

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL

# Weird Tales

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

# *The* Jolly Hangman

By EDGAR DANIEL KRAMER

I am the jolly hangman,  
 Alone in my little house  
 With the lamp and the shifting shadows  
 And the feet of a furtive mouse;  
 Though folks are turning from me  
 With eyes that are wide with dread,  
 I laugh, as I sip my toddy  
 And swallow my hard-earned bread.

I am forever singing  
 A bit of a haunting tune  
 That I caught from the lips of a dreamer,  
 As he dropped through the afternoon;  
 And this is what I am humming  
 Over and over again:  
 "Men are but ghosts of shadows,  
 And shadows but ghosts of men!"

I am the jolly hangman,  
 Singing the long night through,  
 Hearing the breeze in the lilacs,  
 Seeing the moon in the dew,  
 Laughing at folks who shun me,  
 Scorning to seek my bed,  
 As I drink till the dawn and wonder  
 If dead men are truly dead.