



The Tale of Terror

The Tale of Terror: A Study of the Gothic Romance

Edith Birkhead (1889 - 1951)

A seminal essay on the development of horror as a genre, highly influential on later writers.

The author notes in his preface: "The aim of this book is to give some account of the growth of supernatural fiction in English literature, beginning with the vogue of the Gothic Romance and Tale of Terror towards the close of the eighteenth century. The origin and development of the Gothic Romance are set forth in detail from the appearance of Walpole's *Castle of Otranto* in 1764 to the publication of Maturin's *Melmoth the Wanderer* in 1820; and the survey of this phase of the novel is continued, in the later chapters, to modern times. One of these is devoted to the Tale of Terror in America, where in the hands of Hawthorne and Poe its treatment became a fine art."

Running time 07:05:40

Read by Timothy Ferguson



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Edith Birkhead



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