

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL

Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

Volume 32 CONTENTS FOR AUGUST, 1938 Number 2

Cover Design M. Brundage
Illustrating "The Wolf-Girl of Josselin"

The Wolf-Girl of Josselin Arlton Eadie 130
An engrossing novelette of the Barking Women of Josselin, the Ghoul Pack, and the struggle between a mother's love and an ancient curse

Empty House Cristel Hastings 149
Verse

The Venomed Breath of Vengeance Scabury Quinn 150
A curious story about Jules de Grandin, occult detective, and an East Indian whose very breath was lethal

The Fire Princess Edmond Hamilton 167
A thrill-tale of the dreadful valley of Koom and the Place of Power that was the tomb of the Ancient Ones

Lines Written in the Realization that I Must Die Robert E. Howard 196
Verse

Green Horror H. Thompson Rich 197
What was that hideous apparition that lured Joan to the greenhouse and snayed beside her father as he worked?

The Black Drama (end) Gans T. Field 207
An eldritch tale about the eery personality that was called Varduk—a story about Lord Byron

Dead Dog Manly Wade Wellman 222
A large black dog it was, that lived for the sole purpose of avenging its master

Three Gentlemen in Black August W. Derleth 228
Harper felt safe in his country retreat, but he had not counted on the presence of three malevolent gentlemen in black

The Tree H. P. Lovecraft 234
A brief weird fantasy by a late master of weird fiction

Weird Story Reprint:

 Invaders from Outside J. Schlossel 237
 A weird-scientific story from an early issue of WEIRD TALES

In November Only Marion Doyle 250
Verse

The Eyrie 251
Department wherein our readers exchange comments

Published monthly by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company, 2457 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Entered as second-class matter March 20, 1923, at the post office at Indianapolis, Ind., under the act of March 3, 1879. Single copies, 25 cents. *Subscription rates:* One year in the United States and possessions, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Spain, \$2.50; Canada, \$2.75; elsewhere, \$3.00. English office: Otis A. Kline, c/o John Paradise, 86 Strand, W. C. 2, London. The publishers are not responsible for the loss of unsolicited manuscripts, although every care will be taken of such material while in their possession. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and must not be reproduced either wholly or in part without permission from the publishers.

NOTE—All manuscripts and communications should be addressed to the publishers' Chicago office at 840 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. FARNSWORTH WRIGHT, Editor.

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

In November Only

By MARION DOYLE

Ghosts do not walk the earth in carefree April—
 Never believe your eyes if they tell you so:
 Those shadowy shapes half hid in feathery hedges
 Are only wild-plum cowled with blossomy snow.
 Nor where the sensual body of the earth
 Lies with her lover in each emerald glade,
 For anyone knows that the ecstasy of summer
 Would break into bits the brittle heart of a shade.
 In winter they cannot rise; they lie in durance,
 Bound by the great White Beast with chains of sleet:
 The spectral visions you see of a winter midnight
 Are only whirlwinds of snow in the silent street.

But when November comes, and the wild geese flying
 Above the iron fountains of the trees,
 Over the last bloom in the garden dying,
 Fling down their call, the dead stir in unease—
 Strain at their bonds grown pliant with year's rust,
 Arise; shake off the gray sepulchral dust;
 Repeat the well-remembered *Sesame*
 And walk the ways of men; rebellious, free.

For there is something fey about November:
 The arras hung between the quick and the dead
 Grows thinner and more fragile than the leaf
 A sentient wind whirls lightly overhead.