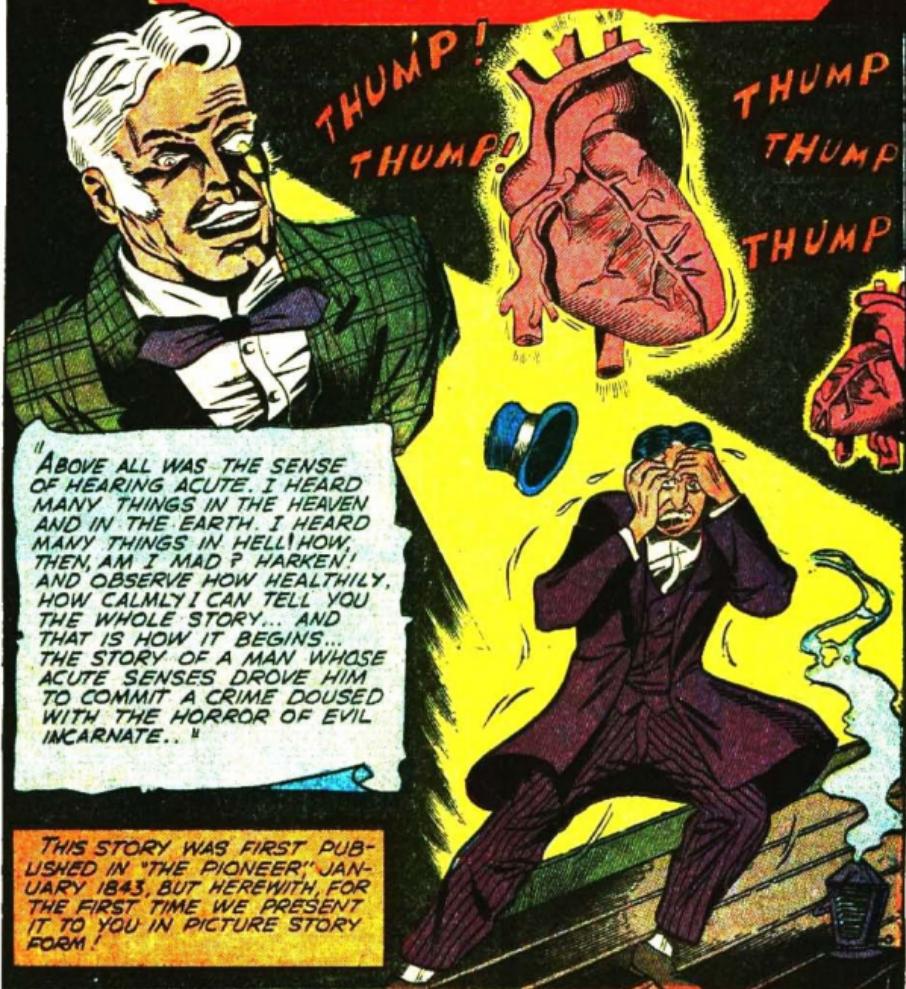


FAMOUS TALES of TERROR

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

"THE TELL TALE HEART"



"OUR STORY UNFOLDS IN THE GLOOMY QUARTERS OF MY VICTIM--THE OLD MAN AND I WERE FAST FRIENDS...[MIGHT SAY I LOVED HIM, BUT--]



"ONE OF HIS EYES RESEMBLED THAT OF A VULTURE--WHENEVER IT FELL ON ME, MY BLOOD RAN COLD! THE EVIL EYE!"



"ONE DAY I MADE UP MY MIND TO TAKE THE LIFE OF THE OLD MAN, AND RID MYSELF OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE EYE FOREVER."



"I PROCEEDED WISELY--CAUTIOUSLY AND WITH GREAT FORESIGHT--"



"FOR SEVEN NIGHTS ABOUT MIDNIGHT, I TURNED THE LATCH OF HIS DOOR, AND WHEN I MADE AN OPENING, I THRUST FORWARD MY DARKENED LANTERN--"



"THEN I OPENED THE LANTERN--A THIN RAY OF LIGHT FELL ON THE OLD MAN'S VULTURE EYE, BUT I FOUND THE EYE WAS ALWAYS CLOSED!"



"IT WAS NOT THE OLD MAN WHO VEXED ME, BUT HIS EVIL EYE. EVERY MORNING, I WENT AND SPOKE COURAGEOUSLY TO HIM, INQUIRING HOW HE PASSED THE NIGHT."



"UPON THE EIGHTH NIGHT I WAS MORE THAN USUALLY CAUTIOUS"



"I HAD MY HEAD IN AS USUAL AND WAS ABOUT TO OPEN THE LANTERN, WHEN MY THUMB SLIPPED ON THE FASTENING AND ---"

"WHO'S THERE?"



"PRESENTLY I HEARD A SLIGHT GROAN--IT WAS THE GROAN OF MORTAL TERROR! HIS FEARS HAD BEEN GROWING ON HIM!"

"OHHHHH"



"I WAITED A LONG TIME BEFORE I OPENED A LITTLE CREVICE IN THE LANTERN, UNTIL ---"

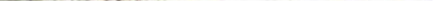


"O--UNTIL AT LENGTH THE SINGLE RAY SHOT FULL UPON THE VULTURE'S EYE OF THE OLD MAN!!!"



"SUDDENLY THERE CAME TO MY EARS A LOW, DULL, QUICK SOUND -- I KNEW THAT SOUND WELL -- IT WAS THE BEATING OF THE OLD MAN'S HEART!"

"THE INFERNAL BEATING OF THE HEART INCREASED MY FURY."



"THE HELLISH TATTOO OF THE HEART INCREASED -- IT GREW LOUDER AND LOUDER -- IT EXCITED ME INTO UNCONTROLLABLE TERROR..."

"WITH A LOUD YELL, I LEAPED INTO THE ROOM --"



"IN AN INSTANT, I DRAGGED HIM TO THE FLOOR --"

"I PULLED THE HEAVY BED OVER HIM AND HELD HIM TO THE FLOOR, CUTTING OFF HIS LIFE'S BREATH..."



"AT LENGTH THE HEARTBEATS CEASED--
THE OLD MAN WAS DEAD!"



"I PLACED MY HAND ON THE HEART AND
HELD IT THERE-- THERE WERE NO
PULSATIONS-- HE WAS STONE DEAD!"



"AT LAST!
AT LAST!"
"HIS EVIL EYE WOULD
TROUBLE ME NO MORE--"



"IF YOU THINK
ME MAD YOU
WILL NO
LONGER
WHEN YOU
VISUALIZE
THE WISE
PRECAUTIONS
I TOOK TO
CONCEAL
THE BODY.
FIRST, I
DISMEMBERED
THE
CORPSE--"



"I THEN TOOK UP THREE PLANKS
FROM THE FLOORING OF THE CHAMBER--"



"I DEPOSITED THE REMAINS IN
THE SPACE, THEN REPLACED
THE BOARDS SO CUNNINGLY THAT
NO HUMAN EYE COULD DETECT
THAT ANYTHING WAS WRONG--"



"IT WAS FOUR O'CLOCK WHEN THERE CAME A KNOCKING AT THE DOOR--"



"I OPENED THE DOOR WITH LIGHT HEART--I HAD NOTHING TO FEAR! THERE ENTERED THREE OFFICERS OF THE LAW--"



"A SHRIEK HAD BEEN MADE BY A NEIGHBOR DURING THE NIGHT, SUSPICION OF FOUL PLAY HAD BEEN AROUSED--THE OFFICERS HAD BEEN DEPUTIZED TO SEARCH THE PREMISES--"



"I BADE THEM ENTER--THE SHRIEK, I SAID, WAS MY OWN IN A DREAM. THE OLD MAN, I MENTIONED, WAS ABSENT IN THE COUNTRY.. I BROUGHT CHAIRS INTO THE ROOM--"



"IN SHEER AUDACITY, I PLACED MY OWN SEAT UPON THE VERY SPOT WHERE BENEATH REPOSED THE VICTIM!"



"THE OFFICERS WERE SATISFIED. MY MANNER HAD CONVINCED THEM! THEY CHATTED OF FAMILIAR THINGS--"



"BUT ERE LONG, I FELT MYSELF
GETTING PALE --- MY HEAD ACHED
AND THERE WAS A RINGING IN MY EARS."



"AT LENGTH, I FOUND THAT THE NOISE
WAS NOT IN MY EARS! THE SOUND
INCREASED --- I GASPED FOR
BREATH ---"



"I AROSE AND MADE VIOLENT MOTIONS BUT
THE NOISE STEADILY INCREASED --- I FOAMED,
-- I RAVED --- I SWORE, STILL IT GREW
LOUDER --- LOUDER --- LOUDER ---"



"I FELT THAT I MUST SCREAM
OR DIE! --- AND NOW ---
AGAIN --- HARK! LOUDER!
LOUDER! LOUDER!"



"VILLAINS, I SHRIEKED,
DISSEMBLE NO MORE!
I ADMIT THE DEED!"



"TEAR UP THE PLANKS!
HEAR, HEAR! IT IS THE
BEATING OF HIS HIDEOUS
HEART!"



ANOTHER TALE
OF TERROR
WILL BE
FORTHCOMING!
WATCH FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE OF
MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER
COMICS!

