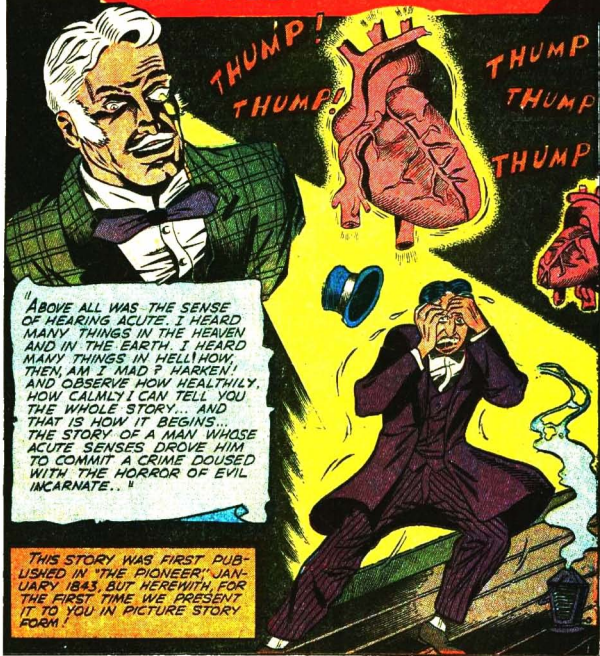


# FAMOUS TALES of TERROR

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

## "THE TELL TALE HEART"



"ABOVE ALL WAS THE SENSE OF HEARING ACUTE. I HEARD MANY THINGS IN THE HEAVEN AND IN THE EARTH. I HEARD MANY THINGS IN HELL! HOW, THEN, AM I MAD? HARKEN! AND OBSERVE HOW HEALTHILY, HOW CALMLY I CAN TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY... AND THAT IS HOW IT BEGINS... THE STORY OF A MAN WHOSE ACUTE SENSES DROVE HIM TO COMMIT A CRIME DOUSED WITH THE HORROR OF EVIL INCARNATE.."

THIS STORY WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN "THE PIONEER," JANUARY 1843, BUT HEREWITH, FOR THE FIRST TIME WE PRESENT IT TO YOU IN PICTURE STORY FORM!

"OUR STORY UNFOLDS IN THE GLOOMY  
QUARTERS OF MY VICTIM--THE OLD MAN  
AND I WERE FAST FRIENDS...I 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 PROCEED 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!"

OHOOHHH....



"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  
PULSATIIONS--HE WAS STONE DEAD!"



AT LAST!  
AT LAST!

"HIS EVIL EYE WOULD  
TROUBLE ME NO MORE--"



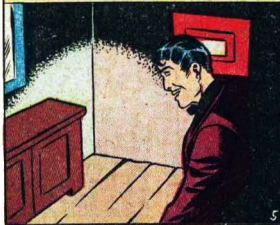
"IF YOU THINK  
ME MAD, YOU  
WILL NO  
LONGER  
WHEN YOU  
VISUALIZE  
THE WISE  
PRECAUTIONS  
I TOOK TO  
CONCEAL  
THE BODY!  
FIRST, I  
DISMEMBERED  
THE  
CORPSE--"



"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!

