AMERICAN HORROR - Five Terrifying Tales

THE BLACK CAT

PART 1

A. Comprehension check: Match the phrases in column A with the phrases in column B. There are three phrases in column B that you do not need to use.

Column A		Column B
1. The narrator has always been very fond of animals.		**A.** because he knew he should not do it.
2. The narrator was extremely embarrassed.		**B.** because he was afraid that he would kill it too.
3. The narrator killed Pluto.		**C.** because the cat's image was reproduced on a wall.
4. The narrator thought that someone threw Pluto into his room.		**D.** because he had hurt Pluto.
5. The neighbors were amazed when they saw the ruins of the house.		**E.** because he wanted to wake him up.
6. The narrator wanted the cat he saw in the bar.		**F.** because he often drank too much.
7. The narrator did not want to be near the new cat.		**G.** because Pluto bit him.
		H. because they are dependable.
		I. because it seemed to hate him.
		J. because he wanted to escape the spirit of Pluto.

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B. **Instinct versus reason:** You will hear Edgar Allan Poe talk about human reason, the instinct of animals, his favorite black cat and a thumb lock for a door. For questions 1–8, complete the sentences. Before listening, look at the picture of the thumb lock. Can you understand how it works?

1. People want to feel _____ to animals so they say they cannot reason.

2. The habits of _____ are superior to the typical thinking of human beings.

3. All _____ are witches.

4. This cat has a very _____ nature.

5. Poe's cat prefers staying in _____.

6. To enter the kitchen, you must push the door, while the thumb-latch is _____.

7. The cat can do this with _____.

8. When Poe sees his cat opening the kitchen door, he thinks of the difference between _____.

PART 2

C. Comprehension check: Answer the following questions.

1. Why was the narrator's fear "insubstantial"?

2. How did the cat torment the narrator?

3. Why did the narrator murder his wife?

4. What did the narrator think about after he killed his wife?

5. How did he hide the corpse?

6. After he had hid the corpse, what did he want to do?

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7. Why did the narrator think his happiness was perfect?

8. After the police had searched his house and found nothing, why did the narrator start talking again?

9. Why did the cat start screaming?

10. Where had the cat been?

11. How did the Spirit of Perverseness act in this part of the story?

WATCH THE STORY

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