

SEPTEMBER 28, 11:14 P.M.
EDGAR ALLAN POE ONCE WROTE THAT
BY OBSERVING THE WORLD THROUGH
THE SOBER EYE OF REASON WE
REVEAL ITS RESEMBLANCE TO HELL.

THE "WORLD OF OUR SAD
HUMANITY," HE CALLED IT.

I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER
DESCRIPTION FOR THE
WORLD AS I OFTEN SEE IT—

—OR FOR ONE OF THE MOST CHILLING
SERIES OF EVENTS I EVER CHANCED
TO EXPERIENCE IN WHAT SEEMS LIKE
A LIFETIME SPENT REPORTING ON THE
MORBID AND THE EXTRAORDINARY.

LITTLE DID I SUSPECT THAT
WHAT BEGAN IN BALTIMORE
LATE THAT SUMMER NOT
ONLY STRUCK TERROR INTO
THE HEART OF A CITY—

I'VE GOT
THE RECORDING
CUED, CARL.

—BUT ALSO MARKED THE START
OF SERIES OF EVENTS FAR
MORE NIGHTMARISH IN FACT...

THANKS,
SAM. GUESS I
SHOULD'VE SKIPPED
THAT THIRD CUP OF
COFFEE.

READY
WHENEVER
YOU'RE
FEELING
SLEEPY.

... THAN THE ESTIMABLE
MR. POE'S IMAGINARY
REALMS IN FICTION.

AUGUST 14, 12:13 P.M.,
SIX WEEKS AGO—

—AN ORDINARY DAY IN BALTIMORE, EXCEPT FOR ONE CHARM CITY NATIVE, DENNIS GAVIN, AGE 32, LONER, THIEF, AND MURDER VICTIM.

CITING MR. GAVIN'S CRIMINAL HISTORY, BALTIMORE POLICE IGNORED HIS WORRIED BROTHER'S PHONE REQUESTS FOR A WELFARE CHECK FOR NEARLY 36 HOURS...

...UNTIL A NEIGHBOR REPORTED A SINISTER MAN LEAVING MR. GAVIN'S APARTMENT IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT.

THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY SEARCHED FOR THREE WHOLE HOURS TO LOCATE MR. GAVIN IN HIS ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT.

THE REASON FOR THE DELAY?

THE KILLER'S CLEVER METHOD OF HIDING MR. GAVIN'S BODY.

MR. GAVIN'S DISMEMBERED AND MUTILATED BODY.



TRULY THE STUFF
OF NIGHTMARES.



THE NEIGHBOR, ONE
MR. RONALD LOPEZ, AGE 55,
TOLD POLICE TO LOOK—



—FOR A THIN, DARK MAN
CARRYING AN ANTIQUE LANTERN.

THE TRADEMARK OF A KILLER NICKNAMED "THE LANTERN MAN" BY THE
LOCAL TABLOIDS AND EVERYONE ELSE IN BALTIMORE—EXCEPT THE POLICE.



AUGUST 21, LIGHT STREET
FLEA MARKET, 2:22 P.M.

IS THIS
ORIGINAL FROM
THE B&O
RAILROAD?

SURE,
MAYBE. FOUND
IT IN A JUNK PILE.
LET YA HAVE IT
FOR \$25.

MAKE IT \$20,
AND WE HAVE
A DEAL.



ARNOLD AND MARIE JANSON, AGE 47 AND 43,
HAD TAKEN UP ANTIQUING AS A BALM FOR
EMPTY NEST SYNDROME, NEVER REALIZING—