Episode 13 – The Beale Ciphers
European section – Season 3
Opening paragraph

THE BEALE PAPERS.

The following details of an incident that happened many years ago, but which has lost none of its interest on that account, are now given to the public for the first time. Until now, for reasons which will be apparent to every one, all knowledge of this affair was confined to a very limited circle—to the writer's immediate family, and to one old and valued friend, upon whose discretion he could always rely; nor was it ever intended that it should travel beyond that circle; but circumstances
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...but circumstances over which he has no control, pecuniary embarrassments of a pressing character, and duty to a dependent family requiring his undivided attention, force him to abandon a task to which he has devoted the best years of his life, but which seems as far from accomplishment as at the start. He is, therefore, compelled, however unwillingly, to relinquish to others the elucidation of the Beale papers, not doubting that of the many who will give the subject attention, some one, through fortune or accident, will speedily solve their mystery and secure the prize which has eluded him.
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Act 1 – 1817-1820

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In the summer of 1819, they decide to secure their findings in a vault in Virginia “in a cave near Buford’s tavern, in the county of Bedford”.

In 1819 and 1820, Thomas J. Beale heads two parties to deposit gold and jewels in the vault, although not the initial one.
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Thomas Beale visits Robert Morriss and stays at his hotel for a few months from January 1820.
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Before leaving, he hands him a secured box, “which, as he said, contained papers of value and importance”.
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In the event of no one returning for the box, Morriss is to wait until 1832, when he should receive the key to the secrets inside the box.
Ten years later, noone has come back for the box.
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Still, he decides to keep on waiting.
More than 20 years after receiving the box, Morriss finally decides to break it open.
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He finds in the box:
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- some old receipts;
- three unintelligible papers, covered with figures.

The first letter tells the story of Beale and his party of adventurers.
Dear Mr. Morriss. - You will find in one of the papers, written in cipher, the names of all my associates, who are each entitled to an equal part of our treasure, and opposite to the names of each one will be found the names and residences of the relatives and others, to whom they devise their respective portions. From this you will be enabled to carry out the wishes of all by distributing the portion of each to the parties designated. This will not be difficult, as their residences are given, and they can easily be found.
The first cipher

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THE LOCALITY OF THE VAULT

The third cipher

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Your task

Break the second cipher
Morriss tells the narrator about the box and its content.
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Morriss entrusts the narrator with the box and the deciphering of its content.
The narrator manages, “by accident”, to break the second cipher using the DOI.
The cipher used is a kind of book cipher.
Every letter in the plaintext is replaced by the number of a word in the DOI, starting with that letter.
The narrator, having tried unsuccessfully to break ciphers 1 and 3, published his story, along with all relevant elements.
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Before giving the papers to the public, I would say a word to those who may take an interest in them, and give them a little advice, acquired by bitter experience. It is, to devote only such time as can be spared from your legitimate business to the task, and if you can spare no time, let the matter alone. Should you disregard my advice, do not hold me responsible that the poverty you have courted is more easily found than the accomplishment of your wishes, and I would avoid the sight of another reduced to my condition. Nor is it necessary to devote the
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If the Declaration of Independence is used as a key for the first cipher, it yields non-random results, such as the sequence abfdefghijklmmnpp. The chances of such sequences appearing multiple times in the one ciphertext by chance are less than one in a hundred million million.
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Truth or hoax?

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The plaintext of the second cipher refers to the content of the two others, which seems useless unless the author knew that one would be deciphered first.
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One dig was completed in the late 80s with the land owner’s permission as long as any treasure found was split 50/50. The treasure hunters only dug up ancient civil war artifacts. Surprisingly the value of these artifacts paid for time and equipment rental; at least these hunters broke even.
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Since then, Roy Dallas’ website is closed, and no more news are posted. Other websites report that only shards of decayed metal were found.
The Bible Code

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HE ROFLIGHT CAME INTO THE ROOM FROM UNDER THE DOOR LOUD SAVEME THINK AT TING AT STREETCORNERS SAVAGE OUTRIGHT MANY OF WHOM YET CARRY ON DALLTHOUGH INSIGHT MOTION STILL MAINTAINS A PERMANENT OBLIQUIT ULLURKED A STRONG DESIRE TO SEE SOMETHING MORE OF CHRISTENDOM THAN ESTHEAREA BEFORE THE HOUSE WAS PLAYED WITH CLAMSHELL SHRISHSUSSEY WHO RED AND SEVENTY SEVEN GOLD DOUBLOONS AND SO I THOUGHT AT THE TIME WHY THE DARTED THE IRON RIGHT OVER OLD BILDADS BROAD BRIM CLEAN ACROSS THE STAN BLOOD AND THUNDER JUMP WAS THE NEXT COMMAND AND THE CREWS PRA DRESSED AND NOTTO BE FOOLISHLY WASTED WHEREFORE HE HAD NO FANCY WAYSOME CONSIDERATING TOUCH OF HUMANITY WAS IN HIM FOR AT TIMES LIKE FTED WITH SUCH WONDROUS POWER AND VELOCITY IN SWIMMING A STO DEYAL LESS SQUALLY OF A HORNPIPE RIGHT OVER THE GRAND TURKS HEAD AND THEN BY GSENTIMENT IN TARANDELUBERCHILDE HAROLD NOT OF FREQUENTLY PERC HEARTS AS LIGHT TO LOVE AS A GAY AND FLEETING AS A BUBBLE THAT SWIM MONTH LARGATIVE AND HATEFUL UNDER HIS WHOLERACE FROM DO AND DOWN AND THEN AS IF HIS ASINESNESS WHITENESS IS NOT SO MUCH AS THE VISIBLE ABSENCE SAGAINST THE SKY WAS I NOT SOODON MIGUEL THOUGH ILIAN WHALE MARKED A VINGLY WORKING TOGETHER THE STRAIGHTWARP OF NECESSITY NOTTOBE S MORTAL IN THESE JAWS OF DEATH INVAIN WE HAILED THE OTHER BOATS AS WELED SIDE DARTED AWAY WITH WHAT SEEMED SHUNDERING INS AND RANGED THEM S F SEAUSAGES AND THE INSTINCTIVE LOVE OF NEATNESS IN SEAMEN SOME OF W HAINS ALL AT ONCE SHOUTED OUT THERE SHE ROLLS THERE SHE ROLL S JESUWH HAL AT VERSAILLES WHERE THE BEHOLDER FLIGHTS HIS WAY PELL MELL THRO DSOUND SO DEEP TO THREATEN TO CARRY OFF THE ENTIRE LINE ORIGINALLY HESHIPISTOBEMOORED TIED BY THE HEAD TO THE STERN AND BY THE TAIL TOT