



**THE CASE OF
CHARLES DEXTER
WARD**

H. P. LOVECRAFT

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THE CASE OF CHARLES DEXTER WARD

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WRITTEN JANUARY-1 MARCH 1927
SERIALIZED IN *WEIRD TALES*, MAY/JUNE—JULY/AUGUST 1941

The Case of Charles Dexter Ward by H. P. Lovecraft.

This edition was created and published by Global Grey

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So in a clear voice Marinus Bicknell Willett began the second of that pair of formulae whose first had raised the writer of those minuscules—the cryptic invocation whose heading was the Dragon's Tail, sign of the *descending node*—

Ogthrod Ai'f
Geb'l-Ee'h
Yog-Sothoth
'Ngah'ng Ai'y
Zhro

At the very first word from Willett's mouth the previously commenced formula of the patient stopped short. Unable to speak, the monster made wild motions with his arms until they too were arrested. When the awful name of *Yog-Sothoth* was uttered, the hideous change began. It was not merely a *dissolution*, but rather a *transformation* or *recapitulation*; and Willett shut his eyes lest he faint before the rest of the incantation could be pronounced.

But he did not faint, and that man of unholy centuries and forbidden secrets never troubled the world again. The madness out of time had subsided, and the case of Charles Dexter Ward was closed. Opening his eyes before staggering out of that room of horror, Dr. Willett saw that what he had kept in memory had not been kept amiss. There had, as he had predicted, been no need for acids. For like his accursed picture a year before, Joseph Curwen now lay scattered on the floor as a thin coating of fine bluish-grey dust.
