

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL

# Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

Volume 30                      CONTENTS FOR OCTOBER, 1937                      Number 4

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Published monthly by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company, 2457 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Entered as second-class matter March 20, 1933, 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, \$3.75; elsewhere, \$5.00. English office: Orlin 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 802 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.                      FARNSWORTH WRIGHT, Editor.

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

# To a Skull on My Bookshelf

By ELIZABETH VIRGINIA RAPLEE

O bony relic of forgotten days,  
Which, from my bookshelf, dominates the room,  
Your empty sockets, with sardonic gaze,  
Follow me weirdly in the deepening gloom!  
I often think, if sudden speech returned,  
You might reveal that secret, grisly jest  
You're grinning at—or tell me what you've learned  
Of that dark realm to which we're all addressed.

By what rude hands were you exhumed, and why  
Wrenched from your body in its earthy bed?  
Who knows but such indignity will I  
Receive at other hands, when I am dead,  
And, strangely resurrected, may adorn  
The wall or desk of one as yet unborn!