

The Black Cat

Process of killing someone as a punishment

The story is presented as a first-person narrative, using an unnamed unreliable narrator who is awaiting execution. He describes his life long love of animals and the many pets that he and his wife have taken in, including a large black cat named Pluto. The narrator and Pluto become particularly fond of each other, but after several years the narrator becomes an alcoholic and begins to mistreat his pets. After a night of heavy drinking, he believes that Pluto is avoiding him and seizes the cat only to suffer a bite on his hand. Enraged, he gouges out one of the cat's eyes.

From that moment on, Pluto flees in terror at the narrator's approach. The narrator feels remorse for his cruelty at first, but soon becomes increasingly irritated at the cat's behavior. In a sudden of rage, he ties a noose around Pluto's neck and hangs it from a tree where it dies. The narrator's house mysteriously burns down that night; he, his wife, and their servant escape unharmed but lose all their possessions. The house collapses, except of for one wall that displays the indented image of a gigantic cat with a noose around its neck. The narrator is initially disturbed by this phenomenon but soon constructs a plausible explanation, thinking that someone may have set the cat's house down.

on a way from danger

very angry

extreme fear

violent way

more and more

evil

guilt

big

of

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from the tree and ^{tossed} thrown it into the bedroom to wake him during the fire, where it struck a patch of fresh plaster.

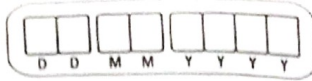
Hotel barroom. → see.

soft hair of certain animals

After ^{After} feeling guilty for his actions, the narrator subsequently finds another black cat at a tavern and adopts it. This cat is roughly the same size as Pluto and is also missing one eye, but has a large patch of white fur on its chest that Pluto lacked. Over time, the narrator begins ^{anted} to fear and ^{hate} loathe the cat as it reminds him of his cruelty toward Pluto, and sees to his horror that the white patch is slowly taking the shape of a gallows. He tries to kill the cat with an axe, but his wife stops him; infuriated at her interference, he kills her instead and hides her corpse in a cellar wall. Upon finishing his work, he finds that the cat has disappeared and is able to sleep freely at night.

Four days later, the Police search the house but can find no trace of the narrator's missing wife. He accompanies them into the cellar, boasting of the sturdiness of its walls and striking the one he has built to conceal his wife's corpse. An unearthly howl issues from behind it, shattering the narrator's mental state completely. The police tear down the wall and find the corpse, with the cat alive and sitting atop its head, having been walled in with it.

The Imp of the Perverse



"The Imp of the Perverse" is a short story by 19th century American author and critic Edgar Allan Poe. Beginning as an essay, it discusses the narrator's self-destructive impulses, embodied as the symbolic metaphor of The Imp of the Perverse. The narrator describes this spirit as the agent that tempts a person to do things "merely because we feel we should not

In the story,

The narrator explains at length his theory on "The Imp of the Perverse", which he believes cause people to commit acts against their self-interest. This essay-like discussion is presented objectively, though the narrator admits that he is "one of the many uncounted victims of the Imp of the Perverse". He then explains how his conviction for murder was the result of this.

The narrator begins his story by explaining how he murdered a man by using a candle that emitted a poisonous vapor: The victim enjoyed reading in bed at night and, using the candle for illumination, dies in his poorly ventilated room. No evidence is left behind causing the coroner to believe the man's death is an act of God. The narrator inherits the man's estate and, knowing he can never be caught, enjoys benefits of his murderous act of many years.

"The Imp of the Perverse" is a short story by American author Edgar Allan Poe. First published in July 1845 in Graham's Magazine, and later reprinted in the literary annual May-Flower the following year, it began as an essay in which Poe described his self-destructive impulses, but evolved into a narrative in which these feelings were epitomized in a being called the Imp of the Perverse.

The unnamed narrator, a fictionalized version of Poe himself, described this spirit as the agent that tempts people to do things simply because they feel they shouldn't do them. Exploring themes of temptation, arrogance, and the fear that we will be consumed by our temptations, "The Imp of the Perverse" is one of Poe's more obscure titles, and received mixed reviews from critics due to its complex psychological and metaphysical elements. It is considered an early example of transcendentalist writing, and many of the elements involving the subconscious and repression are considered to be forerunners of the work of Sigmund Freud. Although it is not considered a major Poe work, it has been subject to considerable analysis by scholars in the fields of literature and psychology.

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"The Imp of the Perverse" opens with the unnamed narrator explaining at length his theory on that eponymous entity. He believes that this imp causes people to commit acts against their best interests. This segment takes the form of a treatise or essay, as the narrator presents the case for the existence of this creature in terms of Scientific fact. As the narrative goes on, the narrator tells us that the Imp has had countless victims, and that he believes he is one of the people the imp of the perverse has preyed upon. He explains that he has been convicted of murder, and believes the imp was responsible for making him

commit the crime that led to his being on death row. He explains that he murdered a man using a candle that emitted a poisonous vapor when burned. He knew that the victim frequently read in bed at night, and used a candle to light the room. His room was poorly ventilated, and he suffocated while leaving on physical evidence of murder behind.

As a result, the coroner believed the man's death was a simple act of God. The narrator states that he benefited greatly from this act of murder because he inherited the victim's estate, and was sure he would never be caught. He enjoyed the benefit of his murderous act for many years.

As the years go by, the narrator remains above suspicion, as the case is considered long closed. Despite this, he is still occasionally consumed by doubt. He begins to use a ritual to calm himself, where he repeatedly states under his breath "I am safe." This works for a while, but one day he realizes that the only way he can be found out is if he is foolish enough to openly confess. When he says this to himself, he begins to consider whether or not he is capable of confessing.

The more he thinks about it, the more he is filled with a sense of dread. He runs through the streets in a panic, arousing suspicion, until he is stopped by the police. When the police question him, he feels as if he has been struck by some invisible fiend, and is compelled to reveal his secret, stating his confession loudly and clearly for everyone to hear. He confesses with such force that it seems as if he is afraid of being interrupted. After he has confessed, he is arrested for murder. The confession is all that is needed at trial, and the jury quickly declares a verdict of guilty. He is sentenced to death by hanging, and blames the invisible fiend, the "imp of the perverse" for foiling his perfect crime. He had gotten away with murder - and the only thing that could foil him was his own drive ~~that~~ ~~and~~ to sabotage himself, exacerbated by the imp of the perverse.

The Premature Burial

by Edgar Allan Poe

The Premature Burial is a story by Edgar Allan Poe, written in 1844. This short story is told by an unnamed narrator who, he tells us, has been suffering with catalepsy. He tells us about people who have been buried while still alive, only to be subsequently rescued. The most significant case for the narrator, though and the one he recounts in the most detail, is that of a wealthy and beautiful young French woman, Victorine LaFourcade, who married a banker even though her heart lay with a young journalist named Julien.

After several years of ill-treatment at the hands of her banker husband, Victorine was thought to have died, and was buried but she was, in fact, still alive. She was only rescued because Julien, the young man ~~she~~ she loved and should have married, raided her grave in the hope of cutting off some of her beautiful hair as a keepsake.

He discovered ^{she is} her alive, and the two of them fled ^{gone} to America, where they lived happily for twenty years. When they returned to France, the banker husband who had Victorine buried recognised her and demanded she return to him, but the courts backed Victorine in refusing his demand.

The narrator also tells us about a soldier who was thrown from his horse and fractured his skull; like Victorine, he was believed dead and was duly buried. When noises were heard coming from his grave, he was duly buried. Exhumed ^{dig out} and was found to be alive, but barely ^{nearly}, having struggled in his tomb. He recovered and told his experiences underground, and how he was awoken by the noise of people in the cemetery above him.
↳ which dead bodies are buried.

In 1694, the English woman Alice Blunden was buried alive after drinking too much poppy-water and falling unconscious; she was believed to be dead, and promptly buried. However, children heard noises coming from her grave, and when she was dig up, they found she was unconscious but definitely alive, and that she had inflicted ^{Produced} severe wounds on herself in her attempts to free herself from her premature tomb. However, this story is only recorded in the eighteenth century and may well be apocryphal.
↳ mythical.

After he has told us these stories, the narrator confides that his medical condition - Catalepsy - means he ^{he} sometimes appears to be, to all intents ^{intention} and purposes, dead, when in fact he is in the grip of a cataleptic seizure. Because of his condition, he fears that he will be pronounced dead when he is anything but, so he has taken precautions ^{Care taken in advance} to ensure he doesn't end up being buried alive ↳ to make sure.

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Fears of being entombed before his time plague his thoughts. However, following an incident on board a boat, when he is moved to a lower berth he has been buried alive in a coffin, he finds he is cured of both his fear of being buried alive and his catalepsy.