

Natural Bored Villains

Throwing Shade Season 4 episode 5

Welcome, loyal listeners, to another episode of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre's satirical saunter down the silly streets of yesteryear, Throwing Shade! If you enjoy the adventures of the Shade and the Vamp, head over to tinyurl.com/EFCTThrowingShade where for as little as \$5/month, you can get exclusive access to bloopers, rehearsals, and special bonus episodes. Now sit back, relax, and enjoy, Throwing Shade!

NARRATOR

here is a darkness in the minds of Men, a darkness in their hearts. A darkness in a room with no lights! And who knows that darkness? The Shade knows! By day, Theodore Rockwell is a go-get-'em reporter for the Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald... you know, in the future, I hope these massive media conglomerates get broken up. It's ridiculous to think of such a small number of people being in charge of disseminating information. Perhaps if there was a worldwide network of free information the public could access, they could use their keen reasoning and analytical thinking to become more informed and resistant to propaganda. *(PAUSE. Then loud laughter)* Sorry. Sorry! I really thought I was going to be able to say that with a straight face. Now where was I? Oh, right. But by night he becomes, The Shade! Using his uncanny ability to wear dark clothing, he, assisted by his girl Friday, Wednesday Morning, who is the mysterious female vigilante, the Vamp, defends the downtrodden and fights the forces of evil. But can one man defend the innocent from the scourge of Chicago's underbelly?

SFX: SIREN

NARRATOR

Find out in this week's spine-numbing conclusion to Throwing Shade--Natural Bored Villains. And look, look! Throw me down the stairs and call name a Slinky, we've retained a sponsor for yet another week! True to their name, Grip-Tite Dentures are holding on!

Also brought to you by Eclectic Grill Contact Theatre, bringing you high-quality 1930's radio-style satire since this show was on an actual radio!

Previously on Throwing Shade--

THEO

Ta-daa!

NARRATOR

And now, on to our story!

Act 3 Scene 1--THE GREAT DWIGHT HOPE--some best-laid plans go awry

When last we left our intrepid villainesses, they had just arrived at an out-of-the-way gas station in out-of-the-way Dwight, IL with the express purpose of filling up on more than fuel.

SFX: GUNS COCKING

MISTY

Alright, fella. Fill this car up with gas and this here bag with all the cash from the register inside.

SFX: BAG DROPPING ON GROUND

SFX: CAR DOOR OPENING

KITTY

And I'll be inside getting some snacks!

SKEETER

Wait a minute. Is this here a stick-up?

MISTY

Yes. Yes, it is.

SKEETER

Well, whattaya know! A real live stick-up! I done read about these things, but I never thought one would happen to me! And if it ain't being too forward, or nothing, you two are hands down the prettiest crooks I done ever seen!

MISTY

That's very flattering, um...

SKEETER

Oh, I'm Skeeter.

MISTY

Of course you are.

KITTY

Well, look Skeeter, it ain't that we don't appreciate the compliment, but we are in a wee bit of a hurry, so if you don't mind, more fueling, and less flirting!

SKEETER

Oh, right, sorry!

SFX: PUMP INSERTED INTO TANK, PUMPING.

SKEETER

Hooooowhee! Ain't this exciting? I ain't never been held up before. Are you ladies on the lam?

MISTY

Not yet, Skeeter, but after this little job, we sure will be!

SKEETER

Well, don't that beat all? Look at me, simple old Skeeter Possum Jones, at the start of a big city crime spree!

KITTY

Something to tell your family about.

SKEETER

Oh, I will, don't you worry! Soon as my cousin gets here, I'm gonna tell him all about it! He should be here any minute.

MISTY

Any minute?

SKEETER

Oh yeah, he swings by about this time everyday. Part of his patrol.

MISTY/KITTY

Patrol?

SKEETER

Oh yeah, he's the county sheriff hereabouts.

MISTY/KITTY

The county sheriff?

SKEETER

Hey, that's neat the way you do that!

SFX: DISTANT CAR SOUND

KITTY

Do you hear a car?

SFX: PUMP SHUTS OFF

SKEETER

Week, that's your car all filled up. Hey,. Once I fill up the bag, you wanna tie me up inside, make it all professional-like?

MISTY

You know what? This has all been a joke.

SKEETER

A joke?

KITTY

Yeah, you see, I bet her we couldn't convince you we were hardened criminals, and it turns out I lost!

MISTY

Yep, just a couple of silly girls playing games! What do I owe you for the gas?

KITTY

And the snacks!

SKEETER

You ladies sure do have a strange sense of humor. Um, it all comes out to a dollar fifty.

SFX: SOUND OF MONEY

MISTY

Here's three dollars. You can keep the change if you promise not to tell anyone about our little joke.

SKEETER

I dunno, it's a really funny story, and--

SFX: LONG WET KISS

MISTY

There! Isn't that a better story?

SKEETER

Here's three dollars. Keep the change.

KITTY

I think you broke him.

MISTY

Get in the car, Kitty, we've got to go!

SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSES< CAR DRIVES OFF

KITTY

Well, this crime spree is off to a great start! We're already three bucks in the hole.

MISTY

So we're a little rusty. And who could've foreseen that hayseed being related to the law?

KITTY

I just hope he doesn't tell anybody about the stick up.

MISTY

I'm pretty sure our guns aren't what he's got on his mind right now, Kitty. Don't worry. From here on out, it's gonna be easy street!

NARRATOR

It was not, in fact, easy street from there on out. But more of that later. For now, let us turn our attention to those who are in hot pursuit of our delinquent divas.

SFX: REV, BANG, LURCH

VAMP

I think I'm getting the hang of this automatic shifting,
Shade.....Shade?

SFX: STRUGGLING

SHADE

Sorry,. That last one sent me into the back seat. Which is mighty roomy, by the way.

VAMP

And just why would I need to know THAT?

NARRATOR

Yeah, why you masher, you cad, you--

SHADE

Emergency costume changes, of course. What else?

VAMP/NARRATOR

Oh. Right.

SFX: STRUGGLE, THUD

SHADE

So, where are we?

VAMP

We're coming up on Dwight.

SHADE

Who's Dwight?

NARRATOR

Oh save me.

VAMP

Look! A gas station. Let's pull over and fill up.

SHADE

Maybe the attendant saw Misty and Kitty.

SFX: cAR PULLS OVER, STOPS, DOORS OPEN
and CLOSE

VAMP

See anyone?

SHADE

Let me use my Shade-noculars!

SFX: SOMETHING PULLED FROM BELT
POUCH

VAMP

Let me guess, they're just binoculars painted--wait, Shade, did you paint the LENSES black?

SHADE

Sure did! That way I can't give away my position by the sun glinting off the lenses! Clever, huh?

VAMP

I see only one flaw in your plan.

SHADE

Flaw? What flaw?

NARRATOR

The Shade put the Shade-noculars to his face, and--

SHADE

Aaaah! I'm blind!

VAMP

Oh for Pete's sake!

SFX: GRABBING THEM

SHADE

I can see! It's a miracle!

SFX: SMACK

SHADE

Now I can see stars!

VAMP

Put these back. Oh, I see someone. Come on!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL

SHADE

Excuse me, Sir?

SFX: SKEETER HUMMING

VAMP

Is he picking wildflowers?

SHADE

Looks like it. Hello there!

SKEETER

Oh, hello! Beautiful day, ain't it? Kinda day that makes you happy to be alive!

SHADE

Um...sure. Do you work here?

SKEETER

Sure do. Name's Skeeter.

VAMP

Of course it is.

SHADE

Well, Skeeter, we were hoping to get some gas, and--

SKEETER

Oh sure, sure. Hey, those are some pretty unusual outfits. I like the masks. Y'all gonna stick me up?

SHADE/VAMP

What? No!

VAMP

We're crimefighters!

SHADE

I'm the Shade and this is the Vamp.

SKEETER

Oh, I get it. You're all in black, and you Vamp. You've got a real Shirley Temple thing going on.

VAMP

Shirley Temple?

SHADE

That's a new one.

SKEETER

They're the only movies my maw lets me watch. Nice outfit.

VAMP

Thanks, it has pockets.

SHADE

For the animal crackers.

VAMP

Quiet you.

SHADE

Skeeter, did you see two young ladies drive through here?

SKEETER

I sure did!

VAMP

Did they rob you?

SKEETER

They sure did! One of 'em stole my heart!

SHADE

Why the no-good, low-down, dirty--wait, what?

SKEETER

Yep. Me and her are engaged now!

VAMP

WHAT?

SKEETER

Yep. My maw always told me that if'n I kiss a woman on the mouth, then I gotta marry her.

SHADE

I have so many questions.

VAMP

But did they rob the gas station?

SKEETER

Oh naw. Got some gas and some snacks and then paid me three dollars not to tell my cousin the sheriff they was here.

SHADE

Oh, is that Dwight?

SFX: SMACK

VAMP

Ignore him. So no crime was committed?

SKEETER

No, they was real sweet.

VAMP

Hmmm. Seems strange. But we do need a fill-up. And did you mention snacks?

SKEETER

Yep. We got thirteen different types of jerky.

SHADE

Any gherkins?

SFX: SMACK

VAMP

Shade, no! You drive, and I'll handle the snacks!

SFX: STOMPING FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL

SKEETER

She sure don't ACT like Shirley Temple.

SHADE

You have no idea.

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

ACT 3 SCENE 2--ROAD BLOCK--Things go from bad to worse Hours passed as both our heroes and anti-heroes continued their cross-country journey. While the Shade and the Vamp were dealing with the stress of extended proximity....

SHADE

I spy with my little eye something starting with the letter "F".

VAMP

It's a field. It's always a field. This is a stupid game!

NARRATOR

Misty and Kitty were having problems of their own. Nothing seemed to be going right. From attempting to knock over a liquor store--

SFX: DOOR RATTLING

KITTY

What kind of liquor store ain't open at two o'clock in the afternoon?

MISTY

The sign says no sale on Sunday.

KITTY

I know what each of those words mean on their own, but that sentence don't make no sense!

NARRATOR

To banks--

SFX: GUNS COCKING

KITTY

Alright, nobody move!

SFX: GUNS DROPPING

ROBBER

Don't shoot!

TELLER

Oh thank you! They were trying to rob the bank!

MISTY

Kitty, did we just STOP a crime?

KITTY

I think so. What should we do?

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

POLICE

Freeze! Police!

ROBBER

We give up!

POLICE

And who are you two?

KITTY

Us?

MISTY

Nobody.

KITTY

Just two concerned citizens.

MISTY

Making a citizen's arrest.

KITTY

And a hasty exit.

SFX; RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

POLICE

This is why I keep telling you not to open up on Sunday, Virgil!

NARRATOR

To overly complicated schemes to seize power.

SFX: RUNNING WATER

MISTY

Once we dam the river, the town will have to pay us whatever we ask. Otherwise, their precious town will dry up! (EVIL LAUGH)

KITTY

Now this feels like some proper villainy!

SFX: SOUND OF HAULING WOOD

SFX: ANGRY ANIMAL SOUNDS< SPLASHES<
HEAVY SLAPS

KITTY

Ow! Beavers!

MISTY

Ouch! Get away!

KITTY

These beavers are vicious!

MISTY

Ooof! And usually I get along so well with--

SFX: SLAP

MISTY

Forest animals.

KITTY

Run!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, ANGRY
CHATTERING

NARRATOR

Misty and Kitty were unable to succeed at anything criminal. They were depressed--

SFX: CAR SOUNDS

MISTY

I'm depressed.

NARRATOR

Disappointed--

KITTY

I'm disappointed, meself.

NARRATOR

And worst of all, low on snacks.

SFX: EMPTY BAG RUSTLING

MISTY

How did we already go through thirteen bags of jerky?

KITTY

What are we gonna do? We haven't even gotten to Springfield. There's no way we can make it all the way to California with this kinda luck!

SFX: SCREECH OF BRAKES

MISTY

That's it!

KITTY

Watch it! You made me spill all me Cel-Ray!

MISTY

I don't know how you can drink that stuff.

KITTY

It's really not that bad. But then, I come from a culture that boils everything it eats, so take from that what you will.

MISTY

Kitty, you're brilliant.

KITTY

I always thought so. Boiling ain't that bad. Really brings out the flavor in hamburgers.

MISTY

No! I mean I know why we haven't been able to get back into a life of crime! We're thinking too small!

KITTY

We are?

MISTY

Yes! These small towns and two-bit businesses are beneath us. But Springfield? Capital of the state? That's where we make our mark!

KITTY

How?

MISTY

We're going to take over the Capital. Today, Illinois, tomorrow, the

world! (*EVIL LAUGH*)

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, a few miles back--

SHADE

I spy with my little eye, something green.

VAMP

It's a field!

SHADE

Wanna try some jerky? I think this one is squirrel.

VAMP

Not everything should be made into jerky!

SHADE

Maybe I should've sprung for the radio.

NARRATOR

And, even more miles farther back, an unexpected participant was pulling into a familiar gas station.

SFX: CAR SOUNDS

SKEETER

Fill 'er up?

WALLY

You Dwight?

SKEETER

Nope. My name's Skeeter.

WALLY

Of course it is. Yeah, fill it up.

SFX: GAS TANK, PUMP

WALLY

You see a man and a woman drive out this way? The woman would've had a typewriter around her neck.

SKEETER

Nope. The only woman and feller who came out this way was the Shade and the Vamp.

WALLY

The Shade and the Vamp drove out this way?

SKEETER

Sure did., They took off after those two ladies with the real nice

guns.

WALLY

Kitty and Misty! So that overly-friendly neighbor of theirs was right! They've taken off. That's why the Little Man in the Boat is closed. And they must be up to no good if The Shade and the Vamp are after them.

SFX: BELL DINGS, PUMP SHUTS OFF

SKEETER

There you go, mister. That'll be a dollar.

WALLY

Here you go.

SFX: MONEY

WALLY

I've gotta catch up with them.

SKEETER

Well they took off from here a few hours ago. You're gonna have to drive non-stop to catch them. You need snacks.

WALLY

You have snacks?

SKEETER

Yep. Thirteen different types of jerky.

WALLY

Jerky? Hot dog!

SKEETER

Yep, that's one of 'em.

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

We'll return to Throwing Shade, Natural Bored Villains, in just a moment. But first, a word from our sponsor. Friends, does your smile resemble a neglected picket fence? Have you recaptured your childhood by having to eat nothing but baby food? Then Grip-Tite Dentures are for you! Made of the finest genuine elephant tusk ivory, Grip-Tite Dentures are long lasting! And with the built-in adhesive, you can be guaranteed to leave your mark behind when you take a bite, not your teeth! Grip-Tite Dentures, you're stuck with them!

And now a few words from other important personages.

Friends, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre is forging ahead with their 11th season, bringing you a year of nothing but new

works. From readings to festivals celebrating the best new works from around the country and the world, both onstage and over the airwaves, EFCT is bringing fresh, new work to audiences everywhere! So go to eclectic-theatre.com to find out all about their brand-spanking new 11th season! And tell them the Shade sent you! And now, back to our story!

NARRATOR

Act 4 Scene 1--CAPITOL PUNISHMENT--a lot of hot air gets cooled down

Our intrepid heroes, determined villains, and confused third wheel all spent a restful night at various roadside motels.

KITTY

Well, that was a restful night!

MISTY

Yeah, though I don't know why they insisted on keeping the light on.

VAMP

You are never allowed to pick the accommodations ever again!

SHADE

How could I know?

VAMP

It was called the Bedbug Inn!

SHADE

I thought it meant it'd be snug!

SFX: BELL OVER DOOR RINGS

WALLY

So Long, Miss Calhoun!

NORMA

Oh you! You can call me Norma!

NARRATOR

--and all made their way toward Springfield. When Misty and Kitty arrived, they headed straight to the warehouse district.

(PAUSE. SILENCE)

NARRATOR

I said, they headed straight for the warehouse district.

LORI

There's no violence in Springfield's warehouse district.

NARRATOR

You're out of balloons, aren't you?

LORI

Maybe!

NARRATOR

SFX: HEAVY DOOR OPENING, CRATES
BEING PUT DOWN, OPENED.

I need a nap

KITTY

What's all this , then? I don't remember us owning all these crates.

MISTY

Well, the law didn't get everything of mine when they arrested me. I was able to squirrel this away!

SFX: SOUND OF HEAVY METAL PARTS BEING
MOVED AROUND

KITTY

Is that--

MISTY

My freeze ray? You bet!

KITTY

Where have you been keeping that?

MISTY

I moved it into the Little Man in the Boat's cellar when I repainted.

KITTY

Why would you bring a freeze ray into the pub?

MISTY

Well, at first, I wanted to try making ice cream, but now, taking over an entire state is significantly more fun!

KITTY

You know how to put this together?

MISTY

Oh sure! You just put the whosits into the whatsits.

SFX: METAL PIECES SLOTTING TOGETHER

MISTY

And the thingamabob into the thingamajig!

SFX: PARTS SNAP TOGETHER

MISTY

Give it a good crank...

SFX; CRANKING, THEN AN ELECTRIC HUM

MISTY

And Bob's your uncle!

KITTY

Actually, me uncle's name is Woody.

(Pause)

KITTY

Sorry. A bunch of the patrons at the pub love that joke.

MISTY

See? This is what going straight has done to you.

KITTY

I know, it's just...this is a bit much.

MISTY

It'll be worth it, trust me! Once we deliver our demands to the Governor, there'll be no stopping us!

NARRATOR

At that very moment, the Shade-mobile was pulling into downtown Springfield.

VAMP

Shade, look! Buildings! Buildings close together!

SHADE

The streets, they're...PAVED!

VAMP

I hope Kitty and Misty are here, because I cannot take anymore wide, untouched expanses of nature.

SHADE

I know what you mean, Vamp. Nature just isn't natural!

VAMP

Is it wrong that I want to put off looking for Kitty and Misty until I'm able to eat something that ISN'T jerky?

SHADE

I still have some leftover tongue.

VAMP

Aaaand I just lost my appetite. If we were Kitty and Misty, where would we go?

SHADE

Who's who?

VAMP

What?

SHADE

You said if we were Kitty and Misty. So who's who?

VAMP

Does that matter?

SHADE

It might. I've never tried to be a woman before.

VAMP

It's not that hard. Just come up with good ideas and then get ignored while making half what everybody else does.

SHADE

Huh?

VAMP

You never cease to prove my point, Shade.

SHADE

I'm here to help!

VAMP

I just wish I had some idea where they were. What do they want in the Capital?

SHADE

(In that same high=pitched Cockney accent) Faith and begorrah! Cor blimey! I think maybe we want take over all the organized crime in Springfield!

VAMP

What is THAT?

NARRATOR

I couldn't have asked it better myself!

SHADE

I figured I was Kitty.

VAMP

Well, you're not. Not even a little bit.

SHADE

That means I'm Misty? (*Overly Marilyn*) I think the pink really brightens the place up.

NARRATOR

Help.

VAMP

You know what? Forget I ever said anything. We're just us.

SHADE

Oh good,. Two identities is really my limit.

NARRATOR

I apologize for...all of that.

VAMP

I hate to say it, Shade, but you said something earlier that made sense.

NARRATOR

He did?

SHADE

I did?

VAMP

You did. You said something about them taking over organized crime in Springfield.

SHADE

But that can't be it. It's not an election year! Ha! Get it? Politicians are crooks! Ha!

NARRATOR

I hope the writers didn't strain themselves reaching for that low hanging fruit.

VAMP

It's the taking over bit that's got me thinking. What did Misty do?

SHADE

Well, she almost took over the world with a freeze ray, but what

does that have to do with--oh, I see what you mean!

VAMP

What better place to try again than a capital city?

SHADE

When she tried that in Chicago, she went to the warehouse

district. *(PAUSE, SILENCE)*

VAMP

Come on, let's get going. This city is too quiet.

SHADE

Yes, TOO quiet.

VAMP

That's...what I just...you know what, let's just go!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

Leaping from rooftop to rooftop was...challenging.

SFX: SLIDE WHISTLE DOWN, THUD.

VAMP

I'm alright! I'm alright!

SHADE

It's best if you just completely relax right before impact.

VAMP

Guess those buildings weren't as close together as I thought.

SHADE

To the Shade-mobile!

SFX: REV, BANG, LURCH

NARRATOR

Managing to do so without serious injury, The Shade and the Vamp arrived at the warehouse district.

SFX: WEAK POP

NARRATOR

It's just not the same!

SFX: CAR STOP, DOORS OPEN, DOORS CLOSE

SHADE

Wow.

VAMP

You can say that again.

SHADE

Wow.

NARRATOR

Our heroes stared for what felt like an uncomfortably long time at the lone warehouse before them.

VAMP

I was not expecting that.

SHADE

Makes sense if you think about it.

VAMP

How? How does it make sense that there's only one warehouse in the warehouse district?

SHADE

Well, it's not called the warehouses district.

(PAUSE)

VAMP

I'm not speaking to you. Come on!

NARRATOR

The Shade and the Vamp ran up the stairs to the third floor.

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

After which they walked quickly up the stairs to the sixth floor.

SFX: QUICK FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

The slowly plodded to the eighth.

SFX: SLOW HEAVY FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

And then finally took the freight elevator to the top floor.

SFX: ELEVATOR HUM, THEN DING.

NARRATOR

Where they burst out onto the scene, where they discovered Misty and Kitty with--

VAMP

A freeze ray!

SHADE

And ICE CREAM?

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

Act 4, Scene 2--Don't get Sore, Bae--everybody chills.

AS the Shade and the Vamp burst onto the scene, everyone was taken aback.

ALL

(GASP)

MISTY

The Shade!

KITTY

The Vamp!

SHADE

Misty!

VAMP

Kitty!

KITTY

The Shade!

MISTY

The Vamp!

SHADE

Kitty!

VAMP

Misty!

MISTY

Kitty!

KITTY

Misty!

SHADE

Vamp!

SFX: SMACK

VAMP

Don't start THAT!

MISTY

What are you two doing here?

SHADE

We could ask you the same question.

VAMP

We heard the two of you skipped town to go on a crime spree.

MISTY

A crime spree?

KITTY

Us?

VAMP

Are you saying that isn't what you did?

MISTY

It is most certainly NOT what we did.

KITTY

It's what we wanted to do, but not what we did.

MISTY

Kitty!

KITTY

I'm sorry! All the months NOT committing crimes has really done a number on my ability to lie to the law!

SHADE

So you are on a crime spree!

VAMP

But why?

MISTY

Because I'm sick and tired of being treated like Public Enemy #1 when all we're trying to do is live our lives!

KITTY

Yeah! It ain't fair! We did our time and got a nice legitimate business going, but the minute something goes sideways, every flatfoot in town shows up on our door!

MISTY

So fine, you want us to be criminals, then we'll BE criminals.

SHADE

Nobody wants you to be criminals.

KITTY

You sure about that? Sure would sell a lot of papers.

MISTY

Make the cops' jobs easier.

KITTY

And yours!

VAMP

Now hold on! We're not part of this!

MISTY

Oh? And how many times did you show up, just assuming we knew something about whatever crime you were investigating?

VAMP

Well...

SHADE

I mean, it was just...

BOTH

Ah, nertz.

SHADE

So you're here in the Capital with a freeze ray because of...us?

MISTY

Well, I did miss the excitement of being a criminal mastermind.

KITTY

Life has seemed a bit duller since you put an end to our careers in lawlessness.

VAMP

So why is it you haven't committed a single crime during your crime spree?

MISTY

Bad luck, mostly.

KITTY

And to be honest, after a while, it just wasn't fun.

MISTY

Being a criminal mastermind is a lot of work.

KITTY

Lonely, frustrating, stressful work.

MISTY

And for what? To have people chasing us? Scared of us? Hating us?

VAMP

And yet I see a freeze ray pointed at the capitol building.

MISTY

I was going to hold the city hostage, it's true.

KITTY

But then we realized it was a great way to make dessert. Try some!

SFX: EATING ICE CREAM

VAMP

Mmmm. What is that?

MISTY

Brown bread ice cream.

KITTY

I'm gonna put it on the menu.

MISTY

Assuming we aren't going to jail.

VAMP

Well...

SHADE

Let them go.

VAMP

What?

SHADE

Let them go., They haven't done anything except take a trip and make ice cream.

VAMP

But--

SHADE

(Tired) Just...we've--I've--done enough to them. Let them go.

VAMP
Shade--

SHADE
I'll be in the car.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

KITTY
Is he..alright?

VAMP
I...don't know.

SFX: SAD STING

NARRATOR

Act 4, Scene 3--Road to Redemption--Life is a highway, but there's always a light at the end of the tunnel. Oh, that is one overworked metaphor...

A short time later, as the Shade was sitting silently behind the wheel of the Shade-mobile.

SFX: CAR DOOR OPENS, SHUTS

VAMP
Kitty and Misty are heading out.

SHADE
Good.

VAMP
Guess we should be heading back.

SHADE
I suppose.

SFX: CAR STARTS, REV, BANG, LURCH

VAMP
Ha! Barely felt that one. We've obviously been in the car too long. *(SILENCE)*

VAMP
I spy with my little eye, something black.

(SILENCE)

VAMP
Alright, buddy, spill it. What's got you all tied up in knots?

SHADE

It's nothing.

VAMP

Shade, you look pensive. You've never looked pensive. I don't think you've ever even said the word pensive.

SHADE

I'm just wondering if we're actually helping.

VAMP

Of course we're helping.

SHADE

Are we? Cannoli's got nothing to do, Clemmons can't print a decent story, and the Mayor is losing tourists. All because of us.

VAMP

You do realize all those people benefit from or profit off of crime, right? To the regular Joe on the street, we're helping.

SHADE

Oh? Look at what happened to Kitty and Misty! We pushed them back into a life of crime! Or at least trying to get back into a life of crime.

VAMP

About that. They wanted me to say thanks.

SHADE

Thanks?

VAMP

Yeah,. We may have made mistakes, but thanks to us, they ended up becoming partners in something other than crime.

SHADE

You're kidding.

VAMP

It's the truth. And they also appreciated that despite our flaws, we always treated them fairly and gave them the benefit of the doubt. Shade, what we do--what you do, it's a good thing.

SHADE

I guess.

VAMP

And they said we're always welcome to the little Man in the Boat...as long as we're not trying to arrest them.

SHADE

I may take them up on that. Although that is a lot of pink.

VAMP

They won't be there when we get back.

SHADE

Oh?

VAMP

They're apparently taking a vacation to Boston.

NARRATOR

The rest of the trip back was uneventful, and while in a slightly better mood, the Shade was still thoughtful. And when they returned to the offices of the Gazette-Times-Herald the next day as Theo and Wednesday, they were surprised by the crowd in Editor-In-Chief Clarence Clemmon's office.

SFX: LOUD CROWD SOUNDS. DOOR OPENS,
THEM CLOSES

THEO

Wow! Look at that crowd!

WED

That's surprising

SFX: CROWD FALLS SILENT

CLEMMONS

Rockwell! Morning! Where have you been?

THEO

Following up on the Little Man in the Boat story, Chief!

WED

And do we have a story for you! All about unfair pressure on rehabilitated ex-convicts--

CLEMMONS

Yeah, yeah, I'm sure it's captivating bleeding heart bushwa, but you can stow it in the circular file! We've got REAL news!

THEO

What?

CANNOLI

It's horrible! A crime tide has hit the city!

ROSA

Wave.

CANNOLI

Huh?

ROSA

It's crime wave.

CANNOLI

That don't make no sense. Crime is rising, like a tide. Nobody's waving. That's not even a crime.

MAYOR

What Chief Cannoli is failing to say is that there have been a string of cat burglaries over the last few days.

WED

Cat burglaries? What was taken?

ALL

Cats.

NARRATOR

I don't know why I'm surprised.

CLEMMONS

Apparently, nobody could get in touch with the Shade or the Vamp!

CANNOLI

Something's got to be done! We got too many calls to handle!

MAYOR

Tourists are terrified their tabbies could be taken!

CLEMMONS

And all I get are calls from people wanting to know where the Shade and the Vamp are! So where are they?

SFX: DOOR FLIES OPEN

WALLY

There you are!

CLEMMONS

Winchell! Where have you been?

WALLY

You told me to find Theo and Wednesday. So I went all the way to Springfield looking for them. But instead, it turned out the Shade--

CLEMMONS

Springfield? You better not try to get reimbursed for that!

WALLY

But--

CLEMMONS

Get back to work before I put you back on the Joke-A-day column!

WALLY

Yessir!

SFX: DOOR SLAMS

CLEMMONS

Rockwell! Morning! Get out there and get me this story! And the rest of you...just get out!

SFX: CROWD SOUNDS, DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES, CROWD DRIFTS OFF

WED

Cat burglaries, huh? Sounds like Bertrand VanDerSnelling III

THEO

I'm going to have to listen to you gush about those eyes of his, aren't I?

WED They're so blue.

THEO

They're not THAT blue.

WED

It seems like the city's in trouble, Theo. Whattaya say?

THEO

What else can I say? This looks like a job for--THE SHADE!

SFX: METRONOME

NARRATOR

This has been Throwing Shade, brought to you by Grip-Tite Dentures!

Throwing Shade has also been brought to you by Eclectic Full Contact Theatre. Remember to like, follow and subscribe to our podcast! Or leave a review!

Created by Andrew Pond and Sarah Siegel

Written by: Andrew Pond with Zach Osterman

Directed by: Andrew Pond

Starring the voice talents of:

Our Foley Artist was Lori Eyre

Our engineer was:

And I am your narrator:

Special thanks to Tina Salamone!

Tune in next week--Same Shade Time, Same Shade Station!