

Weird, Gruesome Tragedies Result After the Rub of Madam Schriver's Four Black Cats

Are Black Cats a Sign of Bad Luck? Well, Here is a Blood-chilling Story that will Make You Think So.

By Paul Bryant

THE strangest case in the history of crime in the state of Missouri, perhaps, was the case of the woman with the black cats. It was rather difficult to catalogue the strange fortune teller as a criminal merely because her four huge black cats brought misfortune to all those people against whom they lazily rubbed themselves. Those enormous black cats appeared sinister in the orange reflections from the fire of the crude stone fireplace in Madam Schriver's consultation room.

Stories

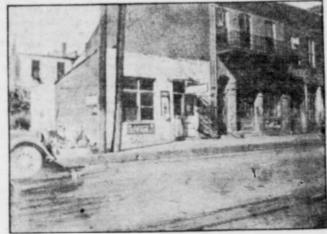
Perhaps it wasn't the aged clairvoyant's fault that Mabel Fisher, pretty and twenty, shot herself in the left breast because h e r sweetheart took an automobile ride with another women. . . . Regardless of the guilty person, the four black cats, once during the reading the clairvoyant ac-corded to Mabel Fisher. emerged surreptitiously from the low kitchen of the frame house, passed through the orange reflections, and ceremoniously paused to rub themselves against Miss Fisher's shapely limbs. . . . Then and there, the ener-

getic and nervous little lady knew that the presence of those four black cats and the fact that they had repeatedly rubbed themselves against her meant that dire misfortune was not far away

Pretty little Miss Fisher knew well this omen so she did not need Madam Schriver to tell her. Per-hape, Madam Schriver would not have told her, anyway if the girl had not already known. She was



A TRUE STORY Of An AGE OLD SUPERSTITION



WHERE MADAM SCHRIVER PERFORMED The White Dove, where Madam Schriver's old frame house once stood.

en, pushing the door slightly ajar. that something dreadful was going to Lappen to her. She didn't know what, nor when, but she felt a pre-sentiment of approaching doom, and could not escape the unnerving emo.'on that kept a stern clutch on

her. O. course she had heard all the strange hair-raising stories regard-ing the bad sign of the notorious four black cats. The moment they pushed the kitchen door slightly open and paraded in single file from the warn "kitchen, from whence came the aroma of cooking cab-bages, the Fisher girl clutched spas-modically at her throat, whitened under Madam Schriver's steady stare, and exclaimed: "Oh, my God, drive those terrible creatures out of here!" But Madam Schriver feigned sur-

But Madam Schriver feigned sur-pris that anyone should be so ter-rified by four black cats. Convinc-ingly she tried to explain that four black cats were no different from four white cats. Anybody with suf-ficient intelligence to canture and int 12710



TAYLOR DUNKIN

He recalls the woman with the black cats, having lived near her many years. He is also a firm believer in this account of her exploits.

hold a brave man's love, as Miss Fisher had done; was intelligent enough to forget all about the non-sense commonly heard about black cat. sense cata

"Her nerves were so badly shattered when the black cats emerged from the kitchen, and rubbed themselves against her leg in Madam Schriver's consul-tation room, that she screamed out in terror, and fainted."

considered the cleverest fortune teller on the Mississippi River, and there had never been a time when she had failed to give complete satisfaction

isfaction. Madam Schriver was a very state-ly colored woman. At the time of her death she was sixty years old. Her white clients numbered as many as the colored, who believed in her strange powers; she charged five dollars for a simple clairvoyant reading, and got it. Some days, she gave as many as twenty readings. It was said when she died, inghishe left a fortune hidden somewhere about the anceint frame house in which she had spent the last fifteen

many of her patrons were superstimany of her patrons were supersti-tious and that they were firm be-lievers in the so-called, unlucky sign of the black cat; moreover, she was aware that the presence of her four black cats made her customers nervous. This situation hindered her, ability to concentrate on the false of her numerous clients. It soon "tew to be unusual to see one of Madana Schriver's black cats. When one appeared, it was time for serious and quick thinking. serious and quick thinking.

This was the belief of many peo-ple and no doubt they had ample ground upon which to base their opinions. In the first place, there were many dire misfortunes that befell those women, both colored and white, who though reluctantly, had visited Madam Schriver's fivehad visited Madam Schriver's five-room frame house on dark nights. It is true that many of Madam Schriver's clients went to her place virtually against their own wills; because, the misfortune of those who encountered the four black cats was notorious in that section of the country.



VICTIM OF BLACK CAT "MAGIC" Miss Fayette Frame, whose mother was a victim of the woman with the black cats.

which she had spent the last fifteen years of her life, although no trace of the money has ever been unearthed.

ust how the rumor spread that the presence of Madam Schriver's four black cats meant disaster, is hard to say, but that sort of rumor began years ago and once it had started, there was absolutely no way of doming it of stopping it

Madam Schriver occasionally kept he, four black cats locked securely in the kitchen. She was well aware, without having to be told, that

Pretty Miss Fisher was not super-stitious, but she knew when the black cats emerged from the kitch-

Mr. Paul Bryant, the author of the above slory, was attracted to be scene of these strange tragedies by the unusual and extraordinary acts surrounding the clairvoyant powers of the mysterious Madame 1 100 facts Schriver.

The reputation of this woman was known throughout the state of Hissouri, Many people have witnessed the wild and gruesome de that have followed the spiritualistic readings of Madame Schriver.



GRANDSON OF MADAM SHRIVER Tom Schriver, grand-son of Madam evening, after the clairvoyant had Schriver, who has inherited his grand-mother's strange fondness for black cats. Continued on Page Seven

cats. This sort of talk reassured Miss Fisher, who knew all about the cats, consequently, she thought that ev-erything would be all right. Madam Schriver nad given her several hints about how to make good headway with Captain Rupert, the married man whose attentions she wished to win; and after Madam Schriver had penetrated her secrets to this depth, there was no possibility of ill-feel-ing. Moreover, who was supposed that there was no possibility of ill-feel-ing. Moreover, who was suppos. I to know more about black cats than fortune tellers? Was there any in-disputable evidence that those cats had ever brought hard luck to their owner? This appeared to be so much bunk, and the strange stories of Madam Schriver's patrons dying and being tragically disappointed in love, proved to be the figments of highly imaginative minds.

Pretty Miss Fisher went home that

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