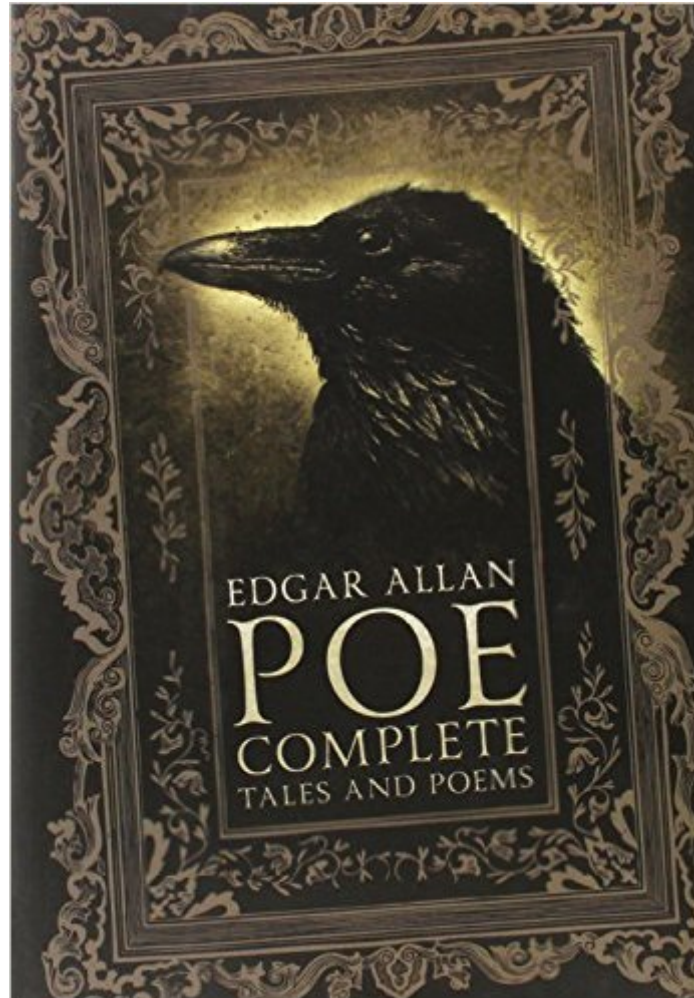


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Edgar Allan Poe: Complete Tales And Poems (Fall River Classics)



Synopsis

The life of American writer Edgar Allan Poe was characterized by a dramatic series of successes and failures, breakdowns and recoveries, personal gains and hopes dashed through, despite which he created some of the finest literature the world has ever known. Over time his works have influenced such major creative forces as the French poets Charles Baudelaire and Andre Gide, filmmaker D.W. Griffith and modern literary legend Allen Ginsberg. Best known for his poems and short fiction, Poe perfected the psychological thriller, invented the detective story, and rarely missed transporting the reader to his own supernal realm. He has also been hailed posthumously as one of the finest literary critics of the nineteenth century. In Edgar Allan Poe: Complete Tales and Poems fans may indulge in all of Poe's most imaginative short-stories, including The Fall of the House of Usher, The Murders in Rue Morgue, The Tell-Tale Heart, Ligeia and Ms. In A Bottle. His complete early and miscellaneous poetic masterpieces are also here, including The Raven, Ulalume, Annabel Lee, Tamerlane, as well as select reviews and narratives.

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Customer Reviews

Poe was an original. You have to read Poe if you are at all interested in the origins of detective fiction and speculative fiction (weird tales!)I recommend the kindle edition because of the number of archaic words--the dictionary is there by simply highlighting a word. You may even know the word but you may not have the full sense of how it was used in the mid-1800's.I wish it had a few footnotes when Poe launches into French or Latin. The phrases may have been well know in his

day for people of his educational level but I usually don't get the reference. Fortunately there are only a couple times when it is a "plot point" or end of story zinger that I missed out on. Many stories are humorous and snarky. He wields a wicked pen. I was also surprised--comparing my memory of the better known stories from my youth to a recent reading--that there are no supernatural elements other than a strong implication of fate or of cosmic justice. You can see how death of his young wife influenced the stories. Reading them all in a collection like this, over a short time, I felt I got a real sense of the man. In that, the reading becomes increasingly more sad. Even the humorous stories reveal a frustrated genius. His worth to society (in monetary reward) undercut Poe's opinion (and the fact!) of his own superior intellect and you can see that anger in many of his stories. With today's copy write laws his monetary worth really would have been commensurate to his self-opinion. (In the U.S. in his day, the author only had first-publication rights--in other words he got \$6 for the initial publication of "The Raven" whereas any publishers in the mid 1800's sold magazines and collection that included Poe's works and Poe saw nary a dime.

This was originally reviewed (along with every single story inside this anthology) over at alex-hurst.com, in the series "Tackling Poe". Naturally, to leave a review of everything here would be far too long!! I finished reading Edgar Allan Poe: Complete Tales & Poems about a week ago, but I wanted to give myself some time to digest everything, watch The Raven, and to formulate my final thoughts. To start off, I think that "overall" "this collection was fairly good. I did have some issues with it, as I've talked about before in some of the earlier parts of this massive review series. I really didn't like that each story was just a sub-chapter of a larger heading, and formatted in a way that you couldn't keep track of how much time was left in each segment (I often use this when I'm trying to justify staying up late or reading more during a break), and there were a few incorrectly classed pieces under the Essays section. The compiler of the work did do a very good job formatting the poetry and fiction prose. They used true type, so even on the Kindle, it made for very lovely reading. Little embellishments, like unique titles, made the anthology look more polished. I would have liked to have seen more context notes, because some of the stories and poems made a great deal more sense with the context I was able to glean from the internet (after only moderate searching). Since all of Edgar Allan Poe's works are public domain, and free, I expect more of an anthology, in this regard. In many cases, the poetry or fiction notes that Edgar Allan Poe wrote to his editors at the time were not included with the stories, to the detriment of quite a few of them.

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