

## THE CATALEPTIC

*By Charles Layng*

DOWN the road there comes a tombstone,  
Restless on Saint Swithin's night;  
White and ghastly in the shadows,  
Gleaming bleakly in the light.

Passing by, I chanced to meet it,  
Looked into its eyes of flame,  
Then I paused with horror stricken,  
For on its face it bore my name.

Horrified, I wandered homeward,  
Frightened, palsied, groaning loud,  
While my limbs could scarce support me  
Agonized, I donned a shroud.

Then a casket rose before me,  
Finely wrought in bronze and gold,  
It was lovely, for a coffin,  
But its sides were dewed with mold.

Haltingly I clambered in it,  
Into my unearthly bed,  
How vile the smell of funeral lilies,  
As they clustered round my head.

Lump by lump, the clods are falling,  
Dimmer, dimmer grows the light,  
A trumpet blast! Oh, sound appalling,  
I am dead, and it is night.

## *Table of Contents*

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THE ABYSMAL HORROR -----	3
B. WALLIS	
BLACK SORCERY -----	13
PAUL ANNIXTER	
THE HAND OF FATMA -----	21
HARRY ANABLE KNIFFIN	
THE MAN WHO BANISHED HIMSELF -----	25
FERDINAND BERTHOUD	
A GAME OF CHANCE -----	29
HENRY LIEFERANT AND SYLVIA B. SALZBERG	
THE OPEN WINDOW -----	33
FRANK OWEN	
THE CAT CALLED CARLOS -----	37
H. F. LESLIE	
THE PICTURE IN THE HOUSE -----	40
H. P. LOVECRAFT	
DRACONDA -----	43
JOHN MARTIN LEAHY	
THE HOOK OF DEATH -----	56
MRS. HARRY PUGH SMITH	
THE MONSTROSITY -----	64
GEORGE W. CRANE	
THE COBRA LILY -----	69
LEDYARD M. BAILEY	
WEIRD CRIMES -----	78
SEABURY QUINN	
THE BLACK CAT -----	83
EDGAR ALLAN POE	
THE EYRIE -----	86
THE EDITOR	

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