

IT WAS SUMMER, 1862. AND I WAS IN
EUROPE ON HOLIDAY.

WHILE RESIDING IN PARIS, I BECAME
ACQUAINTED WITH A MONSIEUR
AUGUSTE DUPIN!

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE



PLEAS-
ED TO MEET YOU,
M. DUPIN!

AND I
LIKEWISE, YOU,
MY FRIEND!

DUPIN WAS FROM AN
ILLUSTRIOUS FAMILY,
BUT, BY A VARIETY OF
UNTOWARD EVENTS,
HAD LOST MOST OF
HIS WEALTH... AND
WAS FORCED TO LIVE
AN IMPOVERISHED
EXISTENCE!

YET HE DID NOT
DESPAIR OVER THIS
STATE... AND TO-
GETHER WE RENTED
A ROOM IN A TIME-
EATEN AND GRO-
TESQUE MANSION,
LONG DESERTED BY
SUPERSTITIONS!

WE WOULD SLEEP
ALL DAY, SURVIVING
ON MY OWN
MEAGER SAVINGS...



...AND AT NIGHT, SEEK OUT
EXCITEMENT IN THE SHADOWS
OF POPULOUS PARIS!

AT SUCH TIMES I COULD NOT HELP REMARKING UPON AND ADMIRING A PECULIAR ANALYTIC ABILITY IN DUPIN!



I UNDERSTAND YOUR MAJOR STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY WAS NATURALISM! WOULD YOU CARE TO TELL ME ABOUT IT?

BUT, OF COURSE!

DEDUCTION STEMS FROM THE CLEAR LIGHT OF REASON... COUPLED WITH A KEEN EYE FOR OBSERVATION!

AND NATURALISM IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE SCIENCE OF CORRECT DEDUCTION! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?



SUDDENLY AS WE WALKED DOWN THE RUE MORGUE, WE HEARD SCREAMS COMING FROM THE FOURTH FLOOR WINDOW OF MADAME L'ESPANAYE'S APARTMENT!



JOINED BY SEVERAL NEIGHBORS AND TWO ARMED GENDARMES... WE FORCED OUR WAY INTO THE DARKENED AND DECREPIT BUILDING!

AFTER RUNNING UP INNUMERABLE STEPS, THE DOOR WAS UNCE-
MONIOUSLY BATTERED DOWN
BY DUPIN...



...AND THE CURIOUS THROG
ENTERED THAT ACCURSED
ROOM...NOT QUITE PREPARED
TO HANDLE THE SHEER
HORROR THAT WAS THRUST
UPON THEIR STUNNED
SENSES!

THE APARTMENT WAS IN THE **WILDEST** DIS-
ORDER... THE FURNITURE **BROKEN** AND
THROWN ABOUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS.



THIS IS
NO MERE
HUMAN
CRIME...



THE BED WAS **SMASHED**... AND NEXT TO
IT ON A CHAIR LAY A STRAIGHT RAZOR,
BESMEARED WITH BLOOD!

... BUT THE WORK
OF HORNED
SATAN
HIMSELF!!

A SMALL **SAFE** WAS
FOUND, ITS DOOR **OPEN**
AND ITS CONTENTS,
THREE BAGS OF **GOLD**,
INTACT!

AT LEAST THE
MONEY IS
STILL HERE!



IN AN ADJOINING ROOM... THE
MUTILATED BODY OF MADAME
L'ESPANAYE WAS DISCOVERED! HER
THROAT WAS **SLASHED** SO BADLY...

... THAT WHEN **DUPIN**
AND THE GENDARME
ATTEMPTED TO MOVE
THE **CORPSE**... THE
LONG-TRESSED HEAD
TOPPLED
COMPLETELY OFF!





WHILE THE MAIN GROUP OF US DEALT WITH THE **BODY OF THE MOTHER**... A **CURIOUS** NEIGHBOR NOTICED A LARGE PILE OF **SOOT** IN THE FIREPLACE...



...AND DISCOVERED THE **LIFELESS** FORM OF THE **ONCE-LOVELY** DAUGHTER, **HEAD DOWNWARD**, **STUFFED** UP TIGHT INSIDE THE **CHIMNEY!**



UPON REMOVING THE **CORPSE** AND **EXAMINING** IT...

... WE FOUND IT TO BE COVERED WITH **SEVERE** SCRATCHES... AND UPON THE **THROAT**, **DEEP** INDENTATIONS OF FINGERS, AS IF THE DECEASED HAD BEEN **THROTTLED** TO DEATH!



DUPIN TOOK THE OCCASION TO **MENTALLY** SUMMARIZE ALL THE **CLUES** AT HAND! **NOTHING** ESCAPED HIS **KEENLY-ANALYTICAL** POWERS OF OBSERVATION! **NOTHING WHATSOEVER!**

THE FRONT DOOR
WAS **LOCKED!**



THE BEDROOM WINDOW
OPEN AND GAPING TO
THE CHILL NIGHT!



A **HANDFUL OF COARSE
HAIR** CLUTCHED IN
MADAME L'ESPANAYE'S
DEATH-GRIP!



THREE BAGS OF GOLD
UNLOOTED IN THE
UNLOCKED SAFE!



THE CRUSHED
AND **PURPLE-
TINTED**
THROAT OF THE
SCANTILY
CLAD
DAUGHTER!



AND
FINALLY,
THE
**RED-
GLINTING**
RAZOR!



BAFFLED THOROUGHLY, I LEFT THE
NIDEIOUS SCENE WITH DUPIN!

THE NEXT DAY, UPON AWAKENING,
DUPIN ANNOUNCED HE HAD **SOLVED**
THE CRIME DURING THE NIGHT!



HE EXPLAINED
HIS **DEDUCTION**
WITH **STEP-BY-STEP**
LOGIC!



MONEY WAS
NOT THE **MOTIVE**
SINCE ALL THE **GOLD**
WAS LEFT
BEHIND!

SO...
THINK **CAREFULLY**,
MY FRIEND! WHOEVER
COMMITTED THE CRIME
WAS **FORCED** TO ENTER
THRU THE OPEN **BED-
ROOM WINDOW!**

AND THE **VILLAIN**
HAD **COARSE**,
UNNATURAL **HAIR...**
AND POSSESSED
AMAZING
STRENGTH!

CLEARLY, MY
DESCRIPTION IS NOT
OF A **HUMAN**
CRIMINAL... BUT A
MURDEROUS
APE!!



AGHAST, I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE MY EARS!

DON'T LOOK SO STARTLED! IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT MALTESE SAILORS OFTEN MAKE PETS OF GIANT ORANGUTANS!



I'M SURE THERE ARE CURRENTLY MANY MALTESE SEAMEN VISITING PARIS ALONG WITH THEIR APES!



NOW WE MUST FLUSH OUT THE GUILTY SAILOR WHO OWNS THE CRAZED BEAST... SO WE WILL HAVE PROOF TO PRESENT TO THE GENDARMES!

THAT AFTERNOON... AN AD APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PAPER!

IT READ...



WE HOPED OUR SAILOR WAS READING THE AD AS WELL!

AS THE SHADOWS LENGTHENED AND EVENING DREW IN UPON US... WE HEARD A STEP UPON THE STAIR!



TAKE THIS PISTOL, MY FRIEND! WE MAY REQUIRE IT TO DETAIN THE SAILOR!



BUT DO NOT REVEAL IT OR USE IT UNTIL I GIVE A SIGNAL! HURRY NOW... HIDE IT! OUR GUEST IS RIGHT OUTSIDE!

NO SOONER DID DUPIN FINISH HIS *NASTY* WORDS THAN THERE WAS A *LOUD* KNOCK ON THE DOOR... AND A *BURLY* SAILOR ENTERED!



AHH, I SURMISE YOU ARE HERE CONCERNING THE CAPTURED APE, CORRECT?

TRUE, SIR! HE IS VERY VALUABLE TO ME... AS I PLAN TO EVENTUALLY SELL THE CREATURE TO A ZOO OR CIRCUS!



I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY, SIR... BUT I STILL FEEL IT NECESSARY TO PAY YOU A REWARD FOR DETAINING MY PET!

HMMMM! IN THAT CASE, A REWARD NEED NOT BE MONETARY! THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU COULD GIVE ME!



SUCH AS YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE RECENT TWIN MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE?!

THE SEAMEN SUDDENLY STOOD AND, HORRIBLY LOOKED AS THOUGH HE WAS SUFFERING FROM SUFFOCATION!

I FEARED THE MALTESE SAILOR MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO FLEE IN UTTER PANIC... SO I PRODUCED THE COCKED PISTOL!



I AM INNOCENT! INNOCENT! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! LISTEN! I WILL TELL EVERYTHING!

AND AT ITS SIGHT, THE BURLY CREWMEN COLLAPSED IN HIS CHAIR, PREPARED TO RELATE ALL!



"RETURNING HOME FROM A LONELY
SAILOR'S RUM-FILLED FROLIC
OF PARIS..."



"...I FOUND THE BRUTE, A BRISTLE-HAIRED
ORANGUTAN, BROKEN OUT OF ITS STURDY
CAGE... AND OCCUPYING MY LIVING ROOM!"



"IT WAS STANDING
IN FRONT OF A
MIRROR,
GESTURING WITH
RAZOR IN
HAND IMITATING
THE HUMAN
MOTIONS OF
SHAVING!"



"MY ENTRANCE
STARTLED THE
BEAST... AND
SWIFTLY IT
FLED FROM
AN OPEN
WINDOW!"



"AS I ALREADY SAID, I HAD
PLANNED TO SELL THE
CREATURE IN PARIS... SO
I TRACKED IT AS BEST I
COULD FROM THE STREET..."



"...WHILE IT MADE ITS
LUMBERING WAY ACROSS
THE MIDNIGHT-GLOOMED
ROOFTOPS!"

"I WAS ALSO AFRAID THE APE, YOU SEE, MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY CAUSE HAVOC WITH THE GLEAMING WEAPON IT CARRIED!"



"MY WORST FEARS WERE REALIZED WHEN MY SHAGGY 'PET' ENTERED AN OPEN FOURTH FLOOR WINDOW OF THE RUE MORGUE!"



"WELL CAN I IMAGINE THE STARK TERROR OF THE TABLEAU INSIDE THE SILENCE-SHATTERED DWELLING!"



YIIIIIEEE-
EEE-E-EE-
EEE!

"THE APE, IN A WILD MOOD OF PLAYFULNESS, PROBABLY TRIED TO 'SHAVE' MADAME L'ESPANAYE!"



NO!
STAY BACK!
AIIIIIEE-

"THE TERRIFIED WOMAN MUST HAVE SCREAMED AND RESISTED THE POWERFUL BRUTE'S EFFORTS..."



CRACK-K

"... WHICH, APPARENTLY, WHIPPED THE ORANGUTAN INTO A FROTHING-MAD FRENZY..."



... CAUSING THE ENRAGED APE TO LASH OUT VIOLENTLY...

MOTHER!
NOOOO-O-O-O-O-!

... SPLITTING THE POOR WOMAN'S PALE THROAT FROM EAR TO BLOOD-GUSHING EAR...

... NEARLY COMPLETELY SEVERING THE HEAD FROM THE NECK!!







NOW, NOW!
THERE IS **LITTLE**
TO FEAR FROM THE
POLICE! AS YOU
SAID... YOU ARE
INNOCENT!

YET, TOGETHER WE
MUST GO FORWARD...
AND ALERT THE
GENDARMES TO
WATCH OUT FOR...



...AN APE?
ARE YOU MAD,
GENTLEMEN... OR,
PERHAPS, DRUNK?



...THEREFORE,
OFFICER, IT WAS AN
ESCAPED ORANGUTAN
THAT SLEW THE
GOOD MADAME AND
HER DAUGHTER!

DUPIN CALMLY AND **RATIONALLY**
EXPLAINED THE ENTIRE TALE OF
TRAGEDY!



I'M SURE IF YOU
POSITION YOUR MEN
ON THE **ROOFTOPS** OF THE
RUE MORGUE TONIGHT...
THE **MYSTERIOUS KILLER**
WILL BE **SWIFTLY**
CAUGHT!



IN UTTER **DESPERATION**, THE
OFFICER FOLLOWED **DUPIN'S**
ADVICE THAT SAME **MOONLESS**
NIGHT!

LOOK!
THERE IT IS!
THE APE!!

FIRE, YOU
FOOLS! QUICKLY...
BEFORE IT
GETS AWAY!



THUS, TO DUPIN'S **CREDIT**,
WERE THE **GRISLY MURDERS**
OF THE RUE MORGUE **SOLVED!**