

Official Notes of the Rue Morgue Murders  
Detective in charge: C. Auguste Dupin

April, 1841

Victims: Madame L'Esplanade and her Daughter, Double Murder

Place: Their home on Rue Morgue Street in Paris

Pertinent Details:

- Mother was in the yard with broken bones almost decapitated
- Daughter was strangled and stuffed upside down in the chimney
- Murders occurred in 4th floor room locked from the inside
- Evidence at scene: bloody straight razor, tufts of gray hair, 2 bags of gold coins
- Witnesses heard 2 voices: a male who was French and another voice in an unrecognized language
- Bank Clerk arrested on evidence of delivering coins the day prior
- Newspaper advertisement about a lost orangutan
- Sailor answers ad for lost orangutan

Sailor's Account of Events:

One night while the sailor is out partying with his buds, the ape escapes from its closet on the **right** hand side of the room and starts playing with the sailor's shaving things. The sailor frightens the orangutan while it is holding a straight razor, and the orangutan bounds out through an open window, razor in hand. The sailor follows, but can't catch him.

Attracted by the light on in Mademoiselle L'Esplanade's apartment, the orangutan climbs up a lightning rod, swings across to the shutter, and enters the room through an open window on the **right** side. The two L'Esplanade women are sitting with their backs turned to the window, when the orangutan suddenly grabs

the older lady's hair and starts pretending that he's her barber. This is the origin of the horrible screams that wake the neighborhood. Her visible fear angers the ape, who slashes her throat with the razor. The sight of blood angers him even more, and he turns on the daughter, strangling her with his bare hands.

Meanwhile, the sailor has been watching all of this helplessly from the window. The orangutan sees him and suddenly becomes fearful. He tries to hide the bodies by putting Mademoiselle L'Esplanade in the chimney and throwing Madame L'Esplanade **down** from the window. As the ape approaches the window, corpse in hand, the sailor is so freaked out that he slides **down** the lightning rod and runs away.

Final Verdict:

Dupin uses the sailor's evidence to get Le Bon, the bank clerk, off the hook. The sailor finds his ape (we don't know how) and sells him for a lot of money to a zoo. It is purported that he has **left** the country. The Prefect of Police is a little miffed that Dupin solved the case where he couldn't, so he accuses Dupin of butting in. Dupin is full of smug superiority and ends the story with some snarky comments about the police chief, saying that the chief is cunning in a way, but not imaginative. Dupin is clearly gloating on the inside at the end of the story. This is how the case wrapped **up**.