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Ran·som  (răn səm), **John Crowe** 1888-1974.

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American poet and critic. The founder and editor (1939-1959) of the *Kenyon Review*, he was a leading proponent of New Criticism. His collections of poetry include *Chills and Fever* (1924).

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ran·som  (răn səm)

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n.

1.

a. The release of property or a person in return for payment of a demanded price.

b. The price or payment demanded or paid for such release.

2. *Christianity* A redemption from sin and its consequences.

tr.v. **ran·somed**, **ran·som·ing**, **ran·soms**

1.

a. To obtain the release of by paying a certain price.

b. To release after receiving such a payment.

2. *Christianity* To deliver from sin and its consequences.

[Middle English *raunson*, *raunsom*, from Old French *rançon*, from Latin *redēptiō*, *redēptiōn-*, a buying back; see [REDEMPTION](#).]

ran som·er *n.*

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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