

ЛЕГКО ЧИТАЕМ ПО-АНГЛИЙСКИ

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УБИЙСТВО
НА УЛИЦЕ МОРГ

Edgar Allan Poe
THE MURDERS
IN THE RUE MORGUE

*Подготовка текста,
комментарии, упражнения и словарь
С. А. Матвеева*

Lingua

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Эдгар А. По – американский писатель-романтик. Его знаменитый рассказ «Убийство на улице Морг» считается первым детективным произведением в литературе.

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В конце добавлены упражнения с ключами для самопроверки.

Издание рассчитано на тех, кто изучает английский язык и хочет расширить словарный запас.

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We can hardly analyse our mental features¹. We appreciate them only in their effects². We know, that they are a source of the largest enjoyment. As the athlete finds his delight in the hardest exercises, so the analyst finds pleasure in enigmas, conundrums, and hieroglyphics. An ordinary man thinks that it is just magic. The wonderful results have, in truth³, the whole air of intuition.

¹ **mental features** — аналитические способности

² **in their effects** — по результатам

³ **in truth** — по правде говоря

The faculty of resolution can possibly exist thanks to the mathematical study, and especially to that highest branch of it which is called analysis. But to calculate does not mean to analyse. A chess-player, for example, calculates but he does not analyse. So the game of chess is greatly misunderstood. I am not now writing a treatise, but I am sure that the game of draughts¹ is much cleverer than chess. In chess, what is only complex is mistaken (a not unusual error²) for what is profound. The most important thing here is attention. If an oversight is committed, there is a defeat. The chances of such oversights are multiplied; and in nine cases out of ten³ it is the more concentrative rather than the more acute player who conquers. In

¹ **the game of draughts** — игра в шашки

² **a not unusual error** — как это обычно бывает

³ **in nine cases out of ten** — в девяти случаях из десяти

draughts, on the contrary, where the moves are unique, less attention is required. To be less abstract—let us suppose a game of draughts where the pieces are reduced to four kings¹, and where, of course, no oversight is to be expected. It is obvious that here the victory can come only by the good movement, the result of some strong exertion of the intellect. The analyst tries to understand the spirit of his opponent, identifies himself therewith², and very often sees thus, at a glance³, the sole simple methods by which he may hurry into miscalculation.

Whist⁴ is famous for its calculating power; and men of the highest order of intellect are known to play it, while es-

¹ **where the pieces are reduced to four kings** — где остались только четыре дамки

² **identifies himself therewith** — ставит себя на его место

³ **at a glance** — с одного взгляда

⁴ **whist** — вист (игра)

chewing chess as frivolous. Beyond doubt it demands the faculty of analysis. The best chess-player in the world is merely the player of chess; but proficiency in whist implies capacity for success, here mind struggles with mind. I mean that perfection in the game which includes a comprehension of all the sources which lead to the victory. This is inaccessible to the ordinary understanding. To observe attentively is to remember distinctly; and, so far¹, the concentrative chess-player will do very well at whist. People think that to play well just means to know how to play. But the analyst makes, in silence, many observations and inferences. So, perhaps, do his companions; and the difference lies in the quality of the observation. Our player examines the face of his partner, comparing it carefully with that of each of his opponents. He notices the cards in each hand; often guessing them

¹ **so far** — СЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬНО

through the glances bestowed by their holders upon each¹. He notes every variation of face as the play progresses, thinking about the expression of certainty, of surprise, of triumph, or of chagrin.

The analytical power should not be confounded with simple ingenuity; for while the analyst is necessarily ingenious, the ingenious man is often incapable of analysis. Between ingenuity and the analytic ability there exists a difference far greater, indeed, than that between the fancy and the imagination. In fact, the ingenious are always fanciful, and the truly imaginative are often analytic.

The story which follows will prove to the reader these words.

During the spring and part of the summer of 18—, I lived in Paris, and

¹ **through the glances bestowed by their holders upon each** — по взглядам, какие на них бросают

there I became acquainted with a Monsieur C. Auguste Dupin¹. This young gentleman was of an excellent family, but, by a variety of some events, lost nearly all his money. He had a small part of his patrimony²; and he managed to survive. Books, indeed, were his only luxuries, and in Paris the books are easily obtained.

Our first meeting was at the library in the Rue Montmartre³, where we both looked for the same very rare and very remarkable volume. After that, we saw each other again and again. I was deeply interested in his family history which he told me. I was astonished at his mind, and I notices the vivid freshness of his imagination. I felt that the society of such a man would be to me a treasure

¹ **Monsieur C. Auguste Dupin** — господин С.-Огюст Дюпен

² **patrimony** — отцовское наследство

³ **Rue Montmartre** — улица Монмартр

beyond price¹. We decided to live together during my stay in the city; and I rented a grotesque mansion in a desolate portion of the Faubourg St. Germain².

Our seclusion was perfect. We admitted no visitors. Indeed the locality of our retirement was a secret from my friends; and Dupin left Paris very gladly.

My new friend adored the night. So we tried to make the night longer. At the first dawn of the morning we closed all the shutters of our old building. Then we read, wrote, or talked, waiting for the true Darkness. Then we went out, continuing our conversation.

¹ **would be to me a treasure beyond price** — будет неоценимой для меня находкой

² **in a desolate portion of the Faubourg St. Germain** — в уединённом уголке Сен-Жерменского предместья

At such times I could not help admiring¹ a peculiar analytic ability in Dupin. He seemed, too, to be very proud of it. He boasted to me that most men, in respect to himself, were very simple, and that he could understand them very well. His manner at these moments was frigid and abstract; his eyes were empty. Observing him in these moods, I often thought about two different Dupins—the creative and the resolvent.

Once we looked over an evening edition of the “Gazette des Tribunaux,”² when the following paragraphs drew our attention.

“EXTRAORDINARY MURDERS.

This morning, about three o’clock, the inhabitants of the Quartier St.

¹ I could not help admiring — я не мог не восхищаться

² “Gazette des Tribunaux” — «Судебная газета»

Roch¹ were aroused from sleep by a succession of terrific shrieks. The shrieks came, apparently, from the fourth story of a house in the Rue Morgue², where Madame L'Esplanaye³, and her daughter, Mademoiselle Camille L'Esplanaye⁴, lived. After some delay, the gateway was broken, and eight or ten of the neighbors entered, accompanied by two gendarmes. By this time the cries ceased; but, as the party rushed up the first flight of stairs, two or more rough voices were distinguished, and seemed to proceed from the upper part of the house. As the second landing was reached, these sounds, also, ceased, and everything remained perfectly quiet. The party hurried from room to room.

¹ **Quartier St. Roch** — квартал Сен-Рок

² **Rue Morgue** — улица Морг

³ **Madame L'Esplanaye** — мадам Л'Эспанэ

⁴ **Mademoiselle Camille L'Esplanaye** — мадемуазель Камилла Л'Эспанэ

When the people came to the large back chamber in the fourth story, (the door of which, locked with the key inside, was forced open¹,) everybody was struck with horror than with astonishment.

“The apartment was in the wildest disorder—the furniture broken and thrown about in all directions. There was only one bedstead; and from this the bed was removed, and thrown into the middle of the floor. On a chair lay a razor, besmeared with blood. On the hearth were two or three long and thick tresses of grey human hair, also dabbled in blood. Upon the floor were found four Napoleons², an earring of topaz, three large silver spoons, and two bags, containing nearly four thousand francs

¹ **was forced open** — была взломана

² **four Napoleons** — четыре наполеондора

in gold. The drawers of a bureau, which stood in one corner, were open. A small iron safe was discovered under the bed (not under the bedstead). It was open, with the key still in the door. It had a few old letters, and other papers.

“Madame L’Espanaye disappeared; but a search was made in the chimney, and the corpse of the daughter was dragged therefrom¹. The body was quite warm. Upon the face were many severe scratches, and, upon the throat, dark bruises, and deep indentations of finger nails, as if the victim was throttled to death².

“After a thorough investigation of every portion of the house, the party came into a small paved yard in, where lay the corpse of the old lady, with her throat so entirely cut that, upon an at-

¹ **was dragged therefrom** — БЫЛ ОТТУДА ВЫТАЩЕН

² **as if the victim was throttled to death** — КАК БУДТО ЖЕРТВУ ЗАДУШИЛИ

tempt to raise her, the head fell off. The body, as well as the head, was fearfully mutilated.

“To this horrible mystery there is not as yet, we believe, the slightest clue.”

The next day’s paper had these additional particulars.

“The Tragedy in the Rue Morgue.

Many individuals were examined in relation to this most extraordinary and frightful affair, but nothing threw light upon it.

“Pauline Dubourg¹, laundress, deposes that she knew both the deceased for three years, washed for them during that period. The old lady and her daughter were very affectionate towards each other. She could not say anything in regard to their mode or means of living. She believed that Madame L. was a fortune-teller. She never met any per-

¹ **Pauline Dubourg** — Полина Дюбур

sons in the house when she came for the clothes or took them home. She is sure that they had no servant.

“Pierre Moreau¹, tobacconist², says that he sold small quantities of tobacco to Madame L’Espanaye for nearly four years. The deceased and her daughter occupied the house in which the corpses were found, for more than six years. It was formerly occupied by a jeweller, who underlet the upper rooms³ to various persons. The house was the property of Madame L. The old lady was childish. The witness saw the daughter five or six times during the six years. He heard that Madame was a fortune-teller, but he did not believe it. He never seen any person enter the door except the old lady and

¹ **Pierre Moreau** — Пьер Моро

² **tobacconist** — владелец табачной лавки

³ **who underlet the upper rooms** — который сдавал верхние комнаты