



The Pit and the Pendulum: The Essential Poe (Penguin Classics)

By Edgar Allan Poe

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This selection of Poe's critical writings, short fiction and poetry demonstrates an intense interest in aesthetic issues and the astonishing power and imagination with which he probed the darkest corners of the human mind. *The Fall of the House of Usher* describes the final hours of a family tormented by tragedy and the legacy of the past. In *The Tell Tale Heart*, a murderer's insane delusions threaten to betray him, while stories such as *The Pit and the Pendulum* and *The Cask of Amontillado* explore extreme states of decadence, fear and hate.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-This series entry presents Poe's unabridged text accompanied by annotated color and black-and-white illustrations and reproductions of various aspects of life during the stories' time periods. The selections include "The Gold-Bug," "The Oval Portrait," "The Cask of Amontillado," "Some Words with a Mummy," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." In some instances, as when there is a historical connection, the annotations are particularly enlightening, e.g., the information about the Inquisition and its relationship to "The Pit and the Pendulum." To maintain continuity, readers may prefer to read through the stories first and then return to the sidebars or vice versa. Libraries that own anthologies of Poe tales will not be denying readers the most important material-the stories themselves-if they pass on this one.

Joanne K. Cecere, Highland High School, NY

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About the Author

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) reigned unrivaled in his mastery of mystery. Born in Boston, he was orphaned at age three, expelled from West Point for gambling and became an alcoholic. In 1836 he secretly wed his thirteen-year-old cousin. *The Raven*, published in 1845, made Poe famous. He died in 1849 under what remain suspicious circumstances.

Basil Rathbone appeared in over eighty films including *Captain Blood*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, and *The Comedy of Terrors*, and made thirteen appearances in the tremendously popular *Sherlock Holmes* series.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Judith Smith:

The e-book with title *The Pit and the Pendulum: The Essential Poe (Penguin Classics)* includes a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This particular book exist new know-how the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you throughout new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

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