

*Atwood typing *The Handmaid's Tale* in Berlin 1984.
Copyright: Isolde Ohlbaum.*



GUESS THE GOTHIC: *A WORD ART PROJECT*

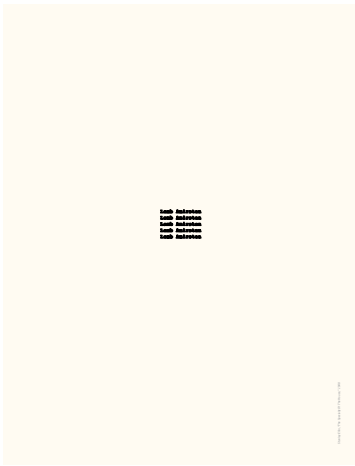
**All pieces will be signed by
Margaret Atwood**

"Talking is very old," Margaret Atwood once wrote, "writing is not." If any literary form bridges oral storytelling with the written word, it is Gothic, a tradition rooted in folklore and folk-stories, long-told tales that make your heart beat faster and your skin crawl. Beginning with the 1764 novel *The Castle of Otranto*, the Gothic in literature, and more recently in film, has held equal sway over our conscious imaginings and unconscious minds. These stories never go out of fashion. They never stop scaring us half to death.

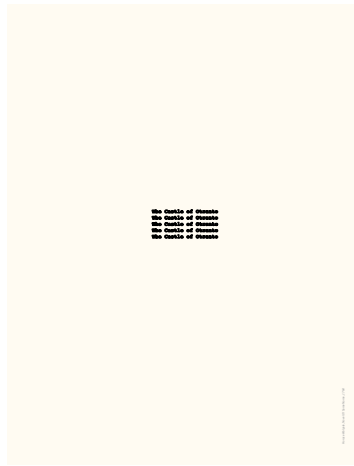
Canadians have been writing Gothic tales since the 19th century. Among our most famous occasional practitioners is Margaret Atwood herself. She is also a lifelong reader and watcher of Gothic tales. For the 2023 Storytellers Ball, we asked our co-founder to share 30 essential Gothic terms and expressions, phrases she has associated with the genre since she was a child.

Guess the Gothic, a word art project, conceived by committee member Lindsay Matrick, created by Margaret Atwood and realized with Doug Laxdal and The Gas Company, on the original typewriter used by the author to work on many of her books, including *The Handmaid's Tale*. The project welcomes us into both the world of the Gothic in literary and popular culture, and, perhaps, a corner of the mind of a Canadian author.

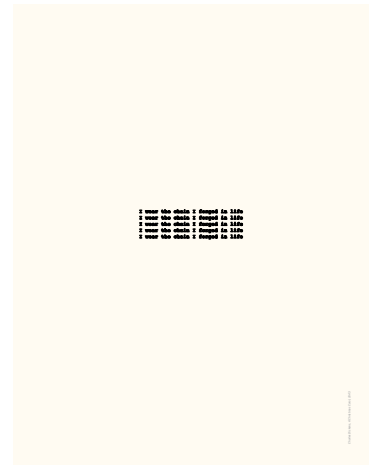
The 30 pieces comprising Guess the Gothic, available in an edition of one-of-two and signed by Margaret Atwood, are being silent-auctioned individually at the Storytellers Ball. A complete second set will be held in reserve by Writers' Trust for future sale.



1. LAMB ARMISTAN
(Stanley Ellin, The Specialty of the House, 1948)



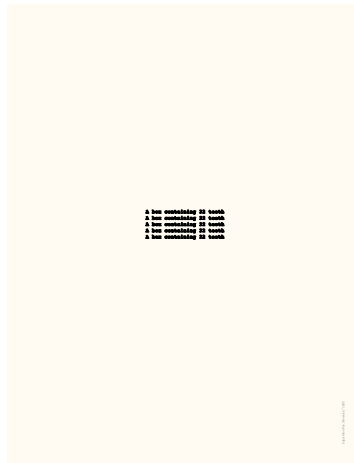
2. THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO
(Horace Walpole, 1764)



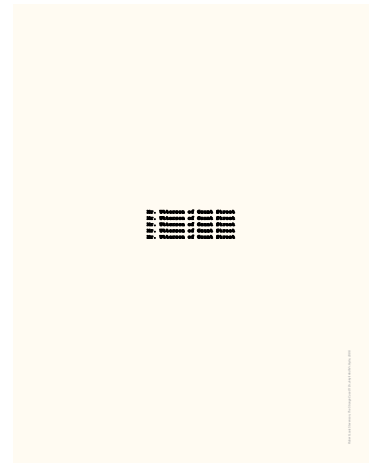
3. THE CHAIN I FORGED IN LIFE!
(Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843)



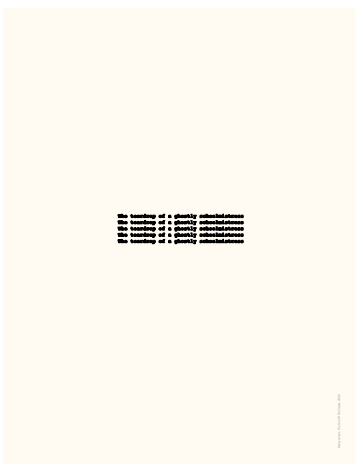
4. COUNT ORLOK
(Nosferatu, film, 1922)



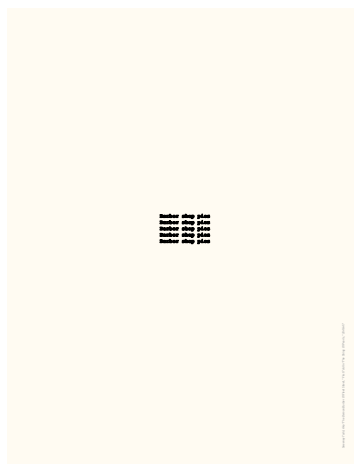
5. A BOX CONTAINING 32 TEETH
(Edgar Allan Poe, Berenice, 1835)



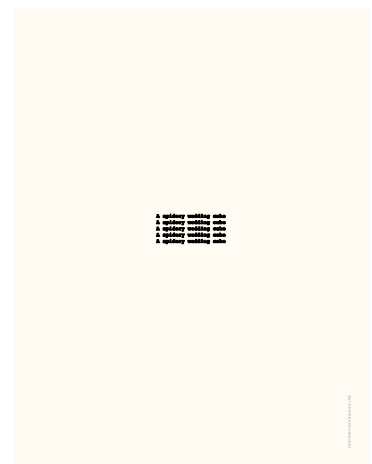
6. MR. UTTERSON OF GAUNT STREET
(Robert Louis Stevenson, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, 1886)



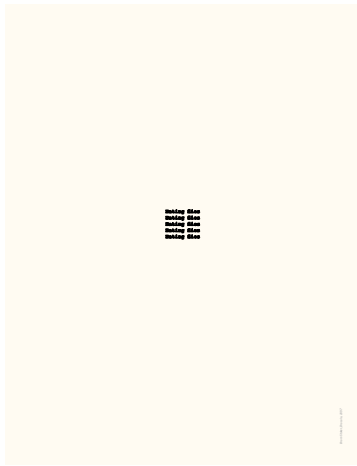
7. THE TEARDROP OF A GHOSTLY SCHOOLMISTRESS
(Henry James, The Turn of the Screw, 1898)



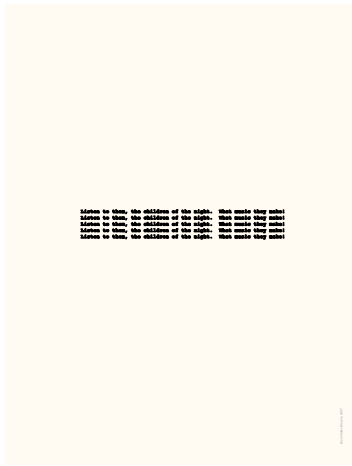
8. BARBERSHOP PIES
(Sweeney Todd, "The demon barber of Fleet Street," first told in 'The String of Pearls,' 1846-47)



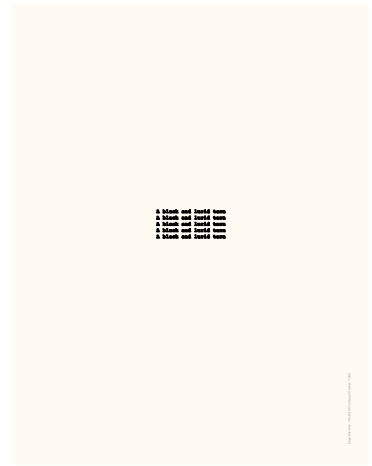
9. A SPIDERY WEDDING CAKE
(Charles Dickens, Great Expectations, 1861)



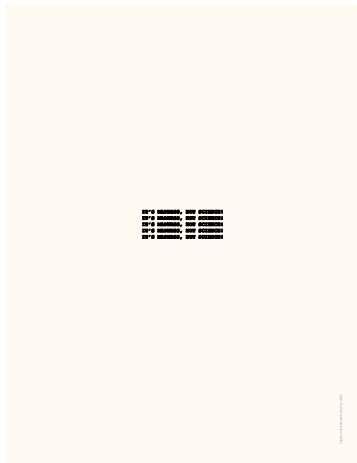
10. EATING FLIES
(Bram Stoker, Dracula, 1897)



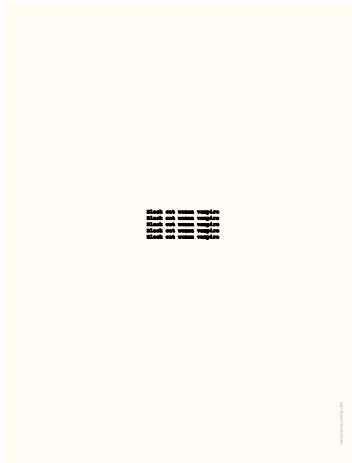
11. LISTEN TO THEM, THE CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT. WHAT MUSIC THEY MAKE!
(Bram Stoker, Dracula, 1897)



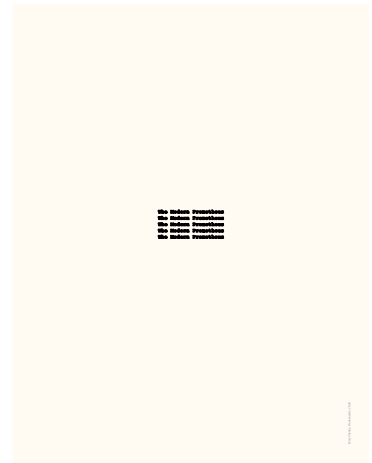
12. A BLACK AND LURID TARN
(Edgar Allen Poe, Fall of the House of Usher, 1839)



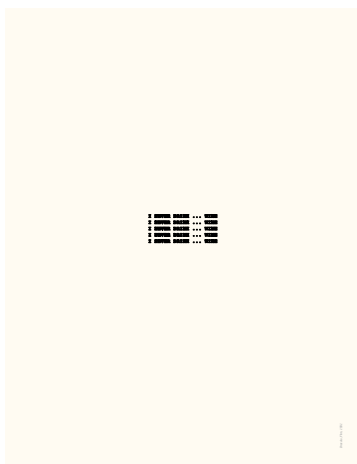
13. IT'S MADNESS, NOT SCIENCE!
(The Brain That Wouldn't Die, film, 1962)



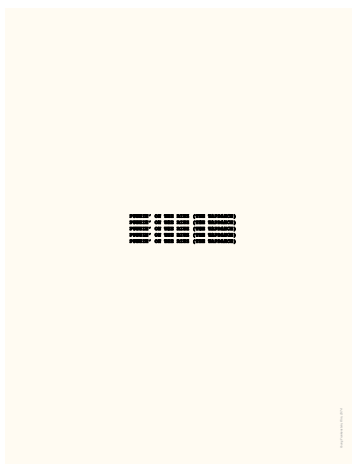
14. BLACK CAT WOMAN VAMPIRE
(Sheriden Le Fanu, Camilla, 1872)



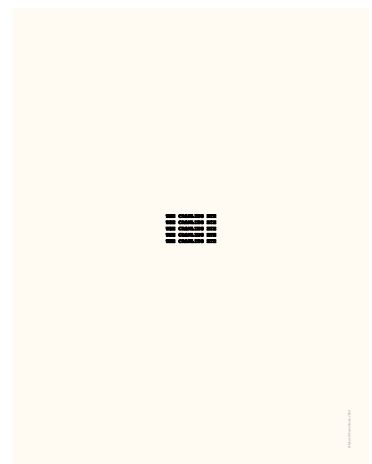
15. THE MODERN PROMETHEUS
(Mary Shelley, Frankenstein, 1818)



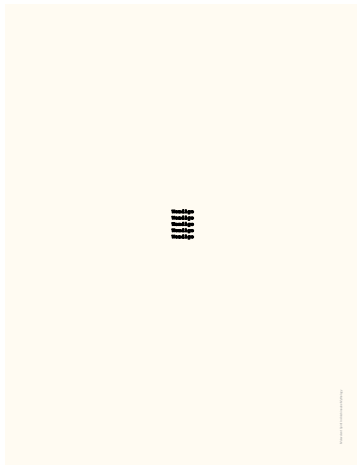
16. I NEVER DRINK... WINE
(Dracula, movie, 1932)



17. PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ, THE TAPDANCE
(Young Frankenstein, movie, 1974)

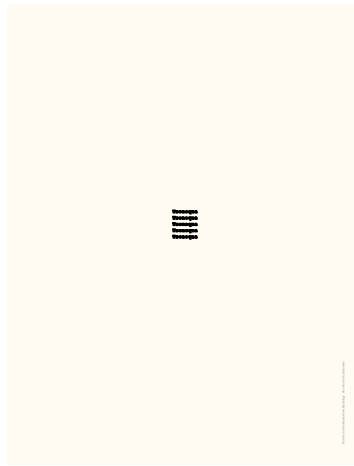


18. THE CRAWLING EYE
(B-movie of same name, 1958)



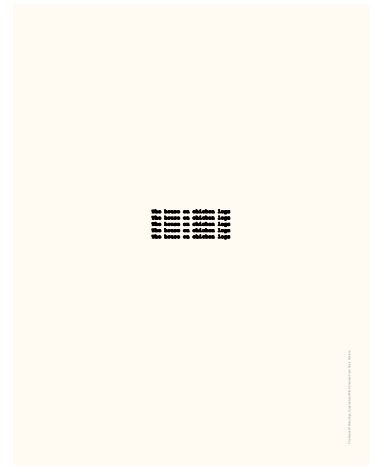
**19.
WENDIGO**

(Malevolent spirit in Anishinaabe-family languages)



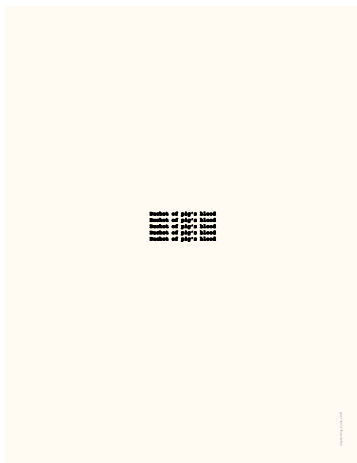
**20.
TSONONQUA**

(Monster in Kwakwaka'wakw Mythology. Also known as Dzunukwa)



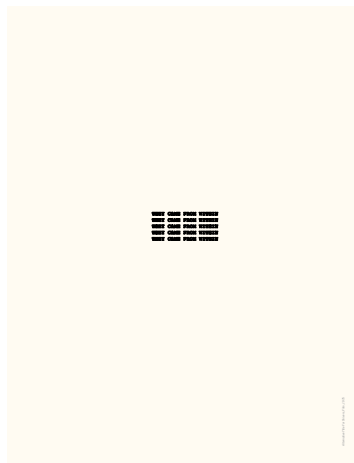
**21.
THE HOUSE ON CHICKEN LEGS**

(The house of Baba Yago, supernatural witch creature from Slavic folklore)



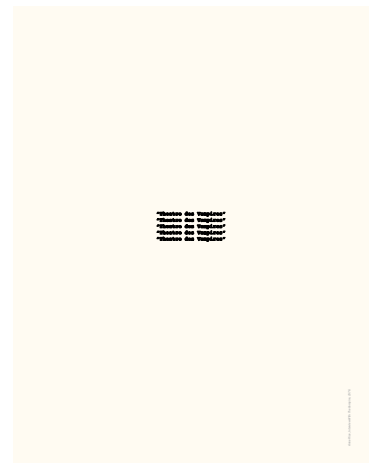
**22.
BUCKET OF PIG'S BLOOD**

(Stephen King, Carrie, 1974)



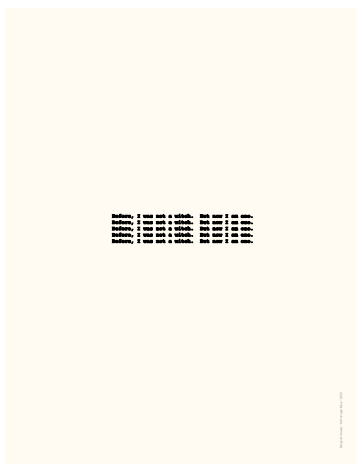
**23.
THEY CAME FROM WITHIN**

(Alternative Title For Shiver's, Film, 1975)



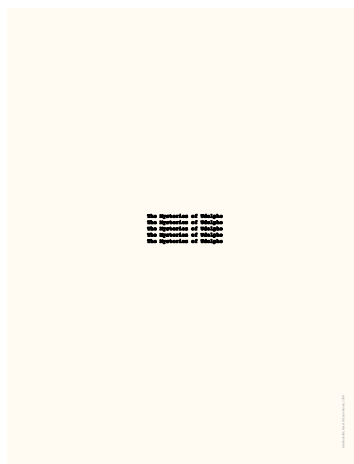
**24.
"Theatre des Vampires"**

(Anne Rice, Interview with the Vampire, 1976)



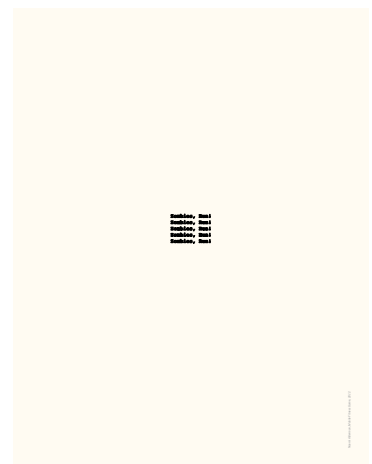
**25.
BEFORE, I WAS NOT A WITCH. BUT
NOW I AM ONE.**

(Margaret Atwood, "Half-hanged Mary," 1995)



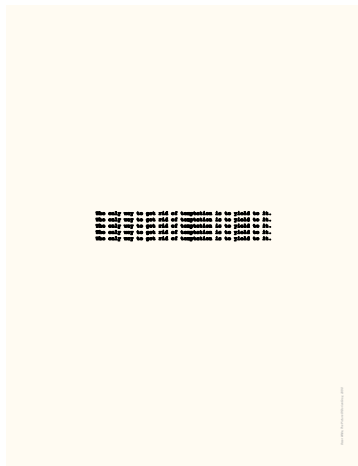
**26.
THE MYSTERIES OF UDOLPHO**

(Anne Radcliffe, novel of same name, 1794)

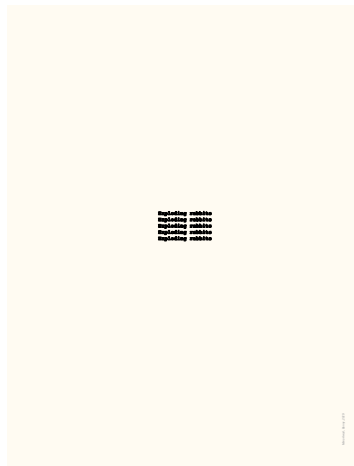


**27.
ZOMBIES, RUN!**

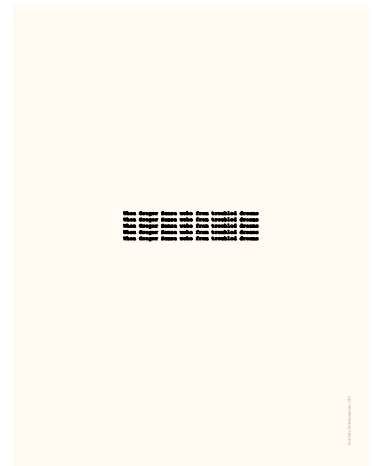
(Naomi Alderman, mobile fitness game, 2012)



28.
**THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF
TEMPTATION IS TO YIELD TO IT.**
(Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian
Gray*, 1890)



29.
EXPLODING RABBITS
(Mona Awad, *Bunny*, 2019)



30.
**WHEN GREGOR SAMSA WOKE
FROM TROUBLED DREAMS**
(Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis*,
1915)

MARGARET ATWOOD

MARGARET ATWOOD, whose work has been published in more than forty-five countries, is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry, critical essays, and graphic novels. In addition to *The Handmaid's Tale*, now an award-winning TV series, her novels include *The Testaments*, winner of the 2019 Booker Prize; *Cat's Eye*, short-listed for the 1989 Booker Prize; *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the 2000 Booker Prize; The *MaddAddam* Trilogy; *The Heart Goes Last* and, most recently *Babes in the Wood*. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize, the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the *Los Angeles Times* Innovator's Award. In 2019, she was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour for services to literature. She lives in Toronto.



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