



Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

Story and Audioplay by Jim Caswell

Episode Summary

While the Reid family adapts to the changes that have occurred, the city establishes a taskforce dedicated to the capture of the Green Hornet.

Starring

Dan Reid III / Green Hornet	Ken Hallaron
Kanō Reid	Matt Hallaron

and Featuring

Maury Monroe	Jim Caswell
Sheureka Caulfield	April Sadowski
Mishi Kato	Joan Hallaron
Michelle Axford	Louise Francis
Commissioner	Michael Liebmann
Detective Clayton Williams	James C. Taylor
Nurse	Katie Caswell
Doctor	Lee Sands
Sergeant Keith Simon	Mike Fraser

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: DSTV News Studio on the TV

SOUND: A news broadcast over a cheap television set.

MAURY

In local news, the manhunt for the Green Hornet continues. Sources close to the commissioner's office say we can expect an announcement today, appointing the lead investigator of the newly-formed Hornet Taskforce. While unable to confirm who the new appointee will be, many are speculating that Sergeant Keith Simon and Detective Clayton Williams are the frontrunners.

SHEUREKA

Both men have exemplary records. Stay tuned to our news at noon for a detailed examination of both men's careers, followed by live coverage of the announcement at five o'clock this evening.

MAURY

I, for one, will feel safer once the taskforce is up and running. Since he was identified as the prime suspect in the murder of Paul Reid, the police are reporting that the Green Hornet is responsible for a 200% increase in criminal activity.

SHEUREKA (irritated because Maury has gone off teleprompter)

Those statistics are true, Maury, but must be weighed against another set of numbers. The percentage of unsolved crimes in the city has decreased by sixty-three percent, and the number of arrests for such crimes has increased seventy-five percent.

MAURY (irritated that he's forced to defend his point of view)

Sheureka, I've been reporting Green Hornet stories for over forty years. This is the standard operating procedure for him. During his last active reign of terror in the late-eighties and early-nineties, he was well-known for disposing of his competition, either by setting them up to be arrested or by making them "disappear" so he could run the streets. His message to the criminals is to either work for him, or get out of his way.

SHEUREKA

I guess the old saying isn't true: there's no honor among thieves.

MAURY

Or murderers, racketeers, extortionists, drug runners...

SHEUREKA (taking them back to point)

Coming up next, Chef Rober Groleau will show us how to make his award-winning Hollandaise sauce and tell us about the upcoming grand opening of his new restaurant: The French Garden. Stay tuned.

SOUND: Television clicks off.

SCENE 2 – ENTER INT.: Mishi's Hospital Room

SOUND: Fade in on hospital room without emergency machines running.

DAN REID

Mishi. I told you to take it easy. That means not watching the news and letting it get you riled up.

MISHI

What do you expect from me, to just sit here, knitting, while there's crime in the streets and my husband's good name is being dragged through the mud?

DAN REID

No offense, Mishi, but now it's *my* good name being dragged.

MISHI

Whichever. I never liked the fact that we worked outside of the law.

DAN REID

Well, except for...

MISHI (irritated)

My time as the Crimson Wasp was a dark time for me. And it was Paul that pulled me out of that state. In a sense, he saved my life. <breaking down> And I wasn't...

DAN REID

The number of times you saved his life far out-number the times the two of you were out-matched, outgunned, and left defenseless. You cannot blame yourself.

MISHI (hurting)

The words are easy; they are far harder to implement.

DAN REID

Are you sure you're ready to come home? I know that the doctors have cleared you physically, but...

MISHI

I *do not* need to sit down with a stranger and talk about my *feelings*. It won't change anything except make my bad disposition worse. I will get over this, just like I have with all of the other losses in my life, through meditation, hard work, and the love of my family... those that are left.

DAN REID

I just figured I'd ask.

MISHI

Speaking of family, I am surprised Kanō did not come with you.

DAN REID

He's missed so much school lately; I thought he'd be better off trying to get caught back up rather than getting fidgety waiting for the doctor to get around to us. By the time we get out of here and home, he should be getting out for the day.

MISHI

You are right. The last thing we need is for *two* of you being that way. But you must have wanted the company. Otherwise, you wouldn't have brought *her* with you.

DAN REID

Who? Axford? She's been concerned about you ever since the attack. She asks about you constantly. When she learned you were being released today, she insisted on being here for you.

MISHI

Was she concerned for my welfare, or concerned that she gets the exclusive?

DAN REID

That's a bit harsh.

MISHI

She has been one of the main proponents of forming this Hornet Taskforce and calling for your head. It is dangerous to bring her too close to your life outside the Sentinel.

DAN REID

The Axford's have been part of the Daily Sentinel for almost as long as the Reid's, and in that time, they have pursued the Green Hornet like all of their stories; with a passion for truth and justice. When we make ourselves out to be criminals, we have to expect good people to not like us until they know the truth.

SOUND: Hospital door opens.

AXFORD

I couldn't find him anywhere and the staff seems to be under the impression that there are more important things to do in a hospital than get us released.

MISHI

I'm sure you did your best to convince them it would be in their best interest to get rid of us.

AXFORD

Apparently not good enough.

DAN REID

I'll go see what I can do. The doctor and I have a certain... rapport. I'm sure he'll be more than happy to get rid of me. Be right back.

SOUND: Two sets of footsteps crisscross the room, with the door shutting again.

AXFORD

Still holding up OK, Mishi?

MISHI

I am fine, all things considered. I'll be better when I'm rolling through the halls of my own home, rather than here.

AXFORD

Have they given any percentages on the chance you'll regain the

use of your legs?

MISHI

Is this where the interview begins?

AXFORD

No, no. Nothing like that. I'm just asking because I care.

MISHI

Why?

AXFORD

Why what?

MISHI

Why do you care? We were hardly friends before this happened. That leads me to believe that your concern stems from either your pursuit of the Green Hornet or your pursuit of Dan. Either way, I'm not sure I like being used. So which is it, Miss Axford? What are you after?

SOUND: Cue Intro music and monologue.

ACT I

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium Foyer

SOUND: Door opens to an empty condo. Two sets of footsteps enter with a wheelchair.

DAN REID

Home sweet home.

AXFORD

I didn't realize how many stairs there were to this place.

MISHI (chilly)

No reason you should. You've never been here before.

DAN REID

Not to worry. Kanō and I converted the study into a temporary bedroom for you until we figure out what to do on a more permanent basis.

AXFORD

Where do you want the bags?

DAN REID

Right there is fine. Thanks.

SOUND: Luggage is lowered to the floor.

AXFORD

No problem. I should get going, though. I've got a few leads to follow up on before the press conference.

DAN REID

OK. Thanks again for helping out.

AXFORD

You're welcome. See you later Mr. Reid.

SOUND: Footsteps leave the way they came and the door shuts.

DAN REID

What happened when I left at the hospital?

MISHI

I'm sure I don't know what you're talking about.

DAN REID

Please. The air between the two of you has been cold enough to freeze meat.

MISHI

Girl talk. You know, careers, boys, friendships — the usual. You converted the den into a room?

DAN REID

For the moment.

MISHI

Good. That way, if I decide I want to go for a walk, I can take the secret entrance. Oh wait...

DAN REID

I'm sorry, Mishi, but your room upstairs is just impractical at the moment. This way, the den is on the same level as the bathroom and kitchen. We'll start looking for an aide for you as soon as we can, but all things considered, we need to make sure we bring in someone we can trust implicitly.

MISHI

I know. As soon as the time is more convenient, I will call Hytashi in Switzerland. He can find a member of the family to come to the States. That way, they can help me during the day and work with you in the evenings.

DAN REID

I'm sure we can find someone closer to take care of you.

MISHI

Not a Kato. The Green Hornet *needs* a Kato by his side.

DAN REID

Don't worry about that. I have the situation well in hand.

MISHI

No. I won't allow you to work on your own. We both remember what happened to Alan. The Green Hornet *must* have a...

SOUND: Door flies open.

KANO

Mom?

MISHI

Kanō!

SOUND: Footsteps enter the room.

KANO

When did you get here?

MISHI

Just a few minutes ago.

KANO

Then you haven't seen what we've done with the den.

MISHI

Not yet.

DAN REID

As I said, it's only temporary. We might be able to get a team in here and put in an elevator to the second floor, or at least a wheelchair lift.

MISHI

And where do you plan on finding all of these trustworthy people who, if they stumble across the various Green Hornet secrets scattered around the house, won't run off to tell the police? Or your newspaper.

KANO

Mom, Dan's trying his best to help.

MISHI

And how long will we have Dan around to help without a Kato by his side?

SOUND: Silence – 1 beat.

KANO

Mom, Dan has a Kato. Me.

MISHI (flatly)

What?

DAN REID

I was going to bring it up once you were feeling better and re-acclimated to ...

MISHI (angered)

Are you crazy?

KANO

He and I had this discussion. I *am* a Kato, and he needed someone to watch his back.

MISHI (angered)

Yes, you are half Kato, but you're *all* child.

KANO

I *am not* a child. I'm seventeen years old, and I'm going to be eighteen in a couple of months.

MISHI (angered)

Who in their right mind takes a chi... a teenager out to fight crime?
That is insane!

KANO (trying to get through to her)

But mom! I'm only three years younger than you were before you teamed up with dad.

MISHI (angry)

I don't care if you're three *days* younger than I was.

DAN REID

Mishi. Kanō *needed* to help. He was feeling helpless. He wants to help bring your attacker to justice. And he's been more helpful than I ever could have imagined. He...

MISHI (angry, hurt)

And what I *need* is to not lose another son! He's my only son. I forbid it!

KANO

But mom.

MISHI (angry)

No!

DAN REID (uncomfortable)

Listen. I think it would be best if I went out to cover the press conference with Axford. We can talk about this more lat...

MISHI (angry)

No more talking. My answer stands!

DAN REID (uncomfortable)

Kanō, can you help your mom get situated?

KANO

I've got it Dan. Go ahead and go.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: *City Hall Front Steps*

SOUND: A crowd of reporters are gathered, mumbling amongst themselves.

DAN REID

I'm surprised by how crowded it is. I figured there would be local news teams, but there are some network people here too.

AXFORD

Word has it that the governor sanctioned the forming of the taskforce, and a lot of federal officials are claiming concern over the re-emergence of a crime boss like the Hornet. Personally, I think it's because it's an election year and it's much easier to get the people looking at the crooks on the street instead of the crooks in the capitals and Washington, D.C. But hey, if it helps capture the Green Hornet, who am I to complain?

SOUND: Footsteps approach.

DAN REID

And if it brings in viewers and readers...

AXFORD

Exactly.

MAURY

Danny! What brings you out into the field? Wanting a refresher course on what journalists do?

DAN REID

I was about to ask you the same thing, Maury. I didn't think you covered out-of-studio anymore.

MAURY

I convinced Shepherd that, as the foremost authority on the Green Hornet at DSTV, I was the best choice to cover the event.

DAN REID

Just because you made a name for yourself back in the seventies trailing the Hornet, doesn't make you an expert on him. And speaking of which, I caught the noon show. We need to watch the bias, Maury. Remember, we report the news, we don't need to editorialize it as well.

MAURY

That's what I was doing. If anything Sheureka was putting in her two cents worth, but we'll forgive her. She just needs to learn how things work around here.

AXFORD

And maybe now that you're out from behind the cushy desk, you'll learn that things aren't the same as they were back in "the good old days."

MAURY (irritated)

Obviously not. It looks like we're about ready to get started. I'm going to go back to our camera setup. See you later, Danny.

SOUND: Footsteps move away.

DAN REID

God, I hate being called Danny.

AXFORD

You're his boss. Set him straight.

DAN REID

Last time I tried, he laughed and said he knew me back when I was Danny, and I will always be Danny to him.

AXFORD

Was he tight with your dad?

DAN REID

Not really. He was a pompous jerk back then too.

AXFORD

Let's try to get closer to the front.

SOUND: Footfalls move through the crowded area.

DAN REID

So, do *you* want to tell me what went down between you and Mishi?

AXFORD

What do you mean?

DAN REID

When I left the hospital room, something happened between the two of you because, when I came back, there was a ton of tension. What happened?

AXFORD

Nothing important.

DAN REID

Very diplomatic of you. What was it?

AXFORD

She's very defensive right now; hesitant to anything else that could change her world, and very protective of what she has left. I think she found me to be some sort of a threat to her status quo, though I wasn't sure if it was because I was a reporter or because I was a woman.

DAN REID

Possibly both?

AXFORD

Probably both.

DAN REID

Well, I'm sorry that your good deed didn't go unpunished.

AXFORD (laughing slightly)

It wouldn't be a saying if there wasn't a basis in fact.

DAN REID

You're probably right. Change seems to be one of Mishi's worst enemies at the moment.

AXFORD

Thus the reason you're here with me instead of taking care of your cousin.

DAN REID

That, and I figured it would be good to get to know the man who will be hunting the Green Hornet.

AXFORD (teasing)

Get his autograph while it's still inexpensive?

DAN REID

I was thinking something a bit more professional.

AXFORD

Well, it looks like you're about to get your chance. Here they come.

SOUND: The crowd quiets down as footfalls take the stage. The Commissioner speaks through a public address system.

COMMISSIONER (speechifying)

Thank you all for joining us this afternoon. As you all know, our fair city has had its share of prosperity through the years. In spite of the Great Depression and the impact World War II had on this country, we were able to not only survive but prosper thanks to our captains of industry and strong business district. We continued to thrive and grow in the years that followed, becoming the great city we are today thanks to the hard work and diligence of our citizenry. But not all of our residents have been the pinnacles of society. As with any major metropolitan area, we have a criminal element; to deny its existence would be more dangerous than admitting it. Unlike other cities, though, our underbelly is often exposed by the same unscrupulous character; a man who hides his face behind a mask and acts as a puppeteer behind the scenes. While his machinations often swell to the point of bringing him back into the public eye, he slinks off to hide in the shadows as the faithful men and women of the police force bring the crime of this city back under control. With crime statistics at an all-time high, the Green Hornet has resurfaced once again, but this time, we will not allow him to get away. I am proud to announce the formation of a special taskforce of police officers dedicated to bringing down the public threat of the Green Hornet.

SOUND: Polite applause from the press.

COMMISSIONER

After a lengthy discussion of the character and moral fiber of all the candidates, we believe we have found the perfect man to lead the taskforce to its only successful and logical conclusion... the capture and incarceration of the Green Hornet. Without any further adieu, allow me to introduce the new commanding officer of the Hornet Taskforce, Detective Clayton Williams.

SOUND: More polite applause as footfalls approach the mic.

AXFORD (stage whisper)

So, when they catch the Green Hornet, do you think he'll put the same amount of vigor into his announcement that he's running for mayor?

DAN REID (stage whisper)

If Williams is successful in capturing the Hornet, the Commissioner might not get the chance. That's if the people don't nominate Williams for sainthood after the speech.

SOUND: Commissioner steps aside to give Williams the mic.

WILLIAMS

Thank you, Commissioner. To be honest, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to keep my comments brief. I'm not much of a speechmaker and prefer to let my actions speak for me. But you have my word that my team and I will do everything in our power to bring those who bring havoc to our city to justice. Thank you for coming.

SOUND: The crowd erupts with questions as footfalls step away from the mic. The commissioner steps over to cover.

COMMISSIONER

We understand that you have a lot of questions. Please feel free to submit them to our public relations officer and we'll get answers back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

SOUND: More crowd noise.

DAN REID

Well, that was short and to the point.

AXFORD

A bit shorter than any of us imagined, including the commissioner, considering the look on his face. *<increased volume>* Commissioner! Detective Williams! A quick word! *<back to Reid>* Come on. I'm not gonna let them get away without a fight.

SOUND: Movement through the crowd.

AXFORD

Commissioner, wait up! Michelle Axford of the Daily Sentinel!

DAN REID

He's caught up to Williams.

SOUND: More movement.

WILLIAMS

I'm sorry commissioner, but I told you that I didn't have much to say at this point.

COMMISSIONER (angry)

And I told *you* that part of this job was going to be to put a positive spin on this depart...

DAN REID

Excuse me, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER (angry)

I *said* to direct all... <*backpedalling*> Oh, it's you Mr. Reid. Sorry about that. Clayton, I'd like you to meet Dan Reid, publisher of the Daily Sentinel, CEO of SentinelCorp and one of the city's most predominant citizens. I'm sorry, Mr. Reid. If I had known you were going to be in attendance, I would have made accommodations to have you up on the platform with us. After all, The Sentinel has had a long history as a bastion for justice, the truth, and pursuing the Green Hornet.

DAN REID

That's OK. I had a perfectly good view from where I was. Detective Williams, it's good to meet you.

WILLIAMS

And you. Sorry to have wasted your time on all this pomp and circumstance.

COMMISSIONER (irritated)

This "pomp and circumstance" gets the public behind programs like this.

DAN REID

True, but not as much as results. Detective, this is our primary reporter, Michelle Axford. When you have the chance, I know she has some important questions for you. I also wanted to personally extend the support of the Sentinel. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call.

WILLIAMS

Thank you, Mr. Reid. I'd be happy to take the time...

SOUND: Several grenade launchers are fired simultaneously in the distance, dropping smoke bombs on the crowd.

WILLIAMS

... to answer all of your questions in... <coughing starts>

COMMISSIONER (choking)

What's going on?

DAN REID (choking)

Smoke bombs.

AXFORD (choking)

Green smoke bombs.

DAN REID (choking)

Everyone take cover.

SOUND: Sniper rifles fire in the distance, impacting with the ground before being heard. One impacts with a human body. The crowd screams and panics.

DAN REID (choking)

Axford! Where are you?

AXFORD (from a distance - choking)

I'm over here.

DAN REID (choking)

Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER (choking)

Fine.

DAN REID

Williams? <beat> Williams? <beat – a bit more concerned and demanding> Williams!

SOUND: Footfalls stagger a few steps through the smoke.

DAN REID

Commissioner, call for paramedics. The detective's been shot!

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT II

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Hospital Emergency Room

SOUND: A busy ER with a large crowd being treated.

AXFORD (from a distance)

Mr. Reid! Dan! Over here!

SOUND: Footsteps cross room.

DAN REID

Axford. Thank God you're alright.

AXFORD

For the most part. Docs said the smoke aggravated my asthma, but a breathing treatment seemed to help clear it up for the most part.

DAN REID

I'm sorry.

AXFORD

I could've been worse. How's Williams doing?

DAN REID

I'm not sure. I was on my way to check on him when I spotted you.

AXFORD

I can't believe the gall of him, hitting a public official in broad daylight during a press conference. Just about the time I think he can't get any worse, the Green Hornet proves me wrong by upping the ante again.

DAN REID

You think the Hornet's behind this?

AXFORD

Who else could it have been? Williams is the head of the new taskforce and was the only one shot. And using gas isn't just the Hornet's calling card, but the stuff was tinted green. The only thing missing was one of his calling cards, and ten bucks say the cops'll find one of those somewhere in the area before the case is done.

DAN REID

I don't know. The Hornet usually uses knock-out gas, not smoke grenades.

AXFORD (heated)

Used to. He also didn't used to execute people either. *<beat – abashed>* Sorry, Mr. Reid.

DAN REID (forgiving)

It's OK, Axford.

AXFORD

Well, the doc's have cleared me to leave. I'm headed back to the Sentinel to file my story. I'm thinking, headline: Green Hornet Strikes Again!

DAN REID

Allegedly. Remember, all we have is circumstantial evidence at the moment. Let's let the cops convict him if he's guilty.

AXFORD

Just doesn't have the same ring to it: Green Hornet Allegedly Strikes Again. Maybe the chief'll come up with something better.

DAN REID

Probably.

SOUND: Footsteps start to move away.

AXFORD (moving away)

Call me if Williams gives you any good quotes!

DAN REID

Count on it.

SOUND: Footfalls continue down hallway in opposite direction. Stop at counter.

DAN REID

Excuse me, nurse. Can you tell me where to find Detective Williams?

NURSE

He's over there, in room 109.

DAN REID

Thanks.

SOUND: Footfalls continue to door.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: Williams' ER Room

SOUND: Door opens.

DOCTOR (heard as door opens)

... bedrest for the next three days. Make sure you change the bandages every six hours.

DAN REID

Knock, knock.

DOCTOR (irritated)

I'm sorry, but you can't be... oh, it's you.

DAN REID (equally irritated)

We meet again, doctor. Long time no see.

DOCTOR (irritated)

Not nearly long enough. Are you related to Detective Williams as well?

WILLIAMS (sarcastic)

I take it the two of you met.

DOCTOR

Unfortunately.

DAN REID

Unfortunately.

DOCTOR

If you're not related, I'll have to ask you to leave.

WILLIAMS

No, that's OK, doc. He can stay.

DOCTOR (irritated)

If you want. I think we're done here anyway. Any questions?

WILLIAMS

Rest, take my painkillers and antibiotics, keep the wound clean.
Got it.

DOCTOR

Then I'll tell the nurses to get your discharge papers together.
Have a better day.

SOUND: Footfalls cross the room and exit the door.

DAN REID

No worries. They'll have you out of here in six to eight hours, tops.

WILLIAMS (laugh, then wince)

OK, note to self. No laughing until the stitches are removed.

DAN REID

So how bad was it?

WILLIAMS

His bedside manner was atrocious, but he seems competent for a practicing physician.

DAN REID (small laugh)

Yeah, not what I meant, but I'll agree. He took care of my cousin, Mishi, while she was here. I guess he's the surgeon on call for the ER.

WILLIAMS

Mishi Reid. My condolences on the loss of her husband. I got the chance to hear him play once, when I was younger. A very talented concert pianist.

DAN REID

Yeah. <beat> What I meant to say was, how bad was the gunshot wound?

WILLIAMS

Not nearly as bad as it would have been without the timely warning. I was moving sideways when the bullet hit me, grazing my side instead of hitting me in the heart. What made you think we'd be under fire?

DAN REID

Gut instinct mostly. There wasn't any reason for us to be getting smoked out unless someone was laying down cover for something else.

WILLIAMS

Good instincts. Where did you serve?

DAN REID

Oh, I didn't, unless you count Macy's at opening of Black Friday.

WILLIAMS (another snicker and moan)

Jokes.

DAN REID

Yeah, sorry about that.

WILLIAMS

Well, it was a good call none-the-less. Probably saved my life. In my book, that means I owe you one.

DAN REID

Good to know, though I hope you don't mind if I try not to cash it in.

WILLIAMS

Understood. Anything else you need for your story?

DAN REID

Oh, I didn't come in for that, though I'm sure Axford wouldn't mind including the information, if you have no objections.

WILLIAMS

No, that's fine. What angle are you taking with the attack?

DAN REID

She wants to blame the Green Hornet, though I told her not to get ahead of the police.

WILLIAMS

More good instincts. May I tell you something off the record?

DAN REID

Of course.

WILLIAMS

I don't think it was him.

DAN REID

What makes you say that?

WILLIAMS

First, it was smoke, not knockout gas. I don't care if it was tinted green, it breaks the motif. Also, up until the attack on your cousins, he never used deadly force.

DAN REID

I had made similar.... observations myself.

WILLIAMS

Now, I'm not silly enough to think that the Green Hornet that started working this city back in the late thirties is the same guy that we're dealing with now. He'd have to be a hundred years old, and he's way too spry for that. My theory is that it's a persona that gets passed down, either to a relative or trusted lieutenant, but it ain't the same guy.

DAN REID

A good theory.

WILLIAMS

So my best guess is that, if we are dealing with the Green Hornet, it's a new one... one that doesn't play by his predecessors' rules.

DAN REID

If?

WILLIAMS

I'm not willing to rule out the idea that we could have a copycat on our hands. Someone who is trying to take over and get the Hornet to take the blame.

DAN REID

That's an interesting theory. It's a bit different from the one presented during the press conference by the commissioner.

WILLIAMS

He wanted to say what the public wanted to hear. It's a lot easier to blame an old foe rather than face the possibility of a new one. That's why I didn't want to say very much.

DAN REID

Understandable. It also explains the different way you presented it, saying the people responsible rather than naming the Hornet. But you're going to be expected to tow the company line if you want to keep your new position.

WILLIAMS

I know, which is why I'm going to ask that you keep my theories between the two of us until it pans out one way or the other. Will you do that for me?

DAN REID

Your secret is safe with me.

WILLIAMS

Either, way, I'm sure we'll eventually catch up to the Hornet. If it really is the current wearer of the mask, then we'll catch him and make sure he pays for his crimes. But if it's a copycat, I won't be surprised if the real Green Hornet eventually surfaces to clear his reputation. Then we'll bring him to justice too.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: Reid Condominium Foyer

SOUND: Front door opens and footsteps enter. Den door opens, then closes as footsteps exit.

KANO

Dan, is that you?

DAN REID

Yeah, Kanō. How's your mom doing?

KANO

Sleeping.

DAN REID

Good. She still needs as much rest as she can get.

KANO

We saw the press conference. Is everyone OK? The feed got cut, but it sounded like there was gunfire.

DAN REID

Detective Williams was shot, but it was only a flesh wound.

KANO (disappointed)

Oh.

DAN REID

What do you have against Williams already?

KANO

Only the fact that he's been hired to hunt us down.

DAN REID

I got the chance to talk with him. He's a good man. He wants to protect the city, so that puts us on the same side.

KANO

Too bad he doesn't know that.

DAN REID

Anyway, I'm headed out in the Black Beauty to investigate. The whole situation doesn't sit right with me.

KANO

Cool. I'll get the keys. And our new costumes came in this afternoon. I get them too.

DAN REID

Whoa, whoa, slow down. I don't know that it's the best idea for you to come along.

KANO

How many times do we have to have this conversation? You need me, and I've more than proven myself by now.

DAN REID

You're right. You've proven to be a great help out there, but that was before your mom put her foot down. She was pretty adamant about you not being out in the field.

KANO

She's just being overprotective. She lost dad, and she's worried she's going to lose me, too.

DAN REID

It's a reasonable concern. We're not exactly selling Girl Scout cookies out there, and if anyone knows how dangerous it is, it's her.

KANO (bitter)

Yet it didn't stop her and Dad from going out that night, even though they knew they had a son at home who could have become an orphan if something went wrong. I know the risks, just like they did. It didn't stop them from going out there, and it's not going to stop me.

DAN REID

Let's just give her some time.

KANO

To do what, cement her beliefs? No. If the Green Hornet is going out tonight, then so am I. I can either go with you or on my own.

SOUND: beat – 1 count.

DAN REID

You know that's blackmail, right?

KANO

Just fighting fire with fire.

DAN REID

How long has she been asleep?

KANO

About an hour, but it was after she took a painkiller, so she's going to be out for a while.

DAN REID

You realize that, if she catches us, she'll kick both our butts;
wheelchair or no wheelchair.

KANO

Then our best option is to not get caught. Are you coming?

DAN REID

Get the uniforms. I'll prep the Beauty.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT III

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: City Rooftop

SOUND: City noise in distant background. The Hornet Sting fires, causing a door to vibrate open. Footfalls step onto the gravel-covered roof and stop.

KANO

No crime tape, door locked, and no guards. Are you sure we're in the right place?

DAN REID

Given the direction the shots came from, this has to be the place.

KANO

Then why haven't the police already been here?

DAN REID

That's a good question. Let's take a look around, but watch your step. Let's try to leave as little evidence of us being here as possible.

KANO

Not counting the broken lock, of course.

DAN REID

Of course.

SOUND: Footsteps move forward.

KANO

Someone else *has* been up here recently. There are footprints in the gravel.

DAN REID

I'm only seeing one set though. The sniper must have been up here, with the smoke-bomb launchers somewhere else. Which means that any evidence to be found will probably be close to the ledge facing City Hall.

SOUND: Footsteps move across the roof.

KANO (a short distance away)

From what you told me, it was pretty obvious where the shots were coming from. I realize that things were pretty hectic, but I would have thought they would've checked out all of these roofs within a half hour of the attack.

DAN REID

Especially considering it was one of their own.

SOUND: Footsteps stop.

DAN REID

Not to mention the fact that this place is *littered* with evidence.

KANO (a short distance away)

What did you find?

DAN REID

Shell casings. A lot of them.

SOUND: Footsteps approach from a short distance away.

KANO

What's your definition of "a lot?"

DAN REID

At least a dozen or more. About the same number as was unloaded on the crowd below.

KANO

And it's not like they're hard to find. Why didn't the shooter pick up after himself? It's like he made no effort to cover up the crime scene.

DAN REID

He didn't.

KANO

It's like he *knew* no one would look around up here.

DAN REID

Maybe he did.

KANO

Are you saying that you think a cop was involved?

DAN REID

I'm saying that it's a possibility. Let's see exactly how sloppy or overconfident he was.

SOUND: A shell is picked up off the ground.

KANO

You think there might be a fingerprint?

DAN REID

It's hard to tell in this light, but I think there's a partial print here. Let's head back down to the Beauty and find out, shall we?

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: Parking Garage

SOUND: Distance city noise echoes inside an empty parking garage. The car trunk opens.

DAN REID

Boot up the laptop and attach the scanner to the USB port while I see if I can lift this print.

KANO

Do you think you'll need to smoke it?

DAN REID

I hope not. We don't have an airtight container. If we have to go to that length, we'll have to head back to the lair.

SOUND: A jar opens while the computer starts up.

KANO

How many times have you done this?

DAN REID

Not nearly as often as I should, but more frequently than your average newspaper publisher.

KANO

Then be careful. I don't want to have to go all the way up to the roof again to get you another one. And why didn't we take more than one?

SOUND: Dusting with powder. A plug is plugged into the computer.

DAN REID

Because if I'm right, I don't want the cops to think we tampered with evidence when we eventually get them up there to investigate.

KANO

They won't miss one shell, but take them all and the crime scene disappears.

DAN REID

Exactly.

KANO

How's the print?

DAN REID

Choppy, but hopefully it has enough minutia and patterns to get a match. Hand me a lifting tape.

SOUND: Tape is separated from its backer.

KANO (warning)

Careful.

DAN REID (echoing tone)

I know.

SOUND: Tape is pulled away from shell.

KANO

Did you get it?

DAN REID

It looks like it. Run it into the scanner while I log into the database.

SOUND: The scanner scans while computer keys are typed on.

KANO

What database?

DAN REID

The police database.

KANO

How do we have access to the police database?

DAN REID

Back when your folks were doing this, Aunt Diana was the District Attorney. She set up a backdoor into the police database for them to use, and through it we can access their fingerprint analysis programs and IAFIS.

KANO

How long will it take to check for a match?

DAN REID

It depends on how far it has to dig. It could take hours...

SOUND: Computer beeps.

DAN REID

...or just a couple of seconds, apparently.

KANO

Who's is it?

DAN REID

According to this, there's a ninety-three percent match to Sergeant Keith Simon.

KANO

Wasn't that the guy who was in the running with Williams for head of the taskforce?

DAN REID

The one and only. Let's go pay him a visit and ask him why he took losing so hard.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: *Sergeant Keith Simon's Home*

SOUND: Barefoot feet pad across a linoleum floor in a quiet house. A refrigerator door opens.

GREEN HORNET

Did all that shooting this evening give you an appetite, Sarge?

SOUND: A plate drops and breaks.

SIMON (surprised)

What? Who's back there?

GREEN HORNET

You know, midnight snacks are bad for your health. But, then again, so is crossing me.

SIMON (nervous)

The Hornet. We were wondering if you'd show your face.

GREEN HORNET

We?

SIMON

The taskforce. It only makes sense that, after going after Williams, you'd come after me. I just didn't think you'd be ballsy enough to do it in my own home.

GREEN HORNET

You know that's not why I'm here. You know better than anyone that I'm not the one who shot Williams.

SIMON

Of course you were. Everyone knows it.

GREEN HORNET

Not everyone believes that sloppy frame job you pulled. The whole operation was sloppy: using smoke instead of gas, opening fire into a crowd, and...

SOUND: A baggy unfolds.

GREEN HORNET

... leaving shell casings with your fingerprints on them on the rooftop. But you figured that, with Williams dead, you wouldn't have to worry about policing your brass. You'd just let the finger point at me. You didn't think I'd find out?

SIMON

I thought you might. That's why I planted the idea in the minds of the taskforce. That way, when I brought you down, everything would be clean.

GREEN HORNET

It's really hard to clean *that* much slop.

SIMON

Fortunately, I have a pretty good eraser right here.

SOUND: A gun is pulled from the top of the fridge. The trigger is pulled, but no shot.

GREEN HORNET

You know, Keith, you really should find a better place to store your sidearm. Someplace safer, more secure. Someplace that someone breaking into your house can't find it in thirty seconds and remove the bullets.

SOUND: An empty gun clicks, then clicks twice more.

GREEN HORNET

In case the first time didn't work? It's not nearly as effective without these.

SOUND: Bullets are dropped to the floor.

GREEN HORNET

You don't strike me as being smart enough to come up with this on your own. I mean, it was a poorly-planned event, but I think it's still beyond your capabilities. So who are you on the take from?

SIMON

Everybody answers to the Exterminator right now.

GREEN HORNET

So the plan was for you to take over the taskforce, looking the other way on his dealings while coming after me?

SIMON

Among others. But all isn't lost yet. I just need to make sure I get things cleaned up. The second you leave, I'll be on the phone. Then it'll be your word against mine.

GREEN HORNET

And what makes you think I'm going to leave you able to make that call?

SIMON

The general public may think the Green Hornet's turned a cold-blooded killer, but we still know better.

GREEN HORNET

Again, you forget something.

SOUND: Gas gun fires.

GREEN HORNET

Knockout gas, not smoke.

SOUND: Body falls.

GREEN HORNET

Sloppy.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 4 – CUT TO INT.: Detective Clay Williams' Apartment - Bedroom

SOUND: A quiet apartment bedroom. WILLIAMS gently snores in the bed.

GREEN HORNET (gently)

Detective Williams.

WILLIAMS (startled awake)

Who's there?

GREEN HORNET

Feel free to turn on the light beside your bed, but please be advised that the gun in your bed stand has been unloaded, so reaching for it would be useless.

SOUND: A light switch clicks on.

WILLIAMS

The Green Hornet, I presume. The question is, which one?

GREEN HORNET

Which one would have awakened you to talk rather than shooting you where you slept?

WILLIAMS

Good point, but you're also new.

GREEN HORNET

What gives you that idea?

WILLIAMS

I met your predecessor when I was a child.

GREEN HORNET

That was a long time ago.

WILLIAMS

It was a memorable experience. What do you need from me?

GREEN HORNET

I wanted to inform you that the attack on you this afternoon was *not* perpetrated by me. The man responsible was Sergeant Keith Simon in a bid to take over the taskforce.

WILLIAMS

I hope you have some proof.

GREEN HORNET

There is a bullet casing in your bedside table, next to your gun. It has his print on it. There are also a dozen more of them on the top of the building he attacked you from. The scene has not been investigated yet, so make sure you send men you are sure you can trust. You will also want to send some over to his house, where he is currently asleep on his kitchen floor.

WILLIAMS

So he's dirty.

GREEN HORNET

Him and several others, I'm sure.

WILLIAMS

And how do I know he doesn't work for you?

GREEN HORNET

Because I wouldn't be stupid enough to put a hit out on a man the first day on the job. I'd see how useful he was first, then drive him out of the city if he wasn't; not kill him.

WILLIAMS

Then who does he work for?

GREEN HORNET

A man calling himself the Exterminator.

WILLIAMS

Another masked man?

GREEN HORNET

I would assume so. We haven't met face to face, yet.

WILLIAMS

What's with the villains in this city? You'd think you all thought you were in a comic book or something.

GREEN HORNET

Or something.

WILLIAMS

Thank you for tracking down the man who shot me, even though it did as much for you as it did for me.

GREEN HORNET

As you say, I got something out of the deal as well, but you're welcome.

WILLIAMS

But don't get any funny ideas. You're still public enemy number one, and someday soon, I'm not going to be lying unarmed in my bed. You will be held accountable for your actions.

GREEN HORNET

I wouldn't expect anything less from you. On that note, I'll take my leave so you can bring others to justice. Be a good detective and save us both some hassle. Count to thirty before you come after me. I'd hate to have to gas you too and take the chance of Simon getting away.

WILLIAMS

Understood.

GREEN HORNET

Take care of yourself, detective.

WILLIAMS

You too, Hornet.

SOUND: Transition music.

EPILOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium Living Room

SOUND: Door slides open on a quiet apartment. Footsteps enter the kitchen area.

KANO

I still don't understand why I couldn't come in with you. It sounds like you had a blast with Simon.

DAN REID

The Hornet's aide is rarely seen and even more rarely heard. You giggling at him in the corner wouldn't have contributed to the enforcer reputation.

KANO

I wouldn't have giggled.... <*snickering*> much.

MISHI (from across the room)

This is *not* a laughing matter.

KANO (surprised)

Mom!

DAN REID (concerned)

Are you all right?

MISHI (controlled anger)

No, I *am not* all right. I made it perfectly clear that Kanō was *not* to go out with the Green Hornet anymore. Imagine how *all right* I was to wake up *alone*, realizing that the two of you went *behind my back* to do the exact thing I told you not to.

DAN REID

Mishi, let me explain.

MISHI (angry)

No! *Nothing* you can say will excuse this!

KANO

Mother.

MISHI (angry)

Go to your room!

KANO (angry)

No!

DAN REID (trying to calm)

Kanō. Let me handle this.

KANO (angry)

No. This is my choice, my responsibility! I will not be talked to like a three year old. I decided to go with Dan tonight, just as I decide to continue working with him to bring the Exterminator to justice.

MISHI (dismissive)

Who?

KANO (angry)

The man who attacked father and you. The man who has laid waste to this family and this city. The man who has corrupted the police and put fear into the hearts of good people. And you can ban me from working with the Green Hornet, but you can't stop me from doing what's right. If I have to, I'll work on my own.

SOUND: Silence – 2 count.

DAN REID

So which way do you want him to play it? Is he Kato or does he become the Crimson Wasp?

MISHI (resolved)

I want him to be safe, but seeing as he has so much of his father in him...

DAN REID

... and his mother.

MISHI (resolved)

... I would rather him do so with someone who cares as much about his safety as I do. I assume this argument of his is not new to you?

DAN REID

I've heard it a few times now.

MISHI

Thus the reason you have submitted. You really *have* learned well from your predecessors, haven't you Dan?

DAN REID

I try.

MISHI

There's just *so much* change, much too fast.

DAN REID

I understand, and I'm afraid there are more changes that are needed. You were right that you shouldn't have awoken to an empty home. We need to bring someone in to help, but it's going to be hard to find someone we can trust.

MISHI

And yet more, if you were serious about redesigning the condo.

DAN REID

I've been thinking about that. At the moment, I'm the only one living at the manor. The place is far too big for me, but it would be a nice size for the two of you and a small staff to live. It would take very little to make the entire house wheelchair accessible again.

KANO

Are you trying to get rid of me?

DAN REID

No. We can bring in a small crew to expand the garage so you can both bring the Black Beauty out to work on it together. When we're working in the city, you can keep your room here for the late nights. It means living in two places, but...

KANO

But there are kids younger than me who do it under worse circumstances.

MISHI

That's a matter of opinion.

DAN REID

But your main residence is going to be the manor with your mom.

MISHI

Are you sure you want to move? The manor has been your home since you were a child.

DAN REID

It's a house, not a home. Not anymore. I'd rather it be a home to you guys. <joking> Though I will be sure to show Kanō all the cool secret passages.

KANO

It would be nice to be able to work on the Beauty together. All that time we spent talking about theoretical engineering, and I didn't know that you had a complete model right beneath us.

MISHI

It may be a little while before we can do that, but you are right. It would be nice.

DAN REID

So, are we agreed?

MISHI

This place holds a lot of memories for me as well, but yes, with all of the changes that have been forced upon us, we must now institute changes of our own to adapt.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

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Ending Credits

You have been listening to The New Green Hornet – Episode 2: Ch... Ch... Changes, starring (in order of appearance) Ken Hallaron as The Green Hornet and Matt Hallaron as Kano.

This presentation also featured Jim Caswell as Maury Monroe, April Sadowski as Sheureka Caulfield, Joan Hallaron as Mishi Kato, Louise Francis as Michelle Axford, Michael Liebmann as the Commissioner, James C. Taylor as Detective Clayton Williams, Katie Caswell as the nurse, Lee Sands as the Doctor and Mike Fraser as Sergeant Keith Simon.

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