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'The Black Cat' was first published in August 1843 in the Saturday Evening Post. It's one of Poe's shorter stories and one of his most disturbing, focusing on cruelty towards animals, murder, and guilt, and told by an unreliable narrator who's rather difficult to like. You can read 'The Black Cat' here. Below we've offered some notes towards an analysis of this troubling but powerful tale. First, a brief summary of the plot of 'The Black Cat'. The narrator explains how from a young age he was noted for his tenderness and humanity, as well as his fondness for animals. When he married, he and his soul mate were very happy. From many pets he had a black cat Pluto was most attached to him. However the hero of the story starts to drink and becomes a slave to the alcohol. He starts to fall apart physically and mentally. While he's drunk he starts to mistreat his pet, the black cat. He even dug his eye out with a knife in a rush of rage and hatred. Irritated with guilt Other short stories by Edgar Allan Poe also available along with many others by classic and contemporary authors. This latter was a remarkably large and beautiful animal, entirely black, and sagacious to an astonishing degree. In speaking of his intelligence, my wife, who at heart was not a little tinctured with superstition, made frequent allusion to the ancient popular notion, which regarded all black cats as witches in disguise. Not that she was ever serious upon this point - and I mention the matter at all for no better reason than that it happens, just now, to be remembered. Pluto - this was the cat's name - was my favourite pet and playmate. I alone fed him, and he attended me wherever I went a