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Synopsis
"Shadows of Conscience"
Oct 16

" Shadows of Conscience " , W. D. Russell's seven-reel super-production is a picture of American life in the nineties in one of its most dramatic phases . Starting with a depiction of lawlessness in a small village in Wyoming, wherein the crimes of murder and worse than murder are reflected upon the reputation of an innocent man, and continuing with after an interval of ten years, with a story of his escape from suspicion on a California ranch, and later the sensational encounter between man and brute, the picture aims at a strong combination of human interest and melodrama.

Action starts in Jackson's Hole County in the Astor House , formal andinformal hang-out for the town and surrounding country, and owned by Wade Curry , powerful because he is feared not because of any love the others bear toward him. Receiving a note from Alice, the woman who has shared his life until recently , which is born to him by Pedro, the fiathful half-breed who is caring for Alice, and which contains a pitiful message asking for Wade's help, he tears it up in front of the entire assembly and when Pedro begs for a return message, knocks him down.

About this time three strangers are on their way toward the town. Two of them, Westley Coburn and his small daughter Winnie, are together, hastening toward Curry's home, in an effort of Coburn's to adjust a mining deal in which he has formed a partnership with Curry. The other one, Jim Logan, is a fearless plainsman who has come from a great distance in the hope of seeing his sister Alice, whom he believes is the wife of Curry.

Curry , who has received at letter from Coburn, meets him in a pass in the mountains, and as Coburn stoops down to get water at the spring, shoots him. This, Jim Logan, from a recess in the rocks, sees. he dashes forward to rescue the child whom Curry has brutally snatched and the two men have a desperate fight, in which Jim comes out victorious. Taking the child back to the dying father, he promises to care for her the rest of her life.

A bewildering snow storm then comes up and with difficulty Logan succeeds in making his way through the strange lands to the Astor House, carrying Winnie in his arms. When he arrives at the hotel, he gives over the exhausted child to the good-hearted wife

of the manager and stepping up to the desk inquirbes for " Mrs. Curry ". An insulting sneer from one of the hands is the answer. " Did you say Mrs. Curry ? " he yells and there is a general tension among the by-standers. The stranger comes back with a level voice and a level eye as he repeats his question. A lieutenant steps up and offers to direct him to Wade's shack.

Logan finds his sister neglected and hears her sad story of Wade's cruelty and desertion. Examining her marriage certificate he ddiscovers that it is a forgery. Wade, who has been informed that a stranger has arrived and is visiting his " wife ", arrives at the shack and in answer to Logan's dramatic accusation informs him that his sister is no more than any other woman to him. In a fierce fight that follows, Wade is thrown and Logan wounded. As he takes his sister in his arms, Wade shoots and she is killed. Wade escapes and hastens to the hotel where he tells a false story of Logan's character and ends with calling him the murderer of Alice. Logan comes in and keeps the entire assembly at bay, as he points his gun at them. Winnie rushes up to him, and he tells her to go outside. Backing his way toward the door, he holds them off, bolts the door immediately he it outside, and with Pedro's assfstance rides away with Winnie. Wade is left to the tortures of his conscience.

Ten years pass and he is comfortably established on a California ranch awaiting the return of Winnie from a convent where she has just been graduated. He details a number of his men to bring her home, and a cheerful expedition sets forth. ~~xxxxx~~ While they are discussing what methods they will use, a ~~stranger~~ who proves to be Wade Curry comes up and hears with surprise the mention of the little girl's name, Winnie Coburn Sherman. He is suspicious that Jim has taken the name of Sherman, and decides to get something on him. After a consultation with William Crafts, an unscrupulous lawyer, they summon Winnie to the office under the pretext of formally making her queen of the Spring Fiesta. Upon meeting her, Wade falls in love with her and temporarily abandons his evil plans. But word from the sheriff of his home town urges him to keep on the trail of Logan, and so they break the news to Winnie and her "father" that he is under arrest.

He answers the summons and appears before a great crowd in the Casa Grande Resort where he seeks out the real criminal, Curry, and putting out the lights, gives Curry the thrid degree in the moonlight, telling the story of his sister's death and ending with a grab at his man, and an accusation. Wade is forced into a confession, is taken over by the authorities and Winnie is assured of her guardian's innocence and freedom.

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