



Great Tales and Poems

Edgar Allan Poe

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Great Tales and Poems Edgar Allan Poe

Born to an unfortunate heritage, orphaned, unsympathetically raised, and then abandoned, Edgar Allan Poe struggled for greatness in an adverse social and economic climate -- a setting not improved by his fiery temperament and caustic criticism of others. Poe's melancholy brilliance, his passionate lyricism, and his tormented soul would make him one of the most widely read and original writers in American literature. Here, in one volume, are his classic short works: masterpieces of horror, terror, humor, and adventure -- and the finest lyric and narrative poetry of this ill-fated genius whose influence on both prose and verse continues to this day.

Pocket Books' Enriched Classics present the great works of world literature enhanced for the contemporary reader. This edition of *Great Tales And Poems Of Edgar Allan Poe* contains the original Pocket Books introduction, first published in 1951, along with an updated selection of critical excerpts, and suggestions for further readings.

Great Tales and Poems Details

Date : Published April 1st 2003 by Simon & Schuster (first published March 1st 1940)

ISBN : 9780743467469

Author : Edgar Allan Poe

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From Reader Review Great Tales and Poems for online ebook

Lo says

A nice compilation of Poe's short stories and poems. I'm admittedly unsure how complete this is; I suspect it's his most popular/well-known. There are quite a few notes for each story and poem. This is helpful due to many unusual references and outdated terms.

Jessika says

I feel like this probably goes without saying--as with any collection, I definitely preferred some stories and poems over others. And really, I've come to find out that I prefer Poe's prose over his poetry. That's not to say that his poetry is bad. Some of my favorite classics were present here. I just think poetry is so much more personal, so not all of his poems resonated with me. Not to mention, Poe is more versatile with his different story types, and they are simply just more entertaining. All in all, this is a very conclusive collection of Poe's writing & an excellent addition to any fan's shelf. Moody, atmospheric writing--this makes for a perfect fall read.

This review also posted on my blog: <http://tinyurl.com/y7fxfn8b>

♥ Rebecca ♥ says

The Pit and the Pendulum is one of my absolute favourite stories ever. Thats why I bought this book. I wanted more of Poe's words. I love the words he chooses to say something. I first read The Pit and the Pendulum when I was in eighth grade and I remember hating Poe because he used so many words to say something simple and it really frustrated me, but now I think its beautiful. He can turn something mundane into something poetic.

I also especially enjoyed Hop-Frog and The Murders in Rue Morgue.

Alissa Roy says

3.5/5

I'm not usually a short stories/poems kind of person but I love me some gothic prose

Comingunraveled says

I have a love/hate relationship with Poe. I love his finely crafted prose, his spine tinglingly poetry and his scintillating wit. I hate his overly verbose and bloated paragraphs and slow buildups that take dozens of

pages before getting to the meat of the story. Poe, though I adore you, it will likely be a while before our paths once again cross.

Ann Living It Up says

Edgar Allen Poe is not an easy read. Matter of fact it took me almost three weeks to read it, all due to the fact there were times my eyes glazed over. But Poe is an awesome writer, very intelligent and descriptive. He is of an interesting character to come up with these horror stories. Now I know where people have gotten their ideas for movies and other books. My favorite story was THE GOLD BUG, but there are many stories which are very good. Some not so good and those were the ones I had a hard time trying to stay on track with, but I made myself read them nonetheless, because I was bound and determined to finish this book no matter what. I am so happy I stuck with it and I admire Poe's writing even though there were times I wasn't sure what he meant in his stories. He is definitely a horror story master!

Rumi says

All right, I'll obviously need to read these in English, but for now, the Bulgarian translation is quite good as well. Something that struck me is that Poe has an unusual way with words. He does an incredible job in creating an unique atmosphere, which, coupled with Alan Parsons' "Tales of Mystery and Imagination" really makes for a peculiar and interesting reading.

The poems I've read so far have an unexpected bright side to them. I can't say I'm thoroughly enjoying them, but this discovery was quite intriguing.

However, I do prefer the stories, or should I say, "tales", because that is the impression they make. It's as though you're reading a more grown-up version of those favourite fairytales. In terms of their fascinating narrating style that few "classic authors" could achieve. The darkness of the fairytales only makes them more interesting because you don't know what to expect from the ending, for it is hardly the "happily ever after" cliche.

I will not point out the amazing atmosphere for each tale individually because it's a distinct feature of all the works I've read so far.

As always, Bulgarian editions of "Selected works" bravely select anything but the most famous and known works. Anyways, here's what my edition contains.

Tales

"Loss of Breath"

"MS. Found in a Bottle"

"The Assignation"

"Morella"

"Shadow, A Parable"

"Silence - A Fable"

"Ligeia"

"How to Write A Blackwood Article" was, simply put, a beautiful surprise. For my limited literary experience, this tale felt strangely familiar - as hilarious as Jerome K. Jerome, as quotable as Oscar Wilde. I can now see why his fellow cadets were anxious to collect money for the publication of his books, and came out disappointed after realising it was a "serious" work. Poe had great talent for a satirist as well. I suppose

it's sad that his life somehow inspired the dark, yet unique tone of his writing.

"A Predicament, The Scythe of Time"

"The Man of the Crowd"

"The Oval Portrait" tells us about art and people's fascination of it. To what extent could we give away our life for the sole purpose of portraying it on a canvas? Does it do us justice to dedicate our very existence to capturing life instead of living it?

"The Masque of the Red Death" is a fable of our path through life. However colourful and carefree we might attempt to imagine it, there lies the inevitable dark room that we're all afraid of but can't escape.

"The Murders in the Rue Morgue"

"The Mystery of Marie Rogêt"

"The Pit and the Pendulum"

"The Gold Bug"

"The Spectacles" is a cautionary tale of not trying to hide our natural defects, pushed to absurdity, yet thoroughly enjoyable.

"The Premature Burial"

Poetry

"Song"

"Spirits of the Dead"

"Dreams"

"Israfel"

"The City in the Sea"

"Lenore"

"Hymn"

"Dream-Land"

"The Raven"

"Ulalume"

"Eldorado"

"The Bells"

"Annabel Lee"

"The Conqueror Worm"

"To One in Paradise"

"To Helen"

"To ____"

"To Science"

"The Haunted Palace"

"The Coliseum"

Brandon says

Sadly missing from this collection is Valdemar, but it does include the wonderful comedy of Hop-Frog and also Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether. A very nice portable Poe.

P.S. Winn says

I love Edgar Allan Poe and the feel he has put into his tales and poems. I wonder what it was like for him writing these stories, poems, etc. because I don't think he got the recognition he deserved.

Hazel Rainfall says

I would suggest Edgar Allan Poe to anyone looking to become well rounded in classic literature. Poe deals a lot with the morbid angst side of humanity. You can also grasp his love of science and the mystical superstitions while reading his works. He does a very unique portrayal of the human psyche and begs us all to wonder if we ourselves do not harbor some such morbid thoughts as his.

Michael Gerald says

From the guilt and madness in "The Tell-Tale Heart", to the grim, macabre claustrophobia of "The Cask of Amontillado" and "The Pit and the Pendulum", to the obsession and deception in "The Oblong Box", to the despondent gloom of "The Masque of the Red Death" and "The Fall of the House of Usher", to the Treasure Island-like feel of "The Gold-Bug", to the whodunit in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", and the haunting resonance of poems like "The Raven", "The Bells", and "Annabel Lee", the quirky genius of Edgar Allan Poe and his stories has set the standard for the modern horror and detective story that has kept readers awake in the late hours of the night for more than a century.

Mackenzie Beier says

Great little collection of Poe's work!

Anne says

1) Short Stories - They were ok, I just don't think they were for me, the first few I found interesting, but after that I got bored. I think this might be because these are not supposed to be read back to back, and I think if I hadn't read them back to back I would've enjoyed them more.

2) Poems - They were interesting, a quick read, I am happy I didn't need to read and (over)analyse them. I enjoyed most of them, they were well written, again I think maybe they were not supposed to be read as quickly as I read them.

Karla says

Reading this book was harder than I thought it was going to be. It took me six months!!!!!! And it is NOT a big book at all. The thing is that I had long periods of time where I could not pick it up...it was just frustrating. Poe, you are frustrating! And good! But frustrating nonetheless. I don't know if it is because I am

a modern reader and I am already used to mystery stories and stories where the "bad guy" is the main guy as well that I had so much trouble with Poe. I finally realized that for ME the best way to read this book of short stories was to read one story and then let the book rest for a week or so and then take it up again for a new story. When I tried to binge read it, it became too much.

My favorite stories were in no particular order:

- *The Tell-Tale Heart
- *The Masque of the Red Death
- *The Murders in the Rue Morgue
- *The Pit and the Pendulum

And my favorite one:

- * The system of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether

Amy C. says

Edgar Allan Poe, although long deceased, has proven to be among the greatest American writers in history. His eloquent prose and Gothic style of writing serve to mesmerize his readers; this aspect of his writing technique is present in his short stories as well as his poems.

Although Poe's poems have received notable acclaim, I found them complex and difficult to decipher the meanings of. His short stories, however, demonstrated successful skills of rising action and suspense, an ability that allowed Poe to bewilder his readers.

Among the short stories gathered in this book, the one I found most enticing was *The Masque of the Red Death*. Among his poems, *The Raven* is renowned for reasons well established.

Edgar Allan Poe, one of the most haunted writers of his time, continues to entrance his readers with the unique style of writing he was most distinguished for.
