

Peter Green "Act Six"

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CHORUS Three endless days of bitter grief passed and Montresor abandoned any attempt to cheer his friend.

Then came a sudden change in Usher's demeanour, whose significance he was soon to comprehend.

Now Usher stands for hour on hour with head inclined and eyes half-closed, as if beneath the deep and sullen silence a sound exists for which he listens: a sound without end.

Now Usher walks for hour on hour.

With ashen face and trembling step, he climbs each stair,

He climbs each tower; still hears it there.

CHORUS AND No. It's only the

THE VOICES beating of the heart,

OF THE HOUSE heart of the House of Usher,

beating of the heart

heart of the House of Usher.

USHER MONTRESOR

Roderick is that you?

I could not sleep

Nor I.

Listen to the storm!

Did you ever hear

such a dreadful sound?

Indeed.

Indeed I have!

But this sound you can hear;

The tempest beats upon the House

As it would beat upon a drum.

That is no sound to fear.

For the sound to fear

It beats upon the house.

Walk softly when they come

The thunder seems so near

But it's only the But it's only the

Beating of the heart, beating of the heart,

Heart of the House of Usher, heart of the House of

Usher.

USHER MONTRESOR VOICES OF THE HOUSE

Oh the lake is Beating of the heart,

in frenzy, I heart of the House

can feel the waves of Usher

beat on the walls Beating of the heart

The breaking of the heart! heart of the House

These giant stones of Usher.

are trembling Beating of the heart

the savage lashing heart of the House

of the storm of Usher.

The breaking of the heart! Beating of the heart

heart of the House

of Usher

Why is that other sound The House

Not hidden by of Usher

Echoes of the storm? shall stand.

The House

But understand we only of Usher

Hear the House shall stand

Speaking of a storm The House

This is the storm itself! of Usher

shall stand.

The House of Usher

The House of Usher

MONTRESOR We've seen enough, I'll close the window.

The gale is chill and grows yet stronger.

These walls are shaking!

You shall play something for me;

you shall play and I shall listen.

So we will pass away this dreadful night.

USHER Yes I shall play,

yes, I shall play!

(The Haunted In the greenest of our valleys

Palace) by good angels tenanted

once a fair and stately palace -

radiant palace - reared it's head.

In the monarch, Thought's dominion

like a jewel it stood there.

Never seraph spread a pinion

over fabric half so fair.

Wanderers in that happy valley

through two luminous windows saw

spirits moving musically

to a lute's well-tuned law,

round about a throne where sitting,

side by side with his fair queen,

in state his glory well befitting,

the ruler of the realm was seen.

USHER MONTRESOR

Wait!

Did you hear it?

What was it? It's nothing. What was that distant sound? I say, I heard nothing All with pearl and ruby glowing was the glorious palace door through which came flowing, flowing, flowing and sparkling evermore a troop of echoes, whose sweet duty night and day was but to sing in voices of surpassing beauty the wit and wisdom of their king.

USHER MONTRESOR

No!

There's something, I heard it quite clear, a voice crying. It's nothing

Isay

But the wind!

You heard the wind. Just heard Within the House!

The wild wind crying.

But evil things, in robes of sorrow assailed the monarch's high estate; let us mourn for never morrow dawn upon him, desolate; round about his home the glory that had always blushed and bloomed is but a dim-remembered story of the olden time entombed.

USHER MONTRESOR

There!

Yes, you heard it! There is someone else -There's nothing something else I say, down there! You hear nothing! There's no-one there. It is the storm Are we That you hear. alone here? Travellers now within that valley through red-litten windows see vast forms that move fantastically to a discordant melody

while like a rapid, ghastly river through the ever open door

a hideous throng rush out forever and laugh - but smile no more!

And laugh - but smile no more!

And laugh - but smile no more!

USHER No! No! No!

Yes, I hear it! Yes, I have heard it

long, long - many minutes, many hours,

but I dared not speak:

I tell you I dared not speak.

No more can't from you,

you thick-skinned obtuse fool, damn your compassion!

For now I say you will hear the wicked truth

We put her living in the tomb!

But I dared not, I dared not speak!

Yes, have I not heard her footsteps on the stair?

Yes, do I not distinguish

the heavy and horrible beating of her heart?

Yes, she is coming.

She has woken in the darkness,

in her mindless, relentless strength.

Now she has broken from the tomb.

Now she has burst from the tomb.

Days ago I heard her first feeble movements

in the hollow coffin -

said I not that my senses were acute?

I heard the scraping, the scraping of her nails -

but I dared not, I dared not speak!

Madman! Madman!

I tell you that she now comes towards the door!

USHER MONTRESOR CHORUS VOICES OF THE HOUSE

No, what a House

Monstrous thought! We

Now the punishment breath!

is finished. The evil that House

You said is done we are!

she was dead... cannot be We

You watched undone. could not

her dying!

It's over now It's over now

What evil have let

you done? It could not

be prevented them go!

God, what a

monstrous thought!

It's over now It's over now. We

The evil that

Why must innocence is done could

be punished?

Could this have not

been prevented?

It's over now It's over now

The evil that The evil that We

is done... is done could not

could not

be prevented let

could this have could never

been prevented? be prevented

them go!

I dare not could this have it could not

I dared not speak! been prevented? be prevented!

Madman!

Madman!

I tell you

That she now stands

Outside the door!

USHER MADELINE MONTRESOR CHORUS

I'm looking

Now, No,

Madeline! Madeline!

I have counted

to a hundred

with my eyes closed

and I'm coming

I am the last now to find you... Leave!

Of the Usher! Depart!

My sister's death Go!

Shall leave me so.

Where are you It's over now

hiding?

I am If I wasn't so

The last afraid I'd

Usher Roderick touch her Leave!

I feel where are you? It's over now Depart!

The sky I see. Go!

Now he sings

of death, the evil the evil

some things even that is done that is one

I feel madder cannot be cannot be

The sky undone undone

Moan shuts himself away the evil the evil

To join shuts himself away that is come that is come

With the slime!

He shut could not could not

himself away! be prevented. be prevented.

AS THE HOUSE FALLS

THE VOICES beams buttresses plaster copings We We OF THE corbels bressumers quoins chimney- breath

are

HOUSE joists arches wainscot shafts We rise Usher

kin-posts piers stairs parapets

ridge-ribs spandrels banister pediments

struts columns cusps mansard

stanchions cornices gargoyle

king-posts eaves

End of Act Six

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