LAOS

BURMA

Bay of Bengal

BANGLADESH

BHUTAN

And so, for the first time, I was exposed to the exotic lands that had spawned the nexus of his crusade.

Where he had learned to harness his own shadow in the service of justice.

Our travels took us anywhere he suspected evidence of the Red Empress and her criminal network.

If, in fact, she actually was a real woman.

Yet, even here... the trail was frustratingly vague. Our quarry seemed almost a myth.

Finally, a Mandarin sage he knew offered this bit of wisdom:

**BEWARE, MY FRIEND,  
OF THE HIDDEN  
SERPENT YOU SEEK  
TO SNARE.**

