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A dark, multi-limbed, tentacle-like creature with glowing red eyes, emerging from a dark, stormy sea. The creature has a central body with several long, segmented limbs or tentacles extending outwards. Its eyes are bright red and glowing. The background is a dark, cloudy sky over a dark sea.

# Horror: From the Dark and Weird to the Grim and Unknown

By Benjamin T. Cecchetto



# Friday the 13th

- Combined two superstitions:
  - Friday is an unlucky day
  - Thirteen is an unlucky number
- Gioachino Antonio Rossini knew this and died Friday 13th, 1868



- [Rossini] was surrounded to the last by admiring and affectionate friends; and if it be true that, like so many other Italians, he regarded Friday as an unlucky day, and thirteen as an unlucky number, it is remarkable that on Friday, the 13th

# Horror

- Horror serves not to scare into screaming, it serves to petrify into doing nothing at all



# Etymology

- From Latin 'horrere'
  - To stand on end
  - Refers to standing hairs of goosebumps



# History - Ann Radcliffe

- Gothic author, distinctly identified terror in contrast to horror
  - Terror: expands the soul and awakens the faculties to a high degree of life
  - Horror: freezes and nearly annihilates them with its unambiguous displays of atrocity



# History - Prior to Gothic Era

- By the definitions, has always been around... It's just an emotion.
  - Greek Mythology
  - Bible Old Testament
  - Beowulf
  - ...







# Ideology

- Builds from
  - Fear (nothing more fearful than the unknown)
  - Revulsion
  - Terror
- “It is the feeling one gets after coming to an awful realization or experiencing a deeply unpleasant occurrence.”

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# Ben's Take

- It's also of an atmospheric device in an artistic medium to convey the aforementioned feeling of horror
  - Very much like Macabre (ghastly atmosphere)
- Migrated to a genre that lost a lot of original intent. Must have 'n' of the following:
  - Must have blood
  - Must have shock scenes
  - Must have gore
  - Must have monster
  - Must have rape
  - ...

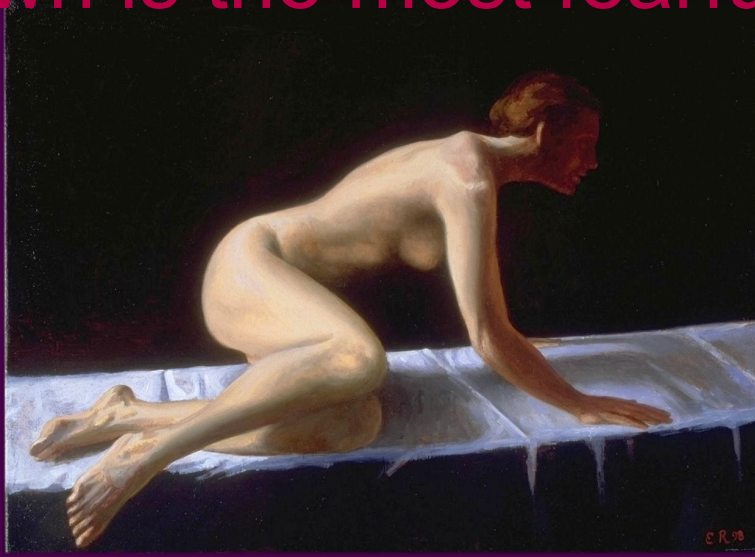
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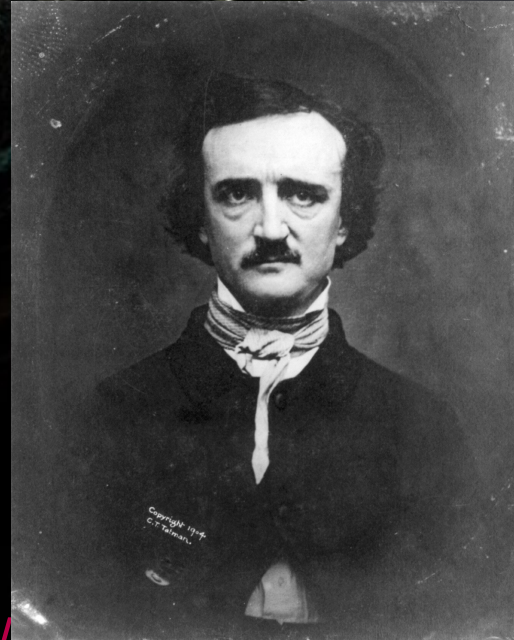
# In Story Format

- Evolved from an analysis to a tale
- Purpose was meant not only to scare, but to horrify.
- Usually built on supernatural elements (unknown is the most fearful)



# In Literature - Edgar Allan Poe

- Could say father of modern horror genre
  - Built off Gothic works
  - The Raven is most famous tale
    - <http://www.youtube.com/w>
  - Also considered inventor of detective fiction and contributed to sci-fi



# In Literature - H.P. Lovecraft

- Invented 'cosmic' and 'weird' horror, and Cthulhu-mythos
  - Life is incomprehensible to human minds and that the universe is fundamentally alien
- Works were said to be reproductions of his nightmares



# In Literature/Film - Stephen King

- Most popular writer of modern horror
- Books usually made into movies





# In Film - Early Works

- If wanna watch, be in right mindset
  - Frankenstein (1910)
  - Hunchback of Notre Dame (1906, 1909, 1910, 1911)
  - Nosferatu (1922)
  - The Monster (1925)
  - The Phantom of the Opera (1925)



# In Film - More Modern

- Dracula (1931)
- Cat People (1942)
- Anything oldish with Christopher Lee
- Anything by Alfred Hitchcock



# In Film - Scifi Horror

- Alien Saga
- The Thing
- Event Horizon
- The Shining (sort of scifi)
- The Fly
- ... oodles more



# In Film: Special Mention M. Night Shyamalan

- Movies great in theory, bad in practice
  - Tries to use unknown to infer fear
  - When you find out the unknown aspect, 'twists' are often ridiculous and nonsensical
  - **Solution:** Don't reveal the twists.



# In Art

- Gothic Art
- H.R. Giger



# In Games

- System Shock 2
- F.E.A.R.
- Call of Cthulhu: Dark Corners of the Earth
- The Clocktower
- Silent Hill
- Resident Evil



CLOCK TOWER

クロックタワー

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# Reality

- Affects us in real life
  - Spanish Inquisition
  - Salem witch trials
  - The horror of wars
  - Unfathomable destruction (nuclear power)
- Should you get desensitized to it to overcome it and act rationally in horrific situations?
- Should you just be overwhelmed and lose your sanity?



# Conclusion

- If you've experienced enough horror (at least in the artistic medium) you get used to it (at least in the artistic medium)
  - Does help keep your cool *a bit* in the face of something unknown
- Always listen to Deckard Cain



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Let us make a drink for a drink

