

SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 21

THE RED-EYED RAVEN GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of Author Tim Ritter



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Update on *The Screamer Down the Hall and Other Tales*

Exclusive Access: Another Little Something No One Else Has Read

Presentation Update

WELCOME!



Welcome to the September 2025 issue of the Red-Eyed Raven Gazette!

The number of subscribers continues to climb. We now have over 400 wonderful people reading this. Many thanks to all of you who have taken the time to subscribe! I enjoy putting it together, and I hope you enjoy reading it. Feel free to email any questions you have to tritterman@gmail.com.

There's never a shortage of things to talk about. In this issue, you get an update on my next book, a collection of short stories of horror and adventure. Also, you get another exclusive access to unpublished information pertaining to the new book. Lastly, The Presentation Update page has all the latest info on when I will be giving talks which are open to the public.

As always, thanks for your encouraging messages sent when these newsletters are released. Your support is very much appreciated.



[Author Tim Ritter](#)



[authortimritter](#)



[@TimothyLRitter](#)

www.timritter.net

AN UPDATE ON *THE SCREAMER* *DOWN THE HALL AND OTHER TALES*

Look out folks! *The Screamer Down the Hall and Other Tales* is officially complete and currently on order for first prints! The official release date is next Tuesday, October 7! I can't wait!

The editing process was incredibly fast, and I'm so very grateful to my team for their work. A manuscript is never without edits, but I was pleased to see that the number of items needing attention was relatively small. Geez, that means I might actually be learning something!

The cover was already completed, as previously shared with you, but I always end up saving the blurb on the back cover for the last. I should probably stop that and have that text ready to go a bit earlier. Nonetheless that was worked out while I waited for the final formatting process, which happened lightning fast.

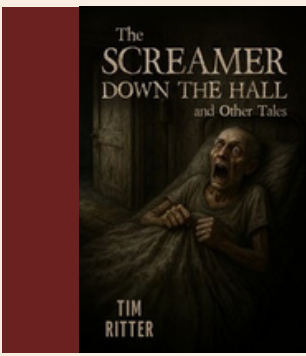
I had to wait a few days for the proof copy. That's basically the author's last look at the finished product before it is released for publication. The most exciting thing about it is the fact that the author gets to hold the physical book for the first time. I love that moment. It's exciting to hold it in my hands, see that it is real, and give it a scrutinizing look to make sure everything is as it should be.

Often the proof shows a minor issue or two that need correcting. In this case I think I needed three things corrected. Nothing major, but it was the kind of thing that doesn't really make itself visible till you are holding the actual book. Once those items were addressed and resubmitted, I hit the green button to move toward release date.

For those of you that love audiobooks, that process has been underway for the last month as well. I was able to secure the talents of my good friend, an outstanding voice actor, Paul J. McSorley. He has been the voice of hundreds of audiobooks, and did a spectacular job bringing a few of my spooky stories to life on the "Fear from the Heartland" podcast. Since he had already performed those tales for the podcast, it was only logical that he should be the voice for the whole book! The audio version should be available within the next week or so.

Lastly, I have the paperback versions available on presale right now. They are \$11.99 plus tax if applicable, and shipping & handling. If you'd like a signed copy, please contact me at tritterman@gmail.com or on my Facebook page. If you prefer e-books, they are also available on preorder on Amazon [here](#).

It's coming soon! Stay tuned!



EXCLUSIVE ACCESS: A LITTLE SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE HAS READ

Further celebrating the upcoming release of *The Screamer Down the Hall and Other Tales*, I thought you might like to read about the inspiration for this collection of stories.

In 1975, my brother Doug, who collected such magazines as *Mad*, *Cracked*, and *Movie Monsters*, brought home Issue Number 69 of a magazine called *Creepy*, which had been in publication since the month before I was born, November 1964. From a company called Warren Publications, *Creepy* took classic and contemporary spooky stories and adapted them into what the world now calls graphic novels. Issue Number 69 was comprised of six stories written by none other than Edgar Allan Poe. The stories included “The Pit and the Pendulum”, “The Oval Portrait”, “The Case of M. Valdemar”, “Premature Burial”, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, and “MS. Found in a Bottle”.

I was spellbound. I read the stories over and over again, fascinated by the horror within those tales.

Later, at the ripe old age of thirteen, a unit on Poe started up in my junior high English class. During those few weeks, I decided that I was going to not only be a great writer, I was going to be the next Poe, so why not start right then and there. The class assignment one day was to pick an object in the room and describe it without actually saying what it was. I picked a filing cabinet, and decided to impress the girls in the class with my vivid but dark description of the black beast, including the observation that it looked like something that belonged in a morgue. We were required to read our creations out loud, and when my name was called, I arose and began to read with great dramatic emphasis. I was almost done when I heard one of the girls sigh, “Good lord.”

That was not quite the response for which I had hoped.

After completing my soliloquy, the teacher paused then said, “That was interesting, Tim. I think you may have taken that a bit too far.” And she was right. I decided that perhaps I wasn’t ready to be the next Poe.

In my adult life, I have studied not only Poe but also a writer who credited Poe with being his inspiration, Ambrose Bierce. If you like gothic horror and have never read Bierce, I heartily recommend him. He served in the Union Army during the American Civil War, and wrote several stories about his experiences. He also wrote several fictional stories, some with the war as the backdrop for the horror within the tales. (Continued next page)

He is also known for his tongue-in-cheek collection of definitions entitled "The Devil's Dictionary". This interesting piece was originally published as a serial within several newspaper issues under the name "The Cynic's Word Book" and other cynic-related titles.

I found Bierce to be the master of the surprise ending. He was a master at taking the reader along a journey within a story then suddenly throwing in a huge twist that was never seen coming. It's a fascinating mind game along with a rather deadpan, matter-of-fact voice in his writing. My favorite Bierce story became "A Horseman in the Sky." I recommend you read it.

Eventually, both men, Poe and Bierce, became my literary heroes.

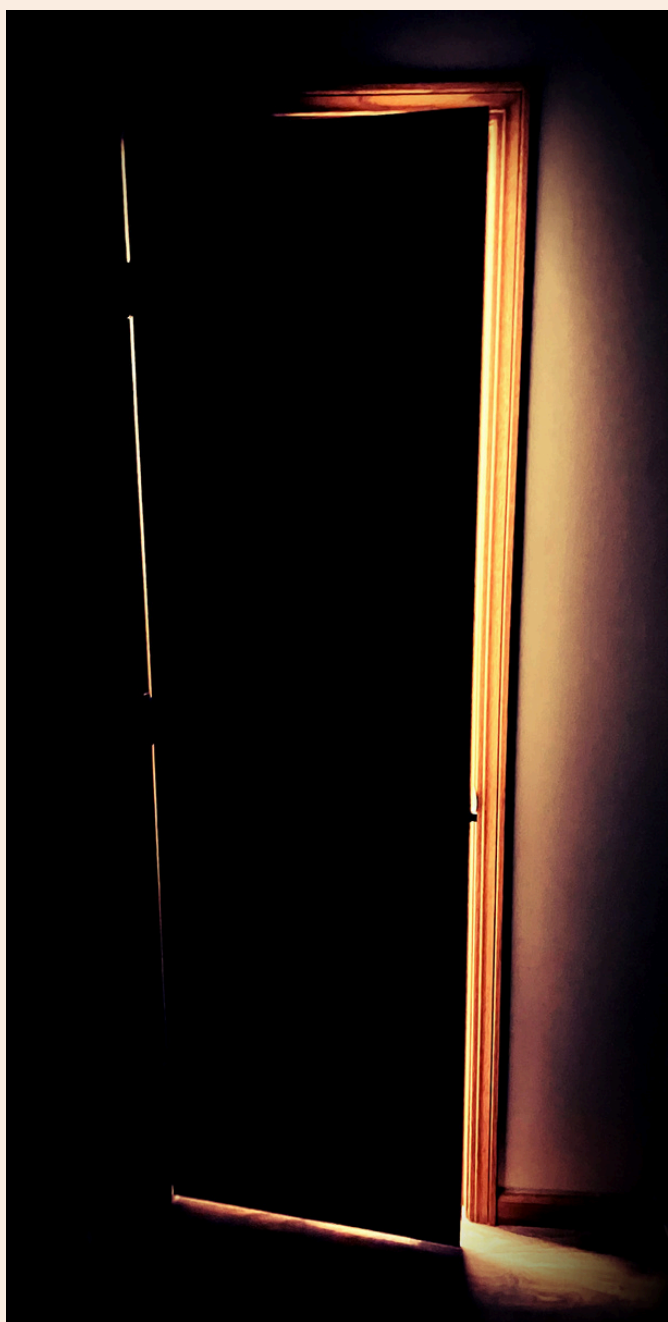
In 2019, as the 170th anniversary of Poe's death came around, I wanted so badly to write something about his final days or hours. It had to be something unique, written from an angle no one attempted before. So I began to think about his suffering in the hospital, and the claims of Doctor John Joseph Moran, who said Poe called out the name "Reynolds" repeatedly in his delirium (Doctor Moran's claims have been questioned over the last several decades by Poe scholars, however I decided to stay with this version). I decided to explore what it might have been like to be a dying patient down the hall from Poe's room, listening to him yelling the name repeatedly. After a few iterations, the poem "The Screamer Down the Hall" was born.

After completion of the poem, I learned of a contest that had been created as part of the annual International Poe Festival in Baltimore, Maryland. The contest was called the Saturday Visiter Awards, named after the publication, with the word "Visiter" intentionally misspelled, which was the first to publish one of Poe's works and pay him for it. The awards solicited writings and various other forms of art which were inspired by or related to Poe's writings, or pertained to his life. Since it related to his death, I submitted my poem "The Screamer Down the Hall" to the contest and waited, all the while remembering the disgusted sigh of the girl in seventh grade.

One day in the Spring of 2020, I received a large envelope in the mail from the Poe Festival. To my amazement, my poem had been selected as a finalist for that year's Visiter Awards. The package included a certificate as a finalist, and a letter which noted that my submission was one of the best they had received. I was absolutely thrilled.

Note, however, that it was 2020. Covid had gripped the world, and by the time of the October festival, it was decided that the Visiter Awards ceremony would have to be remote via internet group meeting, as so many special events were. I dressed nicely from the waist up and sat in front of my computer camera through the event. There were several finalists, many more than I expected. We all sat quietly in our little virtual room, not really knowing what to say nor what to expect. Several of us were pulled into the live virtual webcast, then moved back into the virtual green room to await returning to the webcast as a winner. Alas, my poem was not selected among the winners that night. However the fact that it had been selected as a finalist gave me a feeling of validity, that perhaps my horror was worthy of being read. And I decided that I should include the "Screamer" poem in some sort of collection, as a nod to Poe and Bierce to thank them for their inspiration. (Continued next page)

Over the last five years since the 2020 Poe Festival, I have continued to ask myself the question, “What scares you?” If you’re really honest with yourself, making a list of what truly scares you can yield tantalizing results. I must admit, a couple of nightmares I had became really good base material for a couple of stories as well. You know how it is, usually a dream is easily forgotten within the first few minutes of awakening. However a nightmare can be a little different, and if you give it enough thought, the imagery can stay with you - at least long enough to scribble down some notes to help prevent you from forgetting. To further help, I looked up some stock images and even consulted some online sources to create custom images, to see what might be conjured up visually by the basic ideas behind my stories. Here are a few of those images:





Each of these images pertains to one of the stories within ***The Screamer Down the Hall and Other Tales***, and I hope this is making you wonder what the heck I've got in store for you.

So be sure to get your advance order in, and continue to watch for more updates and future mailings pertaining to the book.

And don't worry, I've got more sinister stuff rolling around in my head - - and some of it has already made it to paper...

PRESENTATION UPDATE

If anyone you know belongs to a group needing speakers, please give them my contact info!



October:

7th: Bella Nina Candle Company, Fair Grove, MO - 7:00p.m. - Originally this was going to be a talk on the Battle of the Little Bighorn. However, since I was able to get the new book release date confirmed for October 7, that night we will have a release party! I'm going to read selections from the book, and will continue to take advance orders for signed copies that night. Same routine as always: arrive around 6:30pm and go to Monroe Coffee Co for a drink and a treat, then step two doors down to Bella Nina for a spooky good time! Please note this will be a Mature Audiences event due to subject matter (it's horror, you know) plus some colorful language. Make plans to attend!

10th - 11th: Ozarks Creative Writers Conference, Eureka Springs, AR - I will be giving two presentations at this conference. If you are a writer, please consider attending this event. It is a terrific gathering of folks who creating the written word.

17th: Facebook Live Event - Frog Acres Halloween - Weather permitting, I'll do my annual Facebook Live show giving you a guided tour of the crazy Halloween decorations at Frog Acres. Watch my Author Tim Ritter Facebook page for further announcements.

18th: Republic Library, Republic, MO - 10:30a.m. - Presenting "What Really Happened at the OK Corral"

November:

Nothing currently on the books other than my regularly-scheduled presentations at senior living facilities in Springfield.

December:

9th: That morning I have a private event for a local Rotary Club meeting

More events are in the works. I'll plan to do the Little Bighorn talk at Bella Nina when we restart the Fair Grove presentations in March 2026. Stay tuned!

My regular speaking engagements, twice each month, continue at the four Elfindale senior living facilities in Springfield. Also, I present monthly at these other senior facilities: The Preston, Mission Ridge, Turner's Rock, and Springhouse Village.