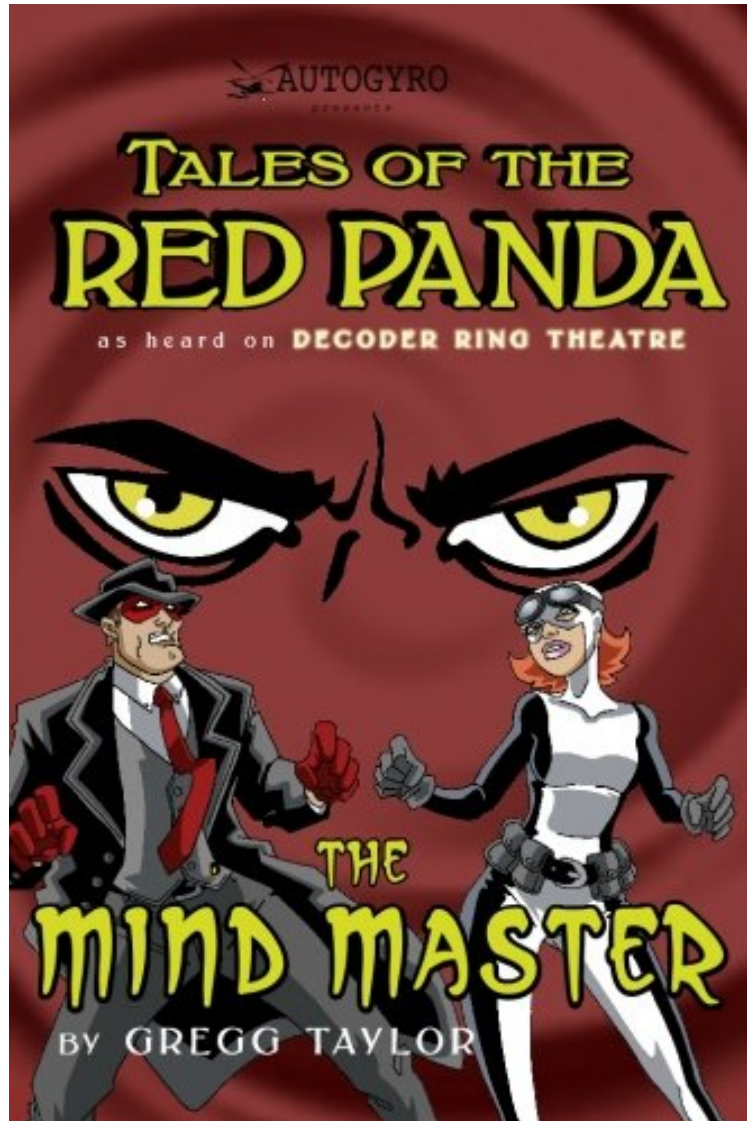


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Tales of the Red Panda: The Mind Master

Gregg Taylor

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Gregg Taylor : Tales of the Red Panda: The Mind Master before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tales of the Red Panda: The Mind Master:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Red Panda's secretive past comes crashing into his presentBy C. FusnerHaving been a fan of Decoder Ring Theatre's podcasts for some time now, I've avidly followed both the Red Panda and Black Jack Justice through all their many seasons. I am delighted that Gregg Taylor has branched out into other media and these novels are everything I could have expected. If you are already a fan of the podcasts, one thing

that will strike you is that the writing is a pitch perfect representation of the style of the audio stories, and you will easily find your own imagination supplying the familiar voices of the cast as you read. I was especially delighted with this particular story, as it supplies some back story on the journey of young August Fenwick to become the Red Panda we know and love. Fans of the series will know how sparing Gregg Taylor typically is about releasing background on this particular hero. After all, the Red Panda is called a "mystery man" for a reason, and mysteries are meant to be savored as they slowly unfold. It took, I believe, four seasons of the podcasts before we even learned the name of the Red Panda's secret identity. Indeed, Taylor would often play it coy, sometimes dancing around that basic piece of info in a teasing way. So if it took that long to learn a name, an actual glimpse of Fenwick's developmental years is a rare treat indeed. (It gives me hope we may yet hear the story of how the Red Panda first became so averse to having other "mystery men" operating in his beloved Toronto.) My only gripe with these books is a technical one specific to the Kindle editions: for some reason, the default font size is very tiny on my screen. Luckily the device lets me change the default font size, as I might otherwise have happily given myself eye strain devouring these gems. Podcasts, books, comics. Whatever medium you choose, Mr. Taylor, by all means, keep 'em coming!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend the Mind Master. By Customer. This book, along with the others in the series (The Crime Cabal, and The Android Assassin's) are exceptionally well written and hold your attention from page one. Gregg Taylor, who also writes and produces the Decoder Ring Theatre podcast, featuring the Red Panda episodes as well as Black Jack Justice, is in my opinion an extremely talented and under rated author. He manages to capture the essence of the old pulp novels and radio drama's of the 30's and 40's in a way that no one else can. He pays homage to the old time characters (the Shadow etc.) while still managing to be fresh and very entertaining, and not just a blatant copy of past stories and characters. I highly recommend the Mind Master, as well as the aforementioned The Crime Cabal and The Android Assassin's to anyone interested in cliffhanger mysteries from a past era, which are proving just as relevant and exciting today. I just purchased the latest in the Red Panda Series, The Pyramid of Evil, and even though I've only finished several chapters, it's proving to be another great read, and is well worth a purchase at twice the price.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Another bullseye for Master Taylor. By Zapatos. You would think that a man so vehemently allergic to origin stories might have trouble writing one, but you would be most wrong in the case of one Gregg Taylor. Taylor skillfully weaves together a fantastic adventure with long untold backstory, and the end result is The Mind Master, a superb addition to the Red Panda Universe. The Mind Master is the second in the Tales of the Red Panda series of novels, which are, in turn, based on the wonderful audiodrama series The Red Panda Adventures. Both tell of the exploits of the Red Panda and the Flying Squirrel, a pair of superheroes fighting to keep Toronto safe in the dark times of the Great Depression, and both are written with a great love and appreciation of both the audiodrama and the pulp genres. The Mind Master carries on the tradition with a strong plot, snappy dialog, and some of the best romantic banter this side of Metropolisville. It builds and improves on its predecessor, The Crime Cabal, with a far creepier villain and an even better finale. Finally: most stories in the Red Panda Universe focus equally on our two superheroes, and if one is ever given the spotlight over the other, it's usually Kit. The Mind Master is a bit of a rarity, in that it is truly a "Red Panda" story; it's about his past, his problems, his rival. This is to its credit, I feel; the Red Panda, beloved though he may be, has always been almost as mysterious to listeners as he is to the bad guys. Now, 5 years after we've met him, it feels immensely satisfying to get to know more about him as a person, rather than just a hero. The only bad part of the book? Getting to the end. The wait 'til the next one's going to be long indeed.

Sinister forces are at work, striking within the very heart of the city's elite with powers that seem otherworldly. Are the attacks random? Simply for profit? Or is an unknown predator hunting our masked heroes themselves? If the mysterious Ajay Shah really does have powers that rival the Red Panda, will even the Terrific Twosome of Toronto be able to resist the might of... The Mind Master? The second volume of the Tales of the Red Panda series is written in the breathless style of the classic "Hero Pulp" of the 1930s and 40s. The heroes from "The Red Panda Adventures"; a popular full-cast audio drama adventure series make the leap into pulp prose in spectacular style. This story is a self-contained adventure; you needn't have heard a single episode of Decoder Ring Theatre's long-running audio drama series to enjoy the thrills, mystery and adventure... but fans of the series will take special delight, as the story fits neatly within the series continuity. If you love classic adventure stories, mystery men, pulp fiction and golden age superheroics, you won't want to miss Tales of the Red Panda: The Mind Master!

About the Author Gregg Taylor is a writer, director and actor who turned his small theatre company away from the world of empty chairs and greasepaint and into the wide world of the internet. Setting a course for the part of the map labeled "Here Be Dragons", Taylor and the small but hardy band of adventurers that make up the Decoder Ring Theatre ensemble turned to the new medium of podcasting to bring the world a second golden age of radio-style adventure and mystery. A million downloads later, the pulp heroics of The Red Panda Adventures and the noir stylings of Black Jack Justice have fans all over the globe, and Taylor created the Tales of the Red Panda pulp novel series with the same notion as the radio shows... that this was an actual creation from the 1930s, of which this is a single two-

fisted issue.