

CONSTABLE KHANG'S MYSTERIES OF OLD SHANGHAI

THE BLACK



A
N
G
E
L



NATHANIEL SCOBIE

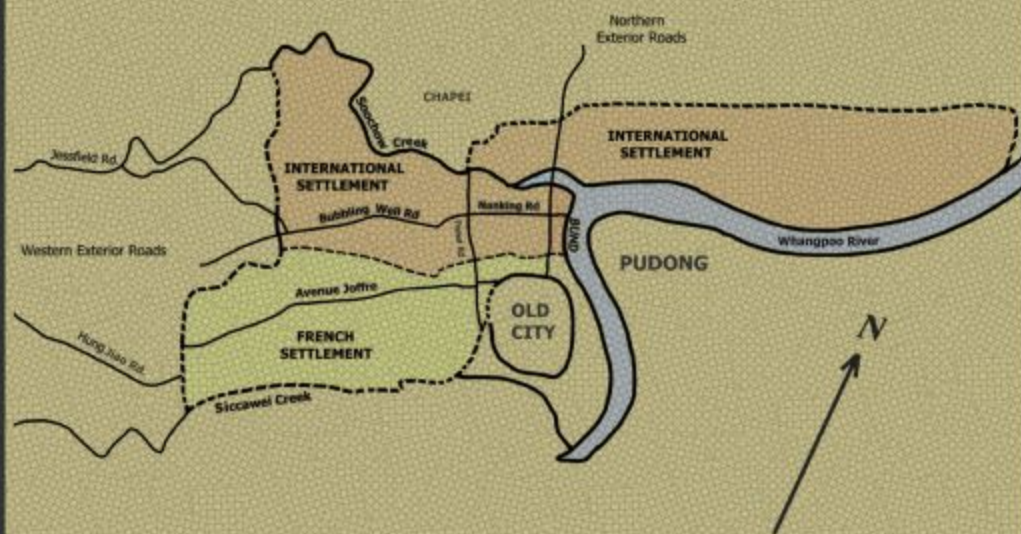
DROWSY EMPEROR PRESS

US \$ 9.95

Constable Khang's

Old Shanghai

(1929)



0 1 2 Kilometers

0 1 2 Miles



Chinese City



International Settlement




French Settlement




It's a quiet night even for a Wednesday. The last of the late night cocktail crowd head home past Sassoon's newly constructed Cathay Hotel. Widely advertised as the most modern hotel in Asia its roof top Tower Bar is known to attract a wild crowd. Far below, just in front of the ground level main entrance, Detective Dee of the International Settlement's Shanghai Municipal Police (SMP) is having a chat with an old acquaintance. The chat is not going well.






Now. Tell me
why your flat friend
here couldn't wait for
the elevator.



Ask Khang!
He was on the
terrace during
this mess.

"Rodion, we just want you to answer some questions. The girl said it was like 'a giant bird'. The Russian smiled. "Giant bird! All I know is when I left the terrace they were droppin Champagne bottles on the sidewalk. Then someone or something dropped Eddie. Maybe Khang dropped him! Go ask him!"



Constable Khang
this area is not within
the PSB's jurisdiction. Why
are you here? Tell me
what took place on
the terrace?

告诉我

Gàosù wǒ

Tell me



"I had received an invitation from Arhmand Ahriman the week before to attend a gathering in honour of some prominent individuals who were leaving Shanghai and some who were arriving. I consulted with my Public Security Bureau superiors. They felt it best for me to accept the invitation in the context of our ongoing search for the magician. I arrived at the Cathay Hotel at 9:20 pm this evening and made my way up to the Tower Ball Room. As I entered Ahriman shouted to me from across the room."

Khang! "Hero of Huangshan Lu!" Still looking for that magician? It's been three months! Surely, one of the three police forces ringing their caps and bells around this city are good for something.

介绍

Jièshào

Introduction



If you ask me he has left town but, if you find him shoot him! Come with me. I've got some people I'd like you to meet.



Ahriman was in a jovial mood. He did not seem concerned about the case.

鸡尾酒

Surnames aside, if there's trouble you can count on me Constable!

Given the crowd here tonight I imagine the Constable might soon feel compelled to begin "scourging" again!

Noel Coward and Kitti Kwan, I give you local hero and scourge of the demimonde, Constable Khang!



Ahriman introduced Mr. Coward as a renowned English playwright and explained Miss Kwan had just arrived that night to begin work as the Asian correspondent for Vanity Fair. Miss Kwan seemed particularly interested in some of the party attendees. "Tell me Constable as a 'scourge of the demimonde' what do you think of the fact that rotten racketeer Eddie 'Don't Ask Ding' is here?"

会

Jīwěijiǔ huì

Cocktail party



Before Khang could complete his statement Ahriman interjected. "You seem to be drifting a bit out of your jurisdiction as well Miss Kwan." "You forget Armand I grew up in Shanghai. My interest in Eddie's activities is personal." Ahriman laughed, "Remember he hasn't been convicted of anything here. Still, I suspect you'd rather I set about striking my guests for their alleged sins. Would you?"

* Noel Coward, wrote a significant portion of one of his most famous plays 'Private Lives' while suffering from a bout of flu during a four day stay at the Cathay Hotel during a 1930 tour of Asia.



太

Well if you'll excuse me I need to attend to my other guests. Some of whom, apparently, require a good bludgeoning! Pleasure meeting you Kitt!

棒



Khang, have you seen "One Night in a Cafe" Tian Han's new Shanghai play? Marvelous, modern, sad all at the same time.



This International Settlement is about as International as Picadilly Square!

了

Tài bàng le!

Marvelous!

"Miss Kwan then told us she had an early morning planned and should be on her way. After a brief chat Mr. Coward also soon excused himself."

Yes. Do come visit Constable. You would feel right at home. As they say, Shanghai is really just one of London's remoter suburbs.



Just as Mr. Coward took my hand I noticed some suspicious activity taking place nearby on the terrace.



Stop it Eddie!
Not another one. This is why we never get invited anywhere nice. Let's go home. You need some sleep.

I don't need any sleep.



邀
请

Yāoqǐng

Invite

After observing this potential threat to public safety. I made my way out to the terrace and confronted the perpetrator.

Eddie! Careful!
That cop Khang is
watching you.

Sir! That
may be a little
dangerous.

Khang..

You know, it
takes a lot of really
broken people to get
a good dream...

英雄

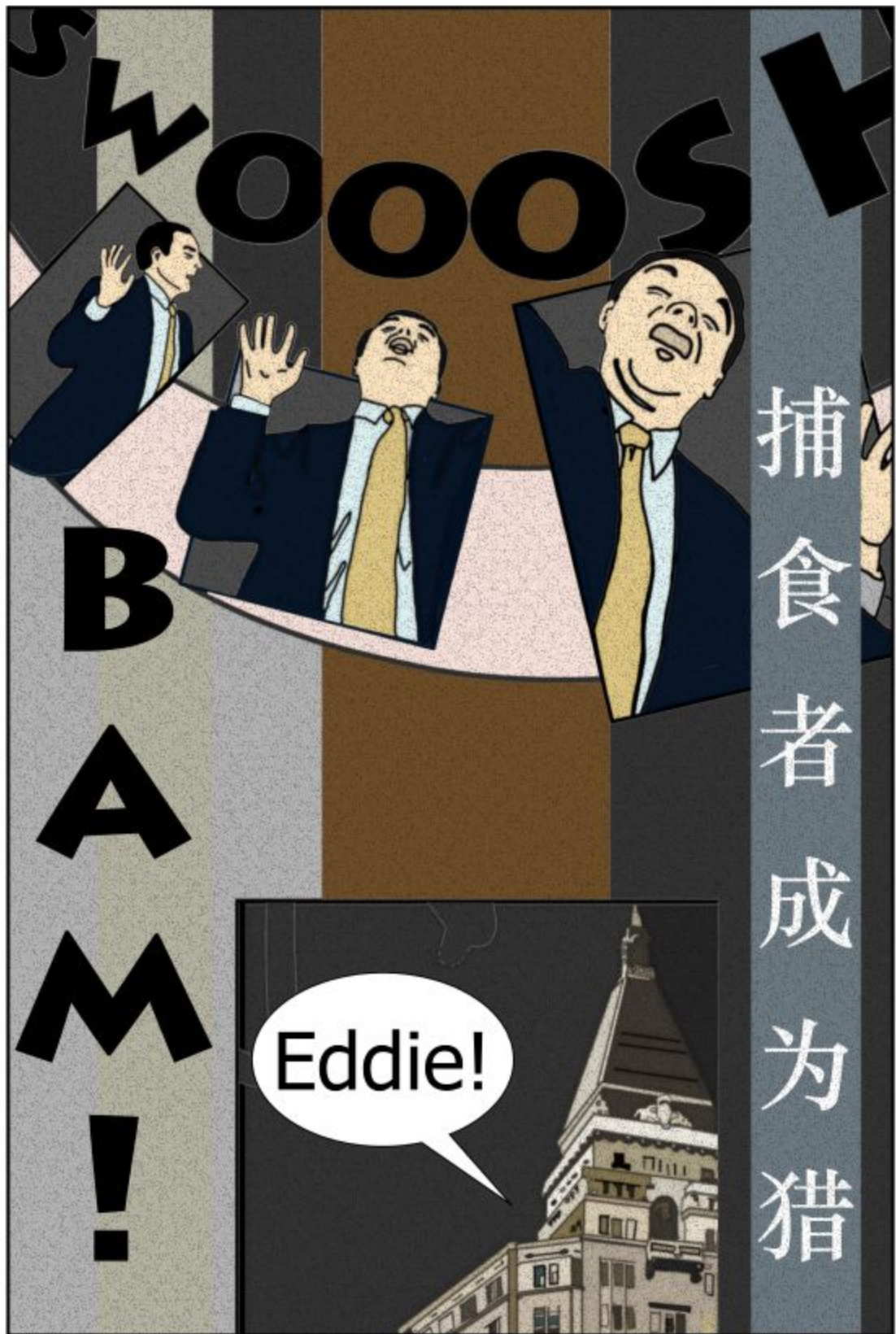
Yīngxióng
Hero

Oops!

And then it happened. I ...
There was an enormous
gust of wind. I was knocked
down. Then a scream ...

SLIP!





捕食者成为猎

Eddie!



Detective Dee took a breath and gazed back up Asia's tallest and most modern building. "Khang, the first constable on the scene claims Eddie's girlfriend said something about 'a large bird'. You were there when she spoke. What did she really say?" Constable Khang followed Dee's gaze upward. "She did not say 'large bird'. She said it had 'enormous wings' dark wings. She said it was 'like the Black Angel!'" "The Black Angel*? You mean like the statue?" Khang took one more look at what was left of Eddie. "That is what she said sir."

黑天使

Hei Tianshi

Black Angel

* The Black Angel sat atop a cenotaph erected by the British to honour those fallen in World War I. The statue darkened by soot belched out by the rapidly industrialising city soon became Old Shanghai's equivalent of Copenhagen's Little Mermaid, a symbol of the city. Japanese occupying forces tore the statue down in the late 1930s.



And what do you think about that?

I think it's improbable.

Let's hope so.

让我们希望是这样

Ràng wǒmen xīwàng shì zhèyàng

Let's hope so.

Detective Dee rubs the back of his neck lowers his head and turns back to Khang. "The right hand man of the biggest gangster in this city just bit the pavement and you, current golden boy of the Shanghai newspapers just

happened to be there. The last thing we need to add to this circus is a flying statue!"

那 是 什 么

Nà shì
shénme?

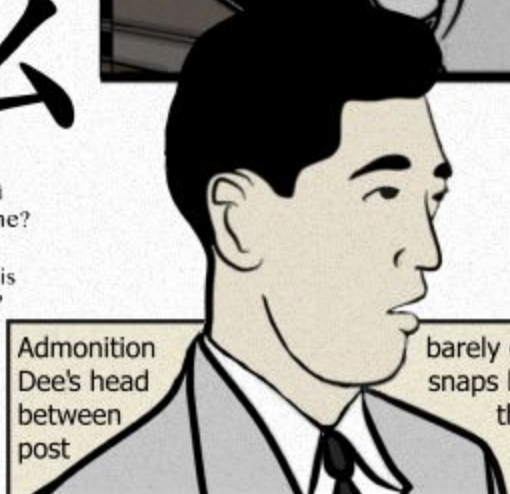
What is
that?

Admonition
Dee's head
between
post

barely out of his mouth Detective
snaps back as an object slices
the detective and the lamp
light flashing a shadow
across Dee's face.



What the..
What was
that?





一起工作

Yìqǐ gōngzuò

working together

检查站

Jiǎnchá zhàn

Checkpoint



After agreeing on a time to meet the next morning Khang leaves Detective Dee and the International Settlement and makes his way back to his humble apartment in the Chinese controlled portion of the city.



齐白



石

Qí Bái Shí *



* Qi Bai Shi (1864-1957) Chinese artist famous for his water color paintings focusing on plants and animals .

CONSTABLE
KHANG

I will do
so.

Bring us
Constable
Khang.

IN SLUMBERLAND

© Copyright 2016 by Joyce Kilmer Ltd. Hong Kong



Hurry



传召

Chuan zhao

Summon





You need to
get ready.