

It's winter holiday season in Spring Falls and Mick Sentry plans to kick back, enjoy, and spread some cheer through volunteering at a local soup kitchen. An ill-planned family visit from his sister Hannah, her adorable children Jason and Emily, and her irascible husband Earl has Mick hosting his in-laws at his efficiency apartment. Then there's the quirky old man at the kitchen who says he's *who*? And amid the holiday shoppers and celebrations a bomber is terrifying Spring Falls citizens.

When a series of explosions rock Spring Falls, circumstances force Mick to don his outfit and become the Knight Shade. With no one claiming responsibility, the Knight Shade and the police wonder, are the bombings random acts of violence, or a smokescreen for something more sinister? Mick Sentry has to guard his vigilante identity from his family, keep his holiday commitment, and stop the bomber before he reaches his real target. With crime, relatives, and a surprise visit from Father Christmas, can the Knight Shade find the terrorist to stop further bombings, and become a quick-change artist to keep his identity a secret?

THE KNIGHT SHADE FILES:  
**OPEN SLAY**



Michael Sensale

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Paperback ISBN: 9798426407220



## TO BEGIN

**L**ATIN AMERICA IS A LONG WAY FROM SPRINGS FALLS, but the anger and violence spawned by greed and corruption would come to taint the city's joyful holiday.

Winter was in full swing in Spring Falls. It had snowed off and on since Thanksgiving. Every rooftop was blanketed in white. All around the streets and sidewalks below, the snow faded to shades of brown and black. The sidewalks bore white blotches where boots were stomped to shake the snow loose. People were in a state of increasing holiday anticipation, completing their last minute shopping before the celebrations...

But a solitary figure moved against the cheerful crowd, head down, shoving and bumping his way directly towards Chandler's General Store and Delicatessen.



## PART ONE

*Late evening, December 16...*

**T**HE SPRING FALLS CITY OFFICES WERE ABUZZ with activity preparing for the Yuletide Festival and Parade scheduled for December 20. At first, the Yuletide Festival and Parade was a quaint tradition, marking the change of the seasons. However, as times changed, so did the meaning of the festival and parade. Through both World Wars and the Great Depression, the Yuletide Festival and Parade became more than just a seasonal marker. It became a cornerstone of the town's culture, a reminder of the simpler times that came before, and a nostalgia for a return to those times. Public Works was making sure all the necessary utility lines were operational for the lights and displays. Parks, Culture, and Leisure were organizing the itinerary for the bands and floats that would be in the parade. The Spring Falls Fire and Rescue department was preparing itself for action should an emergency arise. The Spring Falls Police Department was on full alert, not just for the usual petty crimes that occurred during the holiday season, but also for something worse.