



Narraciones extraordinarias

Edgar Allan Poe

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Un terrorífico gato negro que trae mala suerte; el golpeteo de un corazón que delata un crimen; un príncipe que quiere salvarse de una peste mortal, o un astuto hombre que está a punto de morir, son algunas de las historias narradas, tidas llenas de horror, misterio y suspenso. Cuentos en este volumen: El gato negro, Los anteojos, Manuscrito encontrado en una botella, El corazón delator, Los asesino de la rue MOrgue, Eleonora, El cuervo, El escarabajo de oro, Silencio, El entierro prematuro, Berenice, El barril de amontillado, El retrato ovalado, La verdad en el caso del señor Valdemar, La máscara de la muerte roja, El demonio de la perservidad, El pozo y el péndulo, La carta robada, La caída de la casa Usher, Ligeia, La caja oblonga, Metzengerstein, Morella, El cottage de Landor, Los dominios de Arnheim, La cita, El diablo en el campanario.

Narraciones extraordinarias Details

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Author : Edgar Allan Poe

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Claudia says

Acabei! Muito muito bom!

Percival Cyber says

Thank God it's Friday . . . the 13th!?

There's nothing creepier than reading an Edgar Allan Poe classic on this day. Prepare the weak hearted, however, for a single Friday might not be enough to survive Mr. Poe's "Tales of Mystery and Imagination". With its collection of 24 short stories, get ready to explore the bizarre, the mystic, the macabre, the dark motives, and the dreadful predicaments of his disturbed characters.

TOP PICKS (5 stars):

-The Gold-Bug

Poe's most widely read short story during his lifetime. It popularized cryptography and its usage in stories. This is also one of his few that are not under the horror genre, proving that Poe is a master writer in other genres aside from what he is famous for.

-The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar

A powerful macabre story. I'm wondering if any hypnotists have attempted it before. If you want to know what I'm talking about, you know what to do.

-The Black Cat

I'm guessing this could be the first story that popularized the myth of the bad luck a black cat brings. We have a lot of black cats before and contrary to the belief, it actually brought us relief for they were the ones who ate (and fought) the similarly large rats lurking in our ancient house. So great show every day. Anyway, this is a story about the adverse effects of alcoholism (Poe hates it so much) and how it affected the protagonist and his family. Once I also heard wailings in our present house, it has a striking resemblance to the ones described in the story, and upon investigation I found out it was just our cats having—never mind.

-The Masque of the Red Death

Who would have thought this story is about tuberculosis (probably)? My first literary encounter with gothic horror. Many times I get bored with the subgenre but here Poe pulls it off really well. I like the color schemes and of course, the final reveal.

-The Cask of Amontillado

His first story that I read. We discussed this ominous account in the 9th grade (only one of the few instances where I was excited in coming to class) and revisited in the 11th grade. Yet I still cannot say that I fully grasped the mysteries surrounding the story. I remember our Creative Writing educator, she made us notice the extensive use of irony all throughout: Fortunato's unfortunate fate, a freemason's death involving being entombed alive, etc. I love how Montressor's motives were not explained. It is up to us readers to theorize why he did it. It could be that answering the question ourselves might reveal the reasons of our inner hatred and desire to "finish" someone in the future. At least that's my take.

-The Imp of the Perverse

The phrase I've been looking for for a long time. Perfectly captures a taboo everyone of us are guilty of possessing.

-The Oval Portrait

-The Tell-Tale Heart

Another interesting murder confession.

"... but why will you say that I am mad?" (then goes on blustering his insanity)

Though I shamefully admit that at times I have the same dissonance with the unnamed narrator.

"... now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton."

I adore Poe's sharp attention to detail and comparisons.

I heard this story more than I read it. "Chilling Tales for Dark Nights", a YouTube channel dedicated to anything horror, has an excellent audio drama about the story. Try checking it out. Unlike "The Cask of Amontillado" the protagonist's motive was mentioned, even a bit symbolically:

"I think it was his eye! yes, it was this!"

Like "The Black Cat", this story's theme touches on guilt and how it makes us divulge the evil deed we systematically planned and promised to be kept as a secret.

-Berenice

If I'm being honest, I was a bit disappointed that the book did not include one of the best poems ever created: "The Raven". There are some stories that are crazy long and I didn't get. That is the reason why this book is still scheduled in my list to be re-read and again the third time for my top picks.

Expect review updates soon!

Lu says

Tales of Mystery and Imagination is a great compilation of short stories by Edgar Allan Poe, including some of his most appraised works, like "The Tell-Tale Heart", "The Black Cat", and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"; and quite a few of lesser known - and also great - works, such as "The Colloquy of Monos and Una" and "Berenice". This collection was a good mixture of horror and mystery, and I highly recommend checking out Poe's works if you haven't already!

A. Dawes says

This will be another ongoing review, as I've been doing with collections and anthologies. Poe has always mesmerised me in terms of his influence on writers and the short story genre at large; his poetry is also both haunting and relatively accessible. This collection was given to me in hardback, 31 years ago. Its pages are now yellow and aged, but the contents within are better than I remember. If you're patient with Poe, I think you'll find he's very rewarding in return. If you rush through and don't enjoy the rhythm of the prose, I'd imagine he'd be tiresome. He's one of those writers to be savoured when you have the time rather than a page turning entertainment.

William Wilson 5* "William Wilson" is all about 'the double'. Even the eponymous title is a pun of sorts: Will-I-am, and Wil-son. Through a doppelganger haunting William, Poe explores the concept of sanity. An interesting story with long sentences but little specific imagery. Psychologically chilling.

The Gold-Bug 3* A little more dated, involving a bug bite (and potential madness) and a cryptogram. Not a storyline that did much for me personally.

The Fall of the House of Usher 5* A classic Poe story. The unnamed narrator visits the crumbling gothic mansion of his friend Usher to learn of Usher's sister's death. But not all is as seems. This story is the very opposite of William Wilson in terms of style. Rather than being devoid of imagery, Poe illustrates his stylistic variation and prowess with a story of sensory imagery overload. Poe manages this detailed gothic prose to build on an especially macabre mood and atmosphere. The language aesthetics here are as powerful as the story. A gothic horror masterpiece.

The Masque of Red Death 5* Another gothic fantasy. Holed up in an aristocratic castle trying to avoid 'the Red Death'- basically the plague; a masquerade ball takes a catastrophic turn. A masked guest in blue is the Red Death personified. And although deadly, he is both more and less than he seems. Foreboding atmosphere throughout. A strong tale.

The Cask of Amontillado 4.5* Like most of Poe's stories, this haunted me long after I finished it. What atmosphere could be more chilling than a man murdering another for revenge at Carnivale time in a unnamed part of Italy? The protagonist, Montresor, somehow holds Fortunato accountable for his own decline in fortunes. Fortunato (obviously relating to fortune) is a happy, respected and an admired member of society, who has risen through the ranks, possibly with the aid of The Freemasons. He is everything Montresor once was, and he has apparently made a few derogatory comments about Montresor, although whether this is the reason for his murder, or whether the reason is an envy bordering on lunacy, is questionable. Another excellent dark story.

A Descent into the Maelstrom 3* An old-fashioned tale of a maelstrom whirlpool survivor. Only Poe takes the wonders and beauty of the vortex further. Not my personal favourite, but I'd think a few sci-fi fans would love it.

The Pit and the Pendulum 4* As a reader who enjoys dark fiction, fantasy and historical fiction, this imaginative tale of torture during the Spanish Inquisition really intrigued me. The strong aural imagery throughout takes us almost into the realm of the ghostly too. I feel as though this story had a great influence on gothic horror tales in general. While not as complicated as some other stories here, it's still a captivating narrative.

The Purloined Letter 3.5* A forerunner for short detective fiction. A letter has been stolen and there appears blackmail (and more) at hand. There are far better detective stories out there, but this is an interesting look at an early exponent of the genre.

Metzengerstein 4* A gothic tale on a hyperbolic scale. This one is devoid of subtlety and is rather heavy handed with regards to both the gothic tropes along with its overt symbolism. In this tale, Frederick, the sole living member of the Metzengerstein family line, has a long standing vendetta with the Berlifitzing clan. When a fire destroys the Berlifitzing patriarch, Frederick is suspected. Frederick, however, is obsessed with a wild horse, which has eerily gone unobserved. Metzengerstein's own home is then set alight, and with an ironic justice, the wild horse, with Frederick on it, charges into the flames. A clever case of guilt personified -or guilt hippofied...

The Murders in the Rue Morgue 3.5* Murders, balconies, and that good ol'orangutan... Detective Dupin from The Purloined Letter is back again. Once again this mystery story is not nearly as sharp as the detective stories of today. In fact, this story is laughable. I still liked it though, as I don't think I'll ever read another mystery story involving a Bornean great ape.

The Tell-tale Heart 5* One of the most famous of Poe's stories, so it doesn't require any of my clumsy commentary. Lovely way to end the collection.

This collection is worth it. It chiefly contains the best of Poe with a range of styles on display, and those few tales that aren't his best are still incredibly interesting in terms of the evolution of the short story. When on song, Poe is a gothic master, and the chilling psychology behind most of these haunting tales adds extra layers to the intrigue and uncertainty, and these layers exemplify Poe's greatest works.

Kyle says

Poe is now a household name. An American institution. Everyone knows Poe, though few have really delved into more than one or two of his short stories. I'm also pretty sure he was completely insane. Which means he was brilliant, and everyone should read his work.

As the title of the book says, there are many different stories in here, and admittedly, they are not all of the same caliber. It seems that Poe generally became a better writer as he wrote more and more stuff, and I think his later work is (in general!) superior to his earlier work. Some stories in this compendium are 3-star stories, and some are 5-star stories, with the remainder taking 4-stars. All of Poe's popular and well-known shorts are in here, *The Cask of Amontillado*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Fall of The House of Usher* all make their respective appearances. Some of my favorites ones however, were his lesser known works *William Wilson*, *Morella*, and *A Descent Into the Malestrom* were all fantastic surprises to me. There was even a delightful comedy stowed away in here in the form of *Some Passages in the Life of A Lion (Lionizing)*. Imagine that; an actual comedy from Poe!

Though Poe chose the short story as his main body of work, there is a common theme about Poe's work. Poe is, ultimately, a blender. A boundary weakener. A line eraser. The boundaries between life and death, good and evil, one world and another. The line between soundness and insanity. None of these are sacred to Edgar Allan Poe's tinkering, and you can't help but admire Poe for the artful way he manipulates the reader's preconceptions.

His methods inspired hosts of other writers to explore the same themes (H.P. Lovecraft obviously, and some of Robert Louis Stevenson's work can all be traced to Poe's influence), yet Poe remains an independent, unique, and terrifyingly brilliant voice.

In short: Read Poe! You might hate him and go insane (ah well, can't get them all), you might love him and still go crazy (face it, you were probably crazy to begin with), OR you could become entranced by Poe's stories and start a "Poe Boy's" fan club. Whichever way, you should never be forgiven for not reading as much Poe as you can.

Warwick says

I remember visiting the Edgar Allan Poe museum the last time I was in Richmond, Virginia. At the time I don't think I had read any of his work, except perhaps *The Raven*. The museum was a creepy place, as you might imagine, with a lot of dark wood and eerie pictures and a strange garden that seemed to be in permanent shadow. It was a strange place and he was a strange man – a hard writer to pin down: distinctly American, but hugely influential in European letters; not technically a very brilliant writer, and yet the founder of half a dozen new literary genres.

Reading him feels, to me, like an act of almost shameful self-indulgence; rich but sickly; you feel you need a brisk walk afterwards. His weird stories mark a bridge between the Gothic and the new movements of symbolism and decadence and, later, the genres that would become known as horror and science fiction. He also invented the modern detective story.

I think of him as one of those writers that translates easily. In the same way, Tolstoy is venerated by non-Russians while native speakers find his prose mediocre. French speakers often say something similar about Victor Hugo. And the French were, it must be said, quite obsessed with 'Edgar Poe', particularly after his works were translated by Baudelaire.

Quelque chose de monomanique was the shrewd judgement of the Goncourts. Hard to argue with that. The predominant theme is death, but death elevated to a supernatural vividness and importance. The archetypal image of his works, for me, is the image of the young, beautiful, dead woman. This trope features heavily in 'Morella', 'Berenice', 'The Fall of the House of Usher', 'Ligeia' – and indeed in Poe's own life, because he married his thirteen-year-old cousin and she went on to die of tuberculosis when she was twenty-four. The death clearly left a lasting imprint on him.

So, yes: thanatophilia. I'm rolling out the long words. But it's true. Have a look at how he chooses to end 'The Masque of the Red Death', for instance:

And now was acknowledged the presence of the Red Death. He had come like a thief in the night. And one by one dropped the revellers in the blood-bedewed halls of their revel, and died each in the despairing posture of his fall. And the life of the ebony clock went out with that of the last of the gay. And the flames of the tripods expired. And Darkness and Decay and the Red Death held illimitable dominion over all.

Sleep tight, kids! Another story ends: 'the grave was still a home, and the corrosive hours, co-mates.' Another ends: 'there lay a nearly liquid mass of loathsome—of detestable putridity.' Another ends – well you get the idea.

Poe's prose is melodramatic and rococo and makes full use of Grand Exclamations! And *italicised phrases of dread*! Oh the Horror and the Agony! And nothing but the drear grave and the worm for evermore! And so forth. But he is also imaginative and, sometimes, positively economical, setting the scene brilliantly in just a few short sentences and creating an atmosphere all his own (what Allen Ginsberg called his 'demonic dreaminess'). His vocabulary, steeped as it is in the high-flown tradition of dark romanticism, was a constant delight to me, built of ornate items like *sulphureous*, *pulsation*, *exergue*, *faucial*, *chasmal*, *cachinnatory*, *asphyctic* and many more goodies besides.

Jorge Luis Borges said that Poe's writings as a whole constitute a work of genius, although each individual piece is flawed. This is a very appealing assessment. He is an important writer, and often a very fascinating and enjoyable one – but that said, I don't really feel the desire to spend all that much time in his company.

However, make sure you get a version with Harry Clarke's angular, Beardsley-esque illustrations. They are superlative.

Dolors says

"An artist is usually a damned liar, but his art, if it be art, will tell you the truth of his day." D.H. Lawrence.

Burying people alive, ghosts, macabre deaths of usually delicate and young women, dark magic, effects of inebriation and hallucination, torture, whirlpools sucking people out of their time, fatal plagues, abnormal psychological states, obsessional behaviors... William Blake in prose.

If D.H. Lawrence was any close to right about his predicament I wouldn't have liked to be in Mr.Poe's skin, such horrors!

That Poe lead a tormented and dysfunctional life is no secret. Haunted by the death of his mother when he was barely a toddler and later by the long illness and ultimate death of the love of his life(his cousin Virginia)whom he married when she was only thirteen, Poe struggled to keep afloat between feelings of abandonment and loss and his growing ill-health and addictions which eventually killed him in mysterious circumstances at the age of 40.

Whether this gloomy life served him as inspiration or he released his pain into his work, the extremeness of his imaginative creations managed to capture attention, if not acceptance.

The sickness-the nausea-

The pitiless pain-

Have ceased, with the fever

That maddened my brain-

With the fever called "Living"

That burned in my brain.

Considered the father of the short story, Poe manages to control the soul of the reader, nothing intervenes or distracts once you are engulfed in one of his curious and terrifying tales, you feel pulled down by an inexplicable and exotic sort of nostalgia which catches at your breath and prevents you from stopping to read. But make no mistake, Poe plays with you, giving you hope in a futile attempt to search for the truth and offer a plausible explanation for the unaccountable, even though you know deep inside that the end will be doomed from the start.

His literary quality is irrefutable, he borrows from the European Gothic tradition and adds elements of detective stories, creating a new register which seeks for the horrendous truth, for the paincuts into your soul, although sometimes a rare kind of beauty oozes from the text, whether conscious or unconsciously I can't say:

Then silence, stillness, and night were the universe

But mainly, Poe appears as a ruthless, crude and pessimistic voice who wants to put order amid the chaos, who wants to explain the inexplicable to elevate the name of the artist; offering an alternative to the newly born optimism, complacency and materialism of his age, and asking for nothing in return. He didn't seek for

approval and often had to endure rebuke, few of his contemporaries valued his work at the time and being considered an oddball he was banned from society (or he excluded himself willingly).

It is through the anguish and torment expressed in his poems and short stories that it is plausible to imagine his existence rather miserable and that he suffered from a precariously balanced state of mind. But then, once again, I ask myself the same question which always arises when I try to link the real life of a writer with his work, was it his eccentricity that made his works so special? Were they the product of a genius or a deranged mind ? Or both?

The truth is, I am heartily sick of this life, and of the nineteenth century in general. I am convinced that everything is going wrong. Besides, I am anxious to know who will be President in 2045. As soon, therefore, as I shave and swallow a cup of coffee, I shall step over to Ponnonner's and get embalmed for a couple of hundred years.

In any case, although his haunted mind offered no respite, Poe's lucid writing managed to push the scales of reality and redefine the artistic world of beauty and lyricism towards a new daring approach where the probability of terror and darkness prevailed and where the *motto* could be summed up as ***to deny what is, and explain what is not*** .

As it usual happens in real life, neither black nor white, just a blurred smudge of indistinct grey.

Mohammed Arabey says

It's unfair to just burying Poe in the "Horror" tomb, with a Raven & a Black Cat..

Reading this volume I really see how HUGE his imagination was, how it was ahead of his times.

From traveling over the ocean by a air transportation... or to the moon..

Or inventing the first Detective story ever..

Or his delving into the matter, death, soul, mind and even God and free will by hypothesis.

Or of course, the delving into the man's Conscience, guilt and self-destruction..

There's even kind of Romance, Fantasy, adventure, treasure hunt, code breaking, satire...

He inspired Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Arthur Conan Doyle with crime novels,

And inspired Jules Verne ,then H G Wells and even recently Andy Weir with his science fiction stories,

And so more... just by his wild imagination..

So the five stars here are for his originality and innovations in stories..

Which is not just little Horror Stories..

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Personal Note:

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In order to enjoy his stories, I read first the Arabic -complete, unbridged- translation of it... then reviewing and fast readin it in its original forum, since Poe use a bit hard language for me and he's got a way in 'digression' sometimes and complex sentences.

So I skipped few stories here till I have the translation of it-and even enjoyed some stories that aren't in this edition-, so I'll be back to this book again soon.

Mohammed Arabey

From 20 April 2017

To 6 May 2017

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### Luís C. says

In 1849 Baudelaire published in France the Tales of the Grotesque and the Arabesque, of Allan Poe, with the title Extraordinary Stories, which reached a great success.It is a very elaborate set of texts - such as **The Fall of the House of Usher, The Barrel of Amontillado, The Black Cat, The Crimes of Morgue Street**, among others - in which, with extreme skill, Poe focuses on the fantastic and the supernatural with detailed descriptions, leading the reader to a nocturnal world, enigmatic, neurotic and terrifying.

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### Magrat Ajostiernos says

Me guardo unos poquitos cuentos para el Halloween del año que viene.... Me parece la lectura perfecta para esas fechas aunque no es recomendable leer tantos cuentos de Poe muy seguidos para no saturar. Distanciándolos se disfrutan y aprecian mucho más, hay alguno que tardaré en olvidar, es un autor que me ha sorprendido mucho.

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### Ahmad Sharabiani says

Tales of Mystery and Imagination, Edgar Allan Poe

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## Kyriakos Sorokkou says

### Tales of Mystery & Imagination

Since I've written mini reviews for each of the stories I will have them here slightly edited along with an overall rating and review for the collection as a whole.

#### 1) The Gold Bug

A treasure hunt story involving cryptography, directions, clues, skulls, and a lot of digging. It felt like watching Dora the Little Explorer but in a much darker atmosphere. 4 main characters, the narrator, his friend Mr Legrand, Legrand's dog and Legrand's servant, a nigger, yes another story that has racist remarks. Anyway this was a 3.5 stars story nothing more than a treasure hunt. But I've enjoyed it more than others.

#### 2) The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar

A practitioner of mesmerism (a precursor of hypnosis) tries through the medium of hypnosis/mesmerism to revive a recently deceased person. A macabre little tale worthy of 3 stars. Didn't blow my mind though.

#### 3) MS. Found in a Bottle

A story about a man that scrambles aboard a gigantic ship manned by elderly crewmen who are unable to see him (possibly a ghost ship). A sea tale that ends abruptly and with a sense of doom. 3 stars because I needed more, something that Mr. Poe rarely does.

#### 4) A Descent into the Mælström

At the summit of a mountain climb in Lofoten (mentioned in Kavvadias Ο Πύλτος Νάγκελ), in Norway, an old Norwegian is telling the story of his near escape from a massive whirlpool called Mælström. Interesting story but there's no actual rising action or suspense because you know that the narrator is going to survive since he's the one telling the story. Almost 3 stars.

#### 5) The Murders in the Rue Morgue

A tale that is considered the first detective story, written 46 years before the first Sherlock Holmes story in 1887. A gruesome double murder is committed in Rue Morgue in Paris and amateur detective C. Auguste Dupin investigates the crime scene. What he finds is beyond suspicion. 3.5

#### 6) The Mystery of Marie Rogêt

A sequel to the previous story. The longest and most boring story so far. It doesn't have a plot. Dupin just discusses with the narrator whether the murdered girl was murdered and *then* thrown into the river or the other way round, whether her clothes were torn intentionally or not, or whether the newspaper articles were telling the truth or were inventing things about the murder &c. You will enjoy this essay-like story only if you are a forensics/criminology student. 2 stars

#### 7) The Purloined Letter

Definitely better story than *The Mystery of Marie Rogêt* but definitely not as good as *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, or moreover an enjoyable reading. It is a discussion more or less of how Dupin managed to take back the Purloined Letter from the villain of the story (a blackmailer) and give it back to the police. They also talk about versions of reality and mathematics. 2.9 stars

#### 8) The Fall of the House of Usher

Finally, a decent gothic story by Mr. Poe in this collection. Our narrator arrives at the gloomy, gothic, decaying house of his childhood friend Roderick Usher and the atmosphere is oppressive even for the reader who anticipates this fall of the house that looms over the story like a threat. An eerie story that you enjoy even though some elements remain inexplicable. 3,5 stars

### **9) The Pit and the Pendulum**

From Wikipedia: *Terror is the feeling of dread and anticipation that precedes the horrifying experience. By contrast, horror is the feeling of revulsion that usually occurs after something frightening is seen, heard, or experienced.*

So this is a terror story, the narrator describes his experience of being tortured next to a pit full of rats and a pendulum above him is about to cut him in half. The story was a disappointment though even to George R.R. Martin, who while at high school he changed the story into a much gruesome and horrible ending which I approve.

### **10) The Premature Burial**

A horror short story on the theme of being buried alive (!)

In the first part the narrator describes different cases of premature burials from where some victims escaped and some not!

In the second part he describes his own experience as a man who suffers from anxiety of being buried alive. Graves, corpses, tombs, graveyards, mausoleums. Everything I like to read this time of the year. 3.5

### **11) The Black Cat**

Violence against animals, which is followed by a series of ghastly revenges. The narrator, a most unlikable character. He deserved everything he suffered (IMO). Moreover the story is a critique of the perverse actions brought on by alcoholism. 3.5

### **12) The Masque of the Red Death**

The title says it all: Death. The story starts and ends with death.

All the characters of the story die drenched in blood. 3.5

### **13) The Cask of Amontillado**

This was one of the first stories I've ever read in English back in 2009 when my English was worse than Tsipras's. Since then I've read it at least 3 more times. A favourite story of revenge, wine, and murder. . . 4 stars.

### **14) The Oval Portrait**

From Wikipedia: *"The Oval Portrait" is a short story [...] involving the disturbing circumstances surrounding a portrait in a chateau. It is one of his shortest stories, filling only two pages in its initial publication in 1842.*

I believe this tale might have inspired Oscar Wilde to write his only novel The Picture of Dorian Gray. 3.5

### **15) The Oblong Box**

Nice little story but of course I saw what was coming. A mysterious box belonging to an even more mysterious man, on a ship full of passengers. 3 stars because it was simply interesting but not long enough.

### **16) The Tell-Tale Heart**

A story that was pretty similar with the *Black Cat* but with a more sinister feeling and a very unreliable insane person as a narrator. The ending was the same with Black Cat's ending so I was a bit disappointed to read the same thing again. 3.5 stars though.

### 17) Ligeia

The story can be divided into 3 parts.

Part 1 where the unnamed narrator describes his wife Ligeia, her appearance and her mind and then she falls ill and dies.

Part 2 where the narrator moves to an unnamed gothic abbey in England marries a second wife Rowena who also falls ill and dies.

Part 3 is where the supernatural elements of the story come alive. . . Can't say more, you have to read it yourself. Atmospheric and eerie, yet verbose and slow. 3 stars

### 18) Loss of Breath

What a weird little story. A man literally loses his breath and everybody thinks he's a corpse and so they throw him out of a carriage, they dissect him, they hang him, they bury him, but he can't feel anything because he's out of breath! It was strange and macabre but the concept didn't convince me. How is it possible to live after losing your breath? Well it's fiction but again. . . 3 stars

### 19) Shadow - A Parable

A story 3 pages long and it left me standing in the shadows. After 2 readings I was still feeling like an ignoramus. 2 stars

### 20) Silence - A Fable

A fable about a demon and a man in an enchanted land. The demon tells his story, the man listens, and I am confused. Again. . .

Can't say more about this story because I simply can't. I just need to point out that the epigraph of this story was in Ancient Greek.

ε?δουσι δ? ?ρ?ων κορυφα? τε κα? φ?ραγγες πρ?ον?ς τε κα? χαρ?δραι

Since the feeling of the story was quite eerie I will give it 2.9 stars. I'm a good man.

### 21) The Man of the Crowd

A man follows an old man through a crowded London for almost two days and then he decides to stop following him because the old man *is the man of the crowd*. [...] *worse than the Hortulus Anime; and perhaps it is one of the great mercies of God that er laßt sich nicht lesen.*

Τι λες σοβαρ?; Σουαχ?λι γιατ? ξ?χασες να γρ?ψει; Again no explanation, which left me disappointed even though following a man for such a long time is quite creepy. 3 stars

### 22) Some Words with a Mummy

Finally, the last story, and an interesting one. 4 stars.

A group of intellectuals try to revive a mummy and the mummy now revived begins a conversation with the men. It was a witty story, a satire on Epyptomania and a criticism on the supposed superiority of the west. The end was one of the best parts of the story.

*My wife is a shrew. The truth is, I am heartily sick of this life, and of the nineteenth century in general. I am convinced that everything is going wrong. Besides, I am anxious to know who will be president in 2045. As soon, therefore, as I shave and swallow a cup of coffee, I shall just step over to Ponnonner's and get embalmed for a couple of hundred years.*

To be honest I'm anxious too to know who will be president of the United States in 2045; **if** they survive the (likely) Armageddon called Donald Trump.

### Overall

70.2/22=3.19 which translates into 3 stars. A satisfying collection I had lying unread on my shelves since

2011 but not something I enjoyed 100% Certainly I will buy the 'sequel' to this collection Tales and Poems but I don't think I will bother buying all his writings since it's obvious I will be disappointed by most of them.

Well done if you've reached this gargantuan, lengthy, sheety review.

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## **Evripidis Gousiaris says**

Κ?θε ιστορ?α του σε καθηλ?νει σε αναστατ?νει και σε ανατριχι?ζει!

Οι ιστορ?ες φαντασ?ας ε?χαν ?λες την δικ? τους σκοτειν? ατμ?σφαιρα και δ?σκολα δεν θα σοκ?ρουν με την εξ?λιξη και κατ?ληξη τους.

Οι ιστορ?ες μυστηρ?ου ?μως ξεπ?ρασαν κ?θε προσδοκ?α μου καθ?ς διαπ?στωσα τελικ? ?τι ο Doyle εμπνε?στηκε και βασ?στηκε για την δημιουργ?α του Sherlock Holmes, στον C. Auguste Dupin του Poe. Η δομ?, η αφ?γηση και το ?φος κ?θε περιπ?τειας αλλ? και η αν?λυση των στοιχε?ων των δ?ο ντετ?κτιβ ε?ναι πανομοι?τυπες!

Εκπληκτικ?ς ο Poe για ?λλη μια φορ?!

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