

Edgar Allan Poe



THE GOLD BUG

Edgar Allan Poe



THE GOLD BUG

EDGAR ALLAN POE

THE GOLD BUG

Adapted for the 9th Form
of Secondary School

by A. STAVISKAYA

STATE TEXT-BOOK PUBLISHING HOUSE
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE RSFSR
LENINGRAD BRANCH

Leningrad • 1960

CONTENTS

	page
Предисловие	5
The Gold Bug	
Chapter I	7
Chapter II	12
Chapter III	15
Chapter IV	17
Chapter V	19
Chapter VI	22
Chapter VII	24
Chapter VIII	26
Chapter IX	29
Chapter X	34
Chapter XI	38
Chapter XII	43
Chapter XIII	45
The Murders in the Rue Morgue	
Chapter I	48
Chapter II	50
Chapter III	57
Chapter IV	59
Chapter V	63
Chapter VI	67
Vocabulary	74

ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Известный американский писатель Эдгар Аллан По родился в 1809 г. в Бостоне, в актерской семье. Мальчик рано лишился родителей, и его взял на воспитание богатый ричмондский купец Джон Аллан. В его семье Эдгар провел детство и юность, все время мучительно ощущая свое положение приемыша. Вместе с семьей Аллана Эдгар прожил пять лет в Англии, где учился в пансионе; вернувшись на родину, он продолжал образование в Ричмондском колледже. Эдгар отличался живым умом и любознательностью, увлекался ботаникой и физикой, рано начал интересоваться литературой, в особенности поэзией. Это вызывало неодобрение Аллана, который готовил Эдгара к карьере коммерсанта.

В 1826 г. Эдгар По поступил в Виргинский университет, но вскоре был вынужден оставить его, так как Аллан отказался платить за его обучение. Порвав с приемным отцом и оставшись без средств к существованию, По начал пробовать свои силы в литературе; но первые небольшие книжки его стихов успеха не имели. Он переезжает из города в город, проводит два года в армии, некоторое время учится в военном училище и снова обращается к литературе, на этот раз к прозе. С начала 30-х гг. рассказы По появляются в печати; он сотрудничает в ряде журналов, пишет очерки и критические статьи, занимается редакторской работой. В 1833 г. один из популярных в Америке журналов присуждает По первую премию за рассказ «Рукопись, найденная в бутылке»; его имя приобретает известность, но его материальное положение остается по-прежнему тяжелым. Писателя преследуют болезни и лишения; умирает от туберкулеза его молоденькая жена Виргиния. Последние годы творчества По окрашены чувством глубокой тоски и отчаяния. В 1849 г. он умер.

Творческое наследие Эдгара По очень разнообразно. По своим идеям он был близок к европейским поэтам-романтикам. Его возму-

шало оскудение человеческой личности в эпоху развития капиталистической техники, он мечтал вернуть миру утраченные идеалы добра и красоты. Стихи По в целом носят пессимистический характер. Но вера писателя в человеческий разум, который побеждает все препятствия, находит яркое воплощение в его лучших рассказах.

Рассказы По поражают необычностью и широтой фантазии. При этом фантастика сочетается в них с внешним правдоподобием. Самые запутанные сюжеты, самые невероятные приключения, которые могут показаться вымыслом, в конце концов оказываются логически и даже научно обоснованными. Эту двойственность По отметил в свое время Ф. М. Достоевский, интересовавшийся его творчеством: «В Поэ если есть фантастичность, то какая-то материальная, если бы только можно было так выразиться». Не случайно По стал создателем нового жанра детективного рассказа, в котором таинственный, запутанный сюжет сочетается с кропотливым анализом происходящих событий, разгадкой их скрытого смысла.

Включенные в предлагаемый сборник рассказы — «Золотой жук» и «Убийство на улице Морг» — принадлежат к лучшим произведениям этого жанра. Их герои, Легран и Дюпен — люди незаурядные, обладающие сильной волей и аналитическим складом ума. «Едва ли разум человека может загадать такую загадку, которую разум другого человека, если его направить должным образом, не смог бы разгадать», — говорит По устами Леграна. Писатель подробно рассказывает о мельчайших событиях, важных для развития действия; он не пропускает ни одной детали, — и не менее тщательно воспроизводит работу мысли своего героя, заставляя читателя вместе с ним проделать весь ход рассуждений. Все это придает повествованию особую увлекательность. О необычайном даре По очень точно сказал один из его современников: «Эдгар По сочетал в своей замечательной манере две способности, которые редко объединяются: силу влияния на разум читателя неясными тенями тайны и умение изображать подробности, детали, когда ни одна шпилька, ни одна пуговица не остаются неописанными».

Творчество этого своеобразного писателя оказало большое влияние на развитие научно-фантастического и приключенческого романа, в первую очередь на Жюль Верна, Уэллса, Стивенсона. Знаменитым «аналитическим методом» По с успехом воспользовался Конан Дойль в цикле о Шерлоке Холмсе. Лучшие рассказы Эдгара По сохранили интерес до наших дней.

THE GOLD BUG

CHAPTER I

Many years ago I made the acquaintance of¹ a certain Mr. William Legrand.² He was of an ancient Huguenot³ family, and had once been wealthy; but a number of misfortunes had made him poor. He left New Orleans,⁴ the city of his forefathers, and settled at Sullivan's Island near Charleston, South Carolina.⁵

This island is a very singular one.⁶ It is covered with sea sand, and is about three miles long⁷ and no more than a quarter of a mile wide. It is separated from the mainland by a small creek which makes its way slowly⁸ through the reeds, a favourite place of water birds. The vegetation on

¹ **made the acquaintance of** — познакомился с

² **William Legrand** ['wɪljəm lə'grɑːŋ] — Вильям Легран

³ **Huguenot** ['hjuːɡənɒt] — *здесь* гугенотский. Гугеноты — французские протестанты XVI—XVIII вв., преследовавшиеся католической церковью и правительством.

⁴ **New Orleans** [njuː'ɔːliənz] — Нью-Орлеан, город на юге США

⁵ **Sullivan's Island** ['sʌlɪvənz 'aɪlənd] — остров Сэлливан; **Charleston** ['tʃɑːlstən] — Чарльстон, город в США на берегу Атлантического океана; **South Carolina** ['saʊθ ˌkærə'laɪnə] — штат Южная Каролина

⁶ **a very singular one** = **a very singular island**. Местоимение **one** после прилагательного или указательного местоимения часто заменяет ранее упомянутое существительное.

⁷ **is about three miles long** — имеет в длину около трех миль

⁸ **makes its way slowly** — медленно течет

the island is poor and of small size, as is natural in such a place. No great trees are seen anywhere, except the western part of the island where Fort Moultry¹ stands. There are also some poor-looking buildings there to which people go in summer, wishing to get away from Charleston, with its dust and fever. The rest of the island is covered with myrtle. It is fifteen or twenty feet high here and fills the air with its sweet smell.

Not far from the eastern end of the island Legrand had built himself a small hut, in which he was living when I first met him. In a short time we became friends. He was well educated and had unusual powers of mind;² but from time to time he had strange fits of enthusiasm followed by deep melancholy. He had many books, but seldom read them. Most of all³ he liked hunting and fishing, or wandering along the shore, looking for shells and insects for his collection. In these excursions he was usually accompanied by his old negro-servant Jupiter⁴ who was very much devoted to his master.

The winters in the latitude of Sullivan's Island are not very cold, and people seldom need a fire in autumn. But one day, about the middle of October, 18—, was unusually cold. Just before sunset I decided to visit Legrand. I had not seen him for some weeks, because at that time I was living in Charleston, a distance of nine miles from the island. I went to his hut, knocked at the door, and, getting no reply, took the key from the place where it was usually hidden, unlocked the door and went in. A bright fire was blazing upon the hearth.⁵ I threw off my coat, took an arm-chair by the fire, and awaited patiently the arrival of my friend.

¹ **Fort Moultry** ['fɔ:t 'moultri] — форт Моултри

² **had unusual powers of mind** — обладал незаурядным умом

³ **most of all** — больше всего

⁴ **Jupiter** ['dʒu:pɪtə] — Юпитер; сокp. **Jup** [dʒʌp]

⁵ **upon the hearth** — в камине

Legrand came soon after dark and gave me a most cordial welcome.¹ He was in one of his fits of enthusiasm. He had found a rare plant, and, more than this,² he had caught, with Jupiter's help, a beetle which was quite unknown to him. He said that he wished to hear my opinion of it the next day.

"And why not to-night?" I asked him, rubbing my hands over the fire, and wishing the whole tribe of beetles at the devil.³

"Oh, if I had only known that you were here! You see, when I was coming home I met Lieutenant G. from the fort and gave him the bug to show it to his comrades. If you stay here to-night, I shall send Jup for it at sunrise. It is the most beautiful thing on earth."

"What? Sunrise?"

"No, the bug. It is of a bright gold colour with two black spots on the back. But I can give you some idea of its shape!"

Saying this, he took a seat at a small table on which were a pen and ink, but no paper.

He looked for some in a drawer, but found none.⁴

"Never mind,"⁵ he said, "that will do."⁶ And he took from his pocket a scrap of what seemed to be very dirty paper,⁷ and made on it a rough drawing with his pen. While he was doing this I kept my seat⁸ by the fire, for I was still cold. Having finished his drawing, Legrand handed it

¹ gave me a most cordial welcome — самым сердечным образом приветствовал меня

² more than this — более того

³ and wishing the whole tribe of beetles at the devil — и посылая к чертям всех жуков на свете (букв. все жучье племя)

⁴ but found none — но не нашел (бумаги)

⁵ never mind — неважно

⁶ that will do. — подойдет и это

⁷ a scrap of what seemed to be very dirty paper — обрывок чего-то, что казалось очень грязной бумажкой

⁸ kept my seat — продолжал сидеть

to me without rising. As I took it, a loud noise was heard at the door. Jupiter opened it, and a large Newfoundland dog,¹ belonging to Legrand, rushed in and leaped upon my shoulders. When his noisy greetings were over, I looked at the paper which I was holding in my hand, and, to speak the truth,² I was puzzled when I saw my friend's drawing.



“Well!” I said, “this is a very strange beetle, new to me. It looks like a death’s head.”³

“A death’s head!” repeated Legrand, “oh, yes, it certainly resembles a death’s head, upon paper. The two small black spots look like eyes, and the longer one⁴ like a mouth — and its whole shape is oval.”

“Perhaps so,” I said; “but, Legrand, I fear you are no artist.⁵ I must see the beetle myself to form an idea of its appearance.”

¹ **Newfoundland** ['nju:fənd,lænd] **dog** — Ньюфаундленд (водолаз), порода собак

² **to speak the truth** — по правде говоря

³ **looks like a death's head** — похож на череп

⁴ **the longer one** — см. прим. 6 к стр. 7

⁵ **you are no artist** — вы не художник

"Well,¹ I don't know," said my friend, "I can draw rather well, I think. I have had good teachers."

"Then this is the strangest bug in the world. You may call it '*caput hominis*'² or something like that. But where are the antennae?"³

"The antennae?" said Legrand who was getting strangely nervous. "Can't you see them? I have made them as clear as possible."

"Well, well," I said, "perhaps you have, but I don't see them." And I handed him the paper without another word,⁴ for I did not wish to irritate him.

He took the paper angrily, and was about to throw it⁵ into the fire when suddenly something in the drawing attracted his attention. In an instant his face grew red;⁶ in another it became white. For some minutes he went on looking⁷ at the paper silently. Then he got up, took a candle from the table and carefully examined the paper, turning it in all directions. He said nothing, however, and his conduct greatly astonished me; yet I did not want to ask any more questions. At last he took a note-book from his pocket, put the paper into it and locked the book in the drawer of his writing-table.

All of a sudden⁸ he became gloomy; his enthusiasm had disappeared. Seeing my friend in such a mood, I decided not to stay for the night and took my leave.⁹ He did not ask me to remain, but shook my hand with his usual cordiality.

¹ well — здесь ну

² '*caput hominis*' ['keɪpət 'hɒmɪnɪs] — лат. «человеческая голова». Рассказчик предлагает дать новому виду жука латинское название, как принято в биологии.

³ antennae [æn'teni:] — лат. усики

⁴ without another word — не говоря ни слова

⁵ was about to throw it — собирался бросить ее

⁶ grew red — покраснело

⁷ went on looking — продолжал глядеть

⁸ all of a sudden — внезапно

⁹ took my leave — распрощался

CHAPTER II

It was about a month after this when Legrand's servant Jupiter paid me a visit.¹ I had never seen the old man in such agitation, and I thought that something had happened to my friend.

"Well, Jup," said I, "what is the matter?² Is your master well?"³

"To speak the truth, massa Will⁴ is not so very well. He is very sick."

"Is he in bed?"

"No, he isn't."

"Jupiter, I cannot understand what you are talking about. You say your master is ill. What is the matter with him?"

"Massa Will says nothing and I don't know what makes him go about with his head down,⁵ and as white as a goose. And then he keeps on⁶ numbering all the time."

"Keeps on what, Jupiter?"

"Keeps on writing numbers on a slate—the strangest numbers I have ever seen. The other day⁷ he went away before sunrise and I didn't see him all day. I had a big stick ready to give him a good beating,⁸ but when he came back, he looked so unhappy that I hadn't the heart after all."⁹

"You must not be too severe with the poor fellow, Jupiter. Don't beat him," I said smiling. "But haven't you got

¹ paid me a visit — нанес мне визит, посетил меня

² what is the matter? — в чем дело? что случилось?

³ Is your master well? — Твой хозяин здоров?

⁴ massa ['mɑ:sə] — искаж. master — хозяин (Юпитер говорит на плохом английском языке); Will — сокр. от William

⁵ what makes him go about with his head down — отчего он бродит (букв. что заставляет его бродить), опустив голову

⁶ he keeps on — он продолжает

⁷ the other day — на днях

⁸ I had a big stick ready to give him a good beating — я приготовил большую палку, чтобы хорошенько вздуть его

⁹ I hadn't the heart after all — в конце концов у меня не хватило духу

any idea¹ of what is worrying him? Has anything unpleasant happened since I saw you?"

"No, massa, there was nothing unpleasant since then. The trouble was the very day² when you came to us."

"What do you mean?"³

"Why,⁴ massa, I mean the bug."

"The what?"

"The bug. I am sure that gold bug has bitten Massa Will somewhere about the head."⁵

"And what makes you think so?"

"I have never seen such a bug, massa! He kicks and bites everything that goes near him.⁶ Massa Will caught him and then had to let him go⁷ quickly. It was then that he got a bite.⁸ I did not like that bug from the first,⁹ and took him up with a piece of paper that I had found on the ground."

"So you think that your master was really bitten by the bug and that the bite made him sick?"

"I don't think, I know it. What else could make him dream about gold so much? It's the gold bug! I've heard about such bugs before this."

"But how do you know he dreams about gold?"

"How do I know? Because he talks about it in his sleep."

"Well, Jup, perhaps you are right. But what brought you here¹⁰ to-day? Did Mr. Legrand send me any note?"

¹ haven't you got any idea...? — не знаешь ли ты...?

² the very day — в тот самый день

³ What do you mean? — Что ты имеешь в виду?

⁴ why — здесь ну, как же

⁵ somewhere about the head — куда-то в голову

⁶ everything that goes near him — все, что оказывается поблизости от него (Юпитер говорит "he" вместо "it")

⁷ had to let him go — вынужден был выпустить его

⁸ It was then that he got a bite. — Вот тогда-то жук его и укусил. (Конструкция it was ... that служит для смыслового выделения какого-либо члена предложения и буквально не переводится.)

⁹ from the first — с самого начала

¹⁰ What brought you here ...? — Что привело тебя сюда ...?

"Yes, massa, he did," and Jupiter handed me a note. I read it.

"My dear ——

"Why have I not seen you for so long a time?¹ I hope you are not angry with me. I have something to tell you,² but I do not know how to tell it or whether I should tell it at all.³

"I have not been quite well for some days, and poor Jup makes me very angry with his attentions. Would you believe it? He had prepared a big stick the other day and was going to beat me⁴ because I had spent one day alone in the hills on the mainland. I think that only my ill looks⁵ saved me.

"If you can, come to see me with Jupiter. Do come.⁶ I wish to see you to-night on business of importance.⁷

"Ever yours,

"William Legrand."

My friend's note troubled me very much. Its whole style differed from Legrand's usual style. What was on my friend's mind?⁸ What business of importance was he speaking of? Jupiter's words made me suspect that something was wrong.⁹ Without a moment's hesitation I prepared to accompany Jupiter.

¹ for so long a time — так долго

² I have something to tell you — у меня для вас есть кое-какие новости

³ or whether I should tell it at all — и должен ли я вообще говорить об этом (здесь **should** имеет модальное значение долженствования)

⁴ was going to beat me — собирался меня поколотить (конструкция **to be going** с инфинитивом передает значение намерения)

⁵ my ill looks — мой больной вид

⁶ Do come. — Прошу вас, приходите. (**Do** в повелительном наклонении усиливает смысловой глагол.)

⁷ on business of importance — по важному делу

⁸ What was on my friend's mind? — Что беспокоило моего друга? (букв. что было на уме у моего друга?)

⁹ something was wrong — что-то неладно

When we reached the landing-stage, I saw a scythe and three spades in the bottom of the boat which was awaiting us.

"What is the meaning of all this,¹ Jup?" I asked the servant.

"Massa Will told me to buy them in the town," he answered.

"And what is your Massa Will going to do with spades and scythes?"

"I don't know. But it is all because of² the bug."

We stepped into the boat and I made sail.³ The wind was fair and strong and we soon landed to the north of Fort Moultry. About three in the afternoon, after a walk of two miles,⁴ we reached Legrand's hut where he was awaiting us with great impatience. He grasped my hand and shook it nervously. His face was deadly pale and his deep-set eyes were unnaturally bright.

After some inquiries about his health, I asked him, not knowing what to say, if he had taken the bug back from Lieutenant G.

"Oh, yes!" he said, "I got it from him the next morning. Jupiter is right when he says that it is of real gold."

Legrand said this quite seriously, and it gave me a shock.⁵

"This bug will make my fortune,"⁶ he continued with a smile, "and it will give me back my family possessions. Wait and see! Jupiter, bring me the beetle."

¹ What is the meaning of all this...? — Что все это значит...?

² because of — из-за

³ I made sail — я поставил парус

⁴ after a walk of two miles — пройдя пешком две мили

⁵ it gave me a shock — это заставило меня содрогнуться

⁶ will make my fortune — принесет мне богатство

"What! The bug, massa? You had better go and take it yourself,"¹ said Jupiter, trembling.

Legrand got up and brought the bug from the glass-case. It was a beautiful beetle and I believe at that time it was unknown to naturalists. There were two round black spots on its back. The scales were hard and glossy. The weight of the insect was very remarkable, and no wonder that Jupiter believed it to be made of gold.² But for the life of me I could not tell³ what made Legrand think so.

"I sent for you," said Legrand, when I completed the examination of the bug, "I sent for you because I want your help and advice."

"My dear Legrand," I cried, interrupting him, "you are unwell and must go to bed. I shall stay with you for a few days, for you are feverish and —"

"Feel my pulse," said Legrand, giving me his hand.

I felt it, and, to say the truth, did not find any fever.

"But you may be ill and yet have no fever. Really you must go to bed and —"

But Legrand interrupted me again:

"I am quite well," he said, "and if you really wish me well⁴ you must help me."

"How can I help you?" I asked.

"Very easily. Jupiter and myself are going into the hills upon the mainland, and we shall need your help. You are the only man we may trust."⁵

¹ you had better go and take it yourself — сами подите и возьмите (букв. вам бы лучше пойти ...)

² no wonder that Jupiter believed it to be made of gold — неудивительно, что Юпитер считал, что он из золота

³ for the life of me I could not tell — ни за что в жизни я не смог бы сказать

⁴ I am quite well, and if you really wish me well — я совершенно здоров, а если вы действительно желаете мне добра

⁵ You are the only man we may trust. — Вы единственный человек, которому мы можем довериться. (Союзы **who** и **that**, связывающие придаточное предложение с главным, часто опускаются.)