



WHO KILLED THE SPIRIT?

Mystery Crimefighter Still Missing, Presumed Dead

It has been nearly two years since the last reported sighting of the masked vigilante known only as "The Spirit". Speculation abounds as to what has become of this covert crusader who was directly responsible for the apprehension and arrest of a veritable litany of felonious wrong-doers.

The rarely photographed mystery man had long been a controversial figure in Central City political circles with some critics calling his actions a blatant form of criminal enterprise. Contrary to these opinions, both City Hall and Police Headquarters seemed to accept his non-legally-sanctioned aid, treating him as a sort of unofficial deputy over the course of many criminal investigations. Police Commissioner Dolan was often known to dismiss any inquiry about The Spirit's official status within the bureau via a brusque "No comment!"

But now, with Dolan's impending retirement, police policy seems likely to change in regards to the mysterious man in the domino mask. Weatherby Palmer, who is said to be the Mayor's top pick to replace the departing Dolan has expressed concern over "any individual whose actions might impede or in any way interfere with a police officer in the course of performing his duty."

At this point, public opinion seems to accept the fact that The Spirit has somehow met his ultimate demise at the hands of the same malevolent forces that he had so valiantly opposed throughout the scope of his peculiar, but illustrious, career. Which leads to the nagging and perhaps unanswerable question - Who killed The Spirit? Crime rates have risen dramatically since the maverick crime-buster has disappeared. Central City, it seems, has been left in the lurch.



A rare instance of The Spirit captured on film, seen in the company of Police Commissioner Eustace Dolan.

HEY,
COMMISSIONER?
COMMISSIONER
DOLAN!





DOUBLE THE PATROLS ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE. GANG ACTIVITY'S THROUGH THE ROOF...GOTTA BE SQUELCHED!

YES, SIR.

COMMISSIONER... TREADWELL STUBBS, Central City Gazette. I'M DOING A FOLLOW-UP STORY ON THE SPIRIT'S DISAPPEARANCE.



AND THEN I WANT SIX UNDERCOVER MEN WORKING THE SOUTHSIDE DOCKS. SEE IF THEY CAN GET A HANDLE ON THIS SMUGGLING EPIDEMIC.

YOU GOT IT, SIR.

OUR READERS WANNA KNOW THE INSIDE DOPE ON THIS GUY! WHERE'D HE COME FROM? WHO WAS HE REALLY?



GIVE IT A REST, STUBBS. HE WAS A MYSTERY MAN! YOU KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT THE SPIRIT AS I DO.

AW, C'MON, COMMISS! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?!

YOU WORKED SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THIS GUY FOR YEARS! SAVED EACH OTHER'S SKINS MORE TIMES THAN ANYONE CAN COUNT!



YOU TRYIN' TO TELL ME Y'NEVER KNEW NUTHIN' ABOUT HIS TRUE IDENTITY?!

AND BESIDES, IT'S ALSO RUMORED HE HAD A...

...SHALL WE SAY? SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP WITH CITY COUNCILWOMAN ELLEN DOLAN... YOUR DAUGHTER!

→SIGH←
BLESSED SAINTS...!

DOLAN!
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU!





PRETTY SURE THAT MEANS 'AT ME'...

DOLAN, IT'S JUST BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT YOU RECENTLY OK'D THREE SQUADS OF MEN FOR OVERTIME DUTY!

SUCH EXPENDITURES MUST BE OK'D BY THE COUNCIL. THINGS WILL CERTAINLY BE DIFFERENT ONCE I'M IN CHARGE-



AHHH... YES!

STUBBS, THIS IS COUNCILMAN WEATHERBY PALMER, THE MAYOR'S TOP PICK TO REPLACE ME.

I'M SURE HE CAN ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS AS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICIAL STANCE ON THE SPIRIT!



WHATTAYA SAY, COUNCILMAN? WHATTAYA THINK HAPPENED TO THE SPIRIT? WOULD YOU HAVE SUPPORTED HIS UNDENIABLY SUCCESSFUL ACTIONS?

WELL, I... THAT IS-

THE SPIRIT IS PRESUMED DECEASED... AND THUS, NO LONGER A CONCERN OF THE CENTRAL CITY POLICE-



YEAH, BUT... WHAT IF HE AIN'T DEAD? IF HE EVER REAPPEARS, WOULD YOUR OFFICE STILL SANCTION HIS VIGILANTE CRUSADE?!

I-I'M LATE FOR A MEETING! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY SECRETARY!



HEH-HEH...

NICE ONE, SIR.




BUT, Y'KNOW... THE GUY HAS A POINT!

I WAS ONLY A ROOKIE WHEN HE FIRST SHOWED UP, BUT I ALWAYS WONDERED... WHO WAS HE REALLY?

HOW'D HE BECOME... THE SPIRIT?!

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, LIEUTENANT...



"I TELL YOU, DOLAN...
I KNOW WHERE THIS
DR. COBRA CREEP IS
HOLED UP!
AND I'M GONNA BAG
HIM FOR YOU!"

"DAMMIT, DENNY COLT... YOU'RE ONLY A
PRIVATE DETECTIVE! AND THAT DERANGED
CHEMIST IS DANGEROUS... CLAIMS HE'LL
POISON THE CITY'S ENTIRE WATER SUPPLY!"

"LOOK, SON, WE GO BACK A LONG WAY.
AND LORD KNOWS MY DAUGHTER HAS
A SOFT SPOT FOR YOU...
BUT THIS IS POLICE BUSINESS!"

"SORRY,
DOLAN... YOU'LL
HAVE TO BEAT
ME TO HIM!"

"COLT!"

THE
JIG'S UP,
COBRA!

CURSES!



MEDDLING FOOL!

BANG

KSSHH

YAGGH!



COLT!
AH, NO...

COLT!!



OH, DADDY...
=SOB=

I KNOW,
SWEETHEART.
I KNOW...

I'M SORRY,
SIR.
HE...HE WAS
ONE OF THE
GOOD ONES.

THANK
YOU,
KLINK.

RIP
DENNY
COLT
1912-1940