



## No. 252 Rue M. Le Prince

*Ralph Adams Cram*

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This story was first published in the book of macabre stories *Black Spirits and White* in 1895.

### No. 252 Rue M. Le Prince Details

Date : Published (first published 1895)

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Author : Ralph Adams Cram

Format : 12 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fantasy, Supernatural, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Fiction, Horror, Ghost Stories

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## From Reader Review No. 252 Rue M. Le Prince for online ebook

### TOM says

A wicked and despised (and recently deceased) aunt who practised the black arts in her secluded French mansion haunts this short tale. There is a brilliant description of her clandestine chambers, where in the form of a mural, a gigantic kneeling woman extends right across the ceiling, her arms surrounding the occupants as she leers gigantically down at them. The descriptions of rooms lined with tarnished and greening copper plating, basalt pillars, marble floors inlaid with a monstrous pentagram, stark and empty of idols (the furnishings and fittings have been completely stripped by a zealous and jealous relative) add to the sense of occult horror.

Cram was an architectural historian, who was fascinated by the occult and spiritualism, who believed that the 'great war' had been predicted in the automatic writings of mediums! Evocative and richly gothic, this is a dramatic and vivid tale taken from the collection of macabre stories, 'Black Spirits and White', 1895 - which has never been reprinted. Recommended.

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### Bettie? says

**When in May, 1886, I found myself at last in Paris, I naturally determined to throw myself on the charity of an old chum of mine, Eugene Marie d'Ardeche, who had forsaken Boston a year or more ago on receiving word of the death of an aunt who had left him such property as she had possessed.**

From Wiki - *The expression fin de siècle usually refers to the end of the 19th century, in Europe, France and/or Paris. It has connotations of decadence, which are seen as typical for the last years of a culturally vibrant period (La Belle Époque at the turn of the 20th century), and of anticipative excitement about, or despair facing, impending change, or both, that is generally expected when a century or time period draws to a close. In Russia, the term Silver Age is somewhat more popular.*

*That the expression is in French probably comes from the fact that the fin de siècle is particularly associated with certain late 19th-century French-speaking circles in Paris and Brussels, exemplified by artists like Stéphane Mallarmé and Claude Debussy, movements like Symbolism, and works of art like Oscar Wilde's Salomé (originally written in French and premiered in Paris)—which connects the idea of the fin de siècle also to the Aesthetic movement. Also, Edvard Munch spent some of his time in Paris around the turn-of-the-century, which was his most melancholy period.*

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### Denise says

The narrator of this book is in Paris in May, 1886, intending to impose on an old friend from Boston who inherited property from an aunt. The aunt had something of a reputation for black magic, though and the property is now said to be haunted. His friend had found that he can't keep a tenant, but he's still paying taxes.

The narrator, his friend and two medical student friends decide to stay the night at the property.

Please read the full review [here](#).

