

IT WAS SUMMER, 1882. AND I WAS IN EUROPE ON HOLIDAY.

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

PLEASUED TO MEET YOU, M. DUPIN!

AND I LIKEWISE, YOU, MY FRIEND!

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

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 TOGETHER WE RENTED A ROOM IN A TIME-EATEN AND GROTESQUE 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 DEPUCTION! 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 UNCEREMONIOUSLY BATTERED DOWN BY DUPIN...

BASHHHH



...AND THE CURIOUS THROG ENTERED THAT ACCURED 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.



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



IN AN AJOINING 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...



OH, MY LORD!

MY LORD!

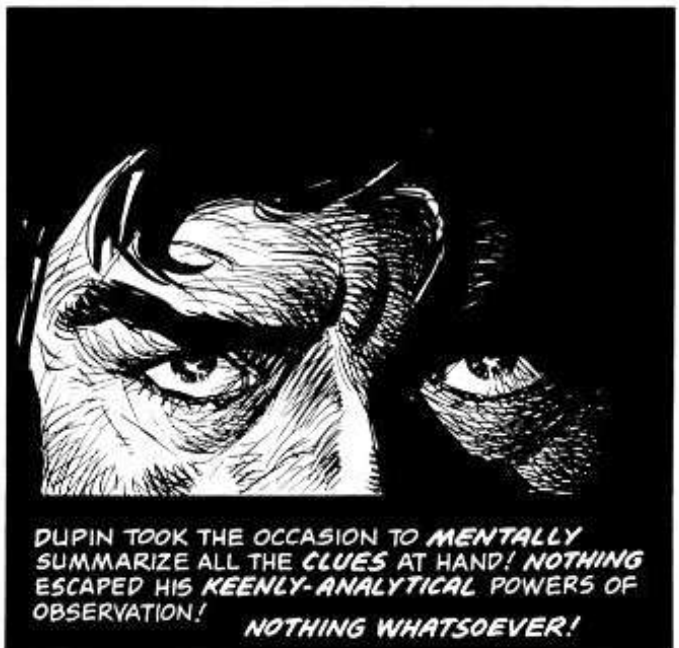
MY LORD!!!

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



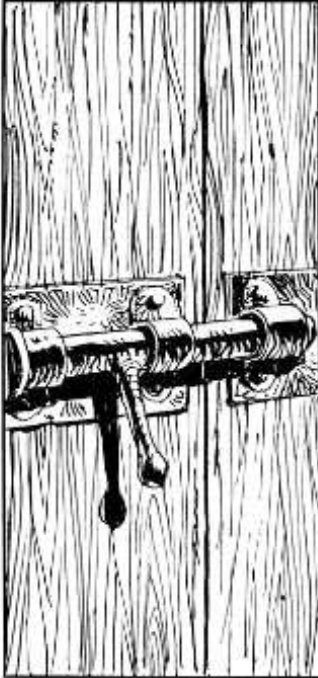
UPON **REMOVING** THE **CORPSE** AND **EXAMINING** IT...

... 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!**



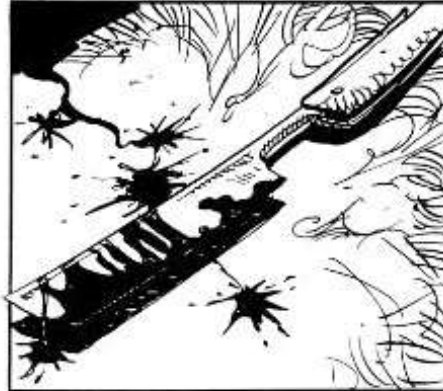
THREE BAGS OF **GOLD UNLOOTED** IN THE **UNLOCKED** **SAFE!**



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



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



BAFFLED THOROUGHLY, I LEFT THE **HIDEOUS** 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 **BACK CAREFULLY**, MY **FRIEND!** WHOEVER **COMMITTED** THE **CRIME** WAS **FORCED** TO ENTER THRU THE **OPEN** **BEDROOM 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!!**





NO SOONER DID DUPIN FINISH HIS **HASTY** 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 **MONE-TARY!** THERE ARE **OTHER** THINGS YOU COULD GIVE ME!

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



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 AM **INNOCENT!** **INNOCENT!** YOU MUST **BELIEVE** ME! **LISTEN!** I WILL TELL **EVERY-THING!**

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!
YIIIIIEEE-

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



EEEEK-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!!





DUPIN CALMLY AND RATIONALLY
EXPLAINED THE ENTIRE TALE OF
TRAGEDY!

