



Poe • Maupassant • Saki • Kipling • James • O. Henry

Great Ghost Stories

The Tell-Tale Heart • The Horla • Sredni Vashtar
The Mark of the Beast • Lost Hearts • The Furnished Room

Read by **Dermot Kerrigan**



CLASSIC
FICTION

NA291212D

1	The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe	8:00
2	The obsession grows	8:00
3	The Horla by Guy de Maupassant	5:18
4	Illness descends	7:03
5	The relief of Mont Saint-Michel	6:16
6	An empty glass of water	4:54
7	Enervated imagination	10:38
8	Acceptance – of a kind	9:16
9	The final solution	5:31
10	Sredni Vashtar by Saki	8:13
11	A journey of inspection	5:33

12	The Mark of the Beast by Rudyard Kipling	7:44
13	Itching and an underdone chop	5:22
14	The pony takes fright	8:29
15	Hydrophobia?	5:56
16	The soul of Fleete reappears	5:35
17	Lost Hearts by M.R. James	6:52
18	A lost boy and a lost girl	10:04
19	The crucial day	9:47
20	The Furnished Room by O. Henry	6:50
21	The new guest arrives	10:05
22	Idle chatter	2:19

Total time: 2:38:19

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Great Ghost Stories

Edgar Allan Poe 1809–1849

Poe is acclaimed as the true originator of the modern horror story and is arguably one of its finest practitioners. *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Black Cat* are perfect examples of his mastery of atmosphere, drama and unforgettable images – the rheumy eye, the relentlessly beating heart, and the silent but sinister animal wreaking its revenge.

Rudyard Kipling 1865–1936

Although Kipling's naive imperialism is somewhat unpalatable today, it does not detract from his skill as a writer of powerful short stories. *The Mark of the Beast* has all the ingredients of a classic tale of horror but is also laden with irony. It is prefaced with an Indian proverb: Your Gods and my Gods – do you or I know which are the stronger?

M.R. James 1862–1936

Montague Rhodes James, a student of ancient and medieval lore, was appointed Provost of Eton College in 1918. He loved to invent stories in which a malicious evil is decanted with terrifying effect in our own times. *Lost Hearts* is a chilling story which combines erudition and scholarship with unspeakable horror.

Guy de Maupassant 1850–1893

de Maupassant was a French novelist and one of the world's most distinguished writers of short stories. In *The Horla* we encounter one of those strange beings which, because of its invisibility, becomes particularly terrifying. The story may well have presaged de Maupassant's own insanity which at first incapacitated and ultimately killed him.

O. Henry 1862–1910

O. Henry is the pen name for William Sydney Porter, who was born in North Carolina. He loved to write about New York and in *The Furnished Room* we have a ghostly glimpse of the world of the itinerant underclass and the traces they leave behind...

Saki 1870–1916

Hector Hugh Munro was born in Burma where his father was stationed as an officer of the Burma Police. After the early death of his mother he was placed in the care of two autocratic aunts, one of whom features in the haunting and disconcerting tale, *Sredni Vashtar*.

**The music on this recording is taken from
the NAXOS catalogue**

JANÁČEK TARAS BULBA ETC Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava) / Ondrej Lenàrd	8.550411
GLAZUNOV ORCHESTRAL WORKS / CORTÈGE SOLENNEL / REVERIE ORIENTALE ETC Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra / Schermerhorn	8.220309
MASSENET ORCHESTRAL SUITES Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra / Jean	8.223354
LISZT MAZEPPA Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (Katowice) / Halàsz	8.550487
GLAZUNOV ORCHESTRAL WORKS / FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra / de Almeida	8.220444
LACHNER SUITES Nos 1 and 7 Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (Katowice) / Gunzenhauser	8.223195



The Irish actor **Dermot Kerrigan** trained at LAMDA and has since appeared in Shakespearean theatre, including *Richard II* at the Royal Exchange, Manchester and *Romeo and Juliet* (TV). He has also appeared in modern plays at The Royal Court and toured extensively with Shared Experience.

Credits

Selected and edited by Heather Godwin. Produced by Nicolas Soames.

Post-production: Simon Weir, The Classical Recording Company

Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassettes

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The Mark of the Beast • Lost Hearts • The Furnished Room

Read by **Dermot Kerrigan**

From a fearful beast to a murderous obsession, from the fear of an invisible presence to malevolent magic, these chilling tales contain all manner of disconcerting phenomena. Written by masters of the genre, these stories will linger in the mind long after the final word is spoken.



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by Nicolas
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