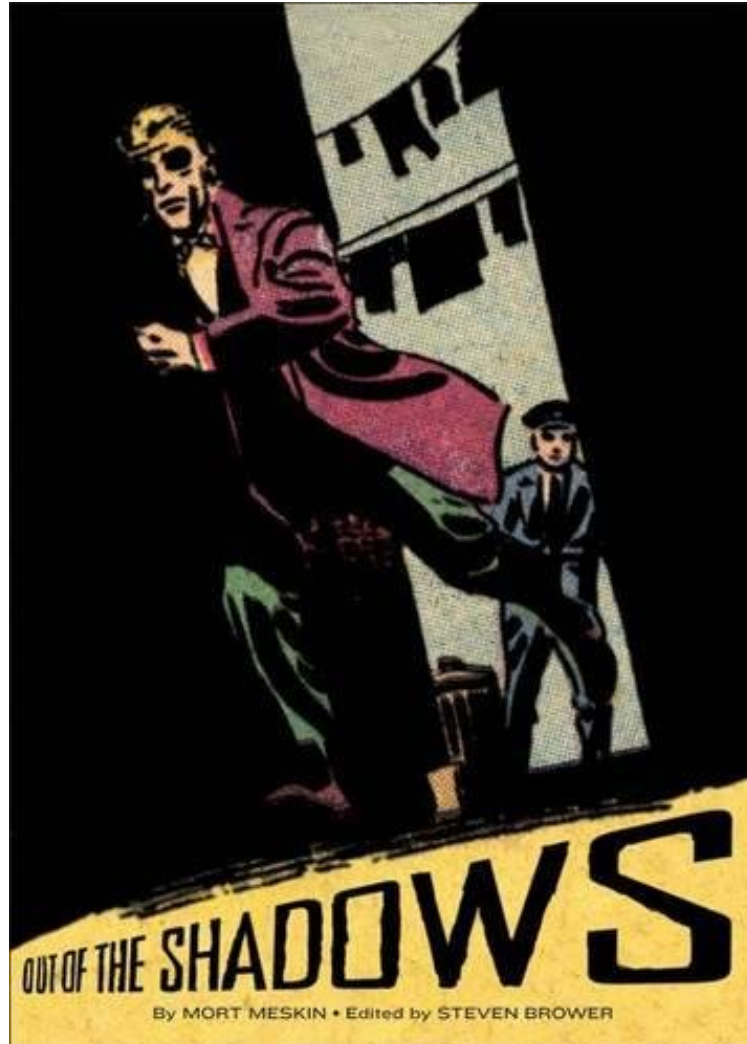


Out of the Shadows

Mort Meskin

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Mort Meskin : Out of the Shadows before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out of the Shadows:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A forgotten artist By Diego Cordoba I'm writing this review because, oddly enough, no one has done so before. C'mon, what's wrong here? Is it because no one remembers Mort Meskin anymore? This book is really worthwhile, especially if you already have the one on Alex Toth's work at Standard (also published by Fantagraphics). By the way, though you can only see a couple of pages on , the book is in full color. The first pages are only a couple of pages Meskin drew of Sheena (in bw), but is really nothing compared with the rest of the material you find in here. You'll find stories of all sort of genres, from westerns, to superheroes, crime and horror. Meskin is perhaps best known for having drawn Vigilante, Johnny Quick (a personal favorite of mine),

Wildcat and Starman for National Comics (what DC was called back then). And he was one of the good artists. The work here is from other comic book companies he worked for, and are just as good as the work he did for National. If you are into the golden age of comics, this book is a must. I hope this will encourage some people out there to give it a chance. While the stories are average, the art is quite good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By john lucas
A beautiful collection. I only wish it was twice it's size.

The first-ever collection by a golden age master. *Out of the Shadows* collects the best of Golden Age comics artist Mort Meskin's comic book stories from the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Edited by Meskin biographer Steven Brower, *Out of the Shadows* continues Fantagraphics' mission to publish the greatest work by Golden Age comic book artists. For decades Meskin's comics were relegated to the yellowing newsprint pages of collectors. Now finally Mort Meskin steps out of the shadows in the first book dedicated solely to reprinting his best comics stories. *Out of the Shadows* features work in every genre Meskin worked in: superhero (*Black Terror* and *Fighting Yankee*), adventure (*Sheena, Queen of the Jungle*), kid gangs (*Kid Crusaders*), romance (*My Destiny*), crime (*Justice Traps the Guilty*), Westerns (*Prize Comics Western*), science fiction (*Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*), and horror (*Frankenstein*). The variety of genres shows the breadth and versatility of Meskin's craft, from the noirish chiaroscuro of his crime work to the chiseled, gritty realism of his Westerns. Both in tandem with his partner Jerry Robinson and frequent collaborator George Roussos, and solo, Meskin set a new high bar for comics in the first three decades of the medium, and this book will be a revelation to both the casual graphic novel reader and the ardent fan. Full color throughout

From Booklist
In his biography of Mort Meskin, *From Shadow to Light* (2010), Brower made the case that the undeservedly obscure artist was one of the most talented figures working during what's become known as comic book's golden age. Here he has chosen 28 stories from the 1940s and 50s that represent nearly every genre of the period and provide ample evidence supporting his contention. Meskin's powerful compositions add a fitting dynamism to superhero tales featuring the *Black Terror* and *Fighting Yank*. His bold use of shadows and other solid black areas impart a moody atmosphere to horror and crime stories, and even the romance and sci-fi pieces included here benefit from his economic illustration style and attractive page designs. As impressive as these stories are visually, however, they demonstrate a problem commonly faced by that era's best comic artists: Meskin's talents, like those of such contemporaries as Alex Toth and Bernard Krigstein, are far more sophisticated than the formulaic scripts they were given to illustrate. Even so, today's comics fans should appreciate these early gems. --Gordon Flagg
Meskin was fabulous, I couldn't believe the ease with which he drew: strong compositions, loose pencils, yet complete; detail without clutter. I loved his stuff. --Steve Ditko
About the Author
Morton Mort Meskin (May 30, 1916–March 29, 1995) was a prolific American comic book artist and life-long New Yorker. Steven Brower is an award-winning former Creative Director for Print, a former art director at the *New York Times* and *The Nation*, co-author and designer of *Woody Guthrie Artworks* (Rizzoli, 2005), and author of *Satchmo: The Wonderful Art and World of Louis Armstrong* (Abrams, 2009). He is on the faculty of Kean University in Union, NJ, Marywood University in Scranton, PA, and The School of Visual Arts in New York City.